

Science Changing Life



2025

06 **Your partnership enables science changing life, today and for the future**

- 08 Science Built to Last
- 10 A Family Legacy Shaped by Science and Care

12 **Your investment fuels bold research that advances human health**

- 14 A Year of Remarkable Science

18 **Your support shapes the next generation of scientific leaders**

- 20 Investing in the Future of Education
- 22 Building Connection Across Science

Save the Date for
A Celebration of Impact

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time

Join us inside the new Chi-Huey Wong Laboratories for Biomedical Research to celebrate the impact your support has made possible and meet the next generation of researchers your generosity helps inspire.



Science Changing Life



Dear Friends of Scripps Research,

As we reflect on 2025, we do so with profound gratitude for the donors, volunteers and advocates who stood with us through a year marked by both extraordinary scientific progress and significant uncertainty. Your commitment, your trust and your belief in what is possible at Scripps Research have never meant more.

In the pages that follow, we are proud to share some of the notable accomplishments your support made possible—from research milestones and new medicines in development to the training of the next generation of scientific leaders—and to celebrate the remarkable individuals whose generosity is helping shape the future of human health.

Our community of advocates is growing in inspiring ways. In 2025, we launched the **Global Ambassadors Council**, a network of influential leaders championing Scripps Research worldwide. We also launched the **Alumni Homecoming Committee**, reconnecting the graduate school alumni and postdoctoral researchers with the campus that helped shaped them. Their engagement reminds us that the drive to advance science and improve human health is a shared one and that our community of advocates remains one of our greatest strengths.

As we look to the future, we are also deepening our commitment to long-term sustainability through **The Legacy Circle**, which honors donors who understand that a strong endowment and thoughtful gift planning and legacy gifts are among the most powerful investments one can make in science. Endowment support provides our scientists with the stability and independence to pursue discovery on their own terms, free from the limits of short-term funding cycles. Planned gifts ensure that the curiosity and ambition that have defined Scripps Research for a century will carry forward and fund the breakthroughs of the future.

Some of you give in memory of a loved one. Others give to empower new generations of scientists. And many give because they want the next great discovery in aging, addiction, infectious disease or conditions that have long gone without answers to happen here. Whatever brings you to Scripps Research, you share with our scientists a refusal to settle and a belief that more is possible.

As we look to the future, we carry that belief with us. Thank you for making it possible.

With deepest appreciation,

Rohan Barrett
Vice President, Development

A Living System of Discovery

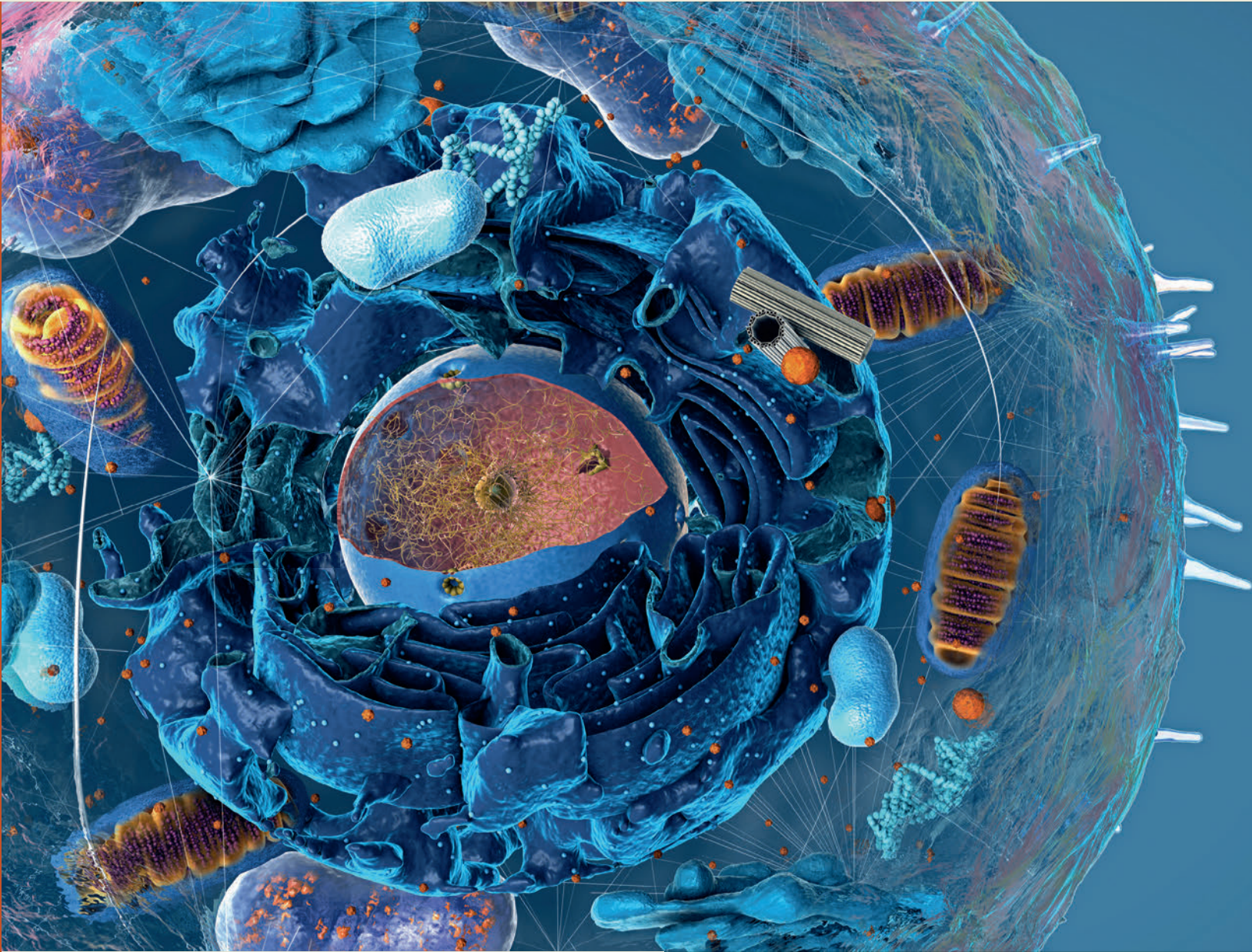
Scripps Research: A uniquely integrated ecosystem

Like a cell, **Scripps Research** is a uniquely integrated ecosystem, where fundamental science, drug discovery and training the next generation happen in concert, each part sustaining the whole. Step into any lab and you'll find discovery in motion: researchers uncovering the biology of disease, teams advancing entirely new medicines into the clinic and students becoming the scientific leaders of tomorrow.

Your philanthropy is the fuel that helps power this system of discovery.



Join us today and become part of our living system of discovery.



Philanthropic support is the powerhouse of Scripps Research.

Your generosity fuels **discovery**, sustains labs, and drives breakthroughs that no other funding source can reach.

Translation research is where scientific insight becomes medicine.

Through the **Calibr-Skaggs Institute for Innovative Medicines** and the **Scripps Research Translational Institute**, researchers and clinicians work side-by-side to move discoveries from bench to bedside.

Education and training are how Scripps Research shapes the future.

Immersing the next generation of scientists in world-class research from day one, the **Skaggs Graduate School of Chemical and Biological Sciences** empowers students to make high-impact discoveries at the interface of chemistry and biology.

Scientific research is the vast reservoir of inquiry that drives everything forward.

Six interrelated departments work together in pursuit of life-changing discoveries across **chemistry, immunology and microbiology**, integrative structural and computational biology, molecular and cellular biology, neuroscience and translational medicine.

Scripps Research is the organizing force behind a shared commitment to turning the world's best science into new medicines—and reinvesting every success into the pursuit of the next.

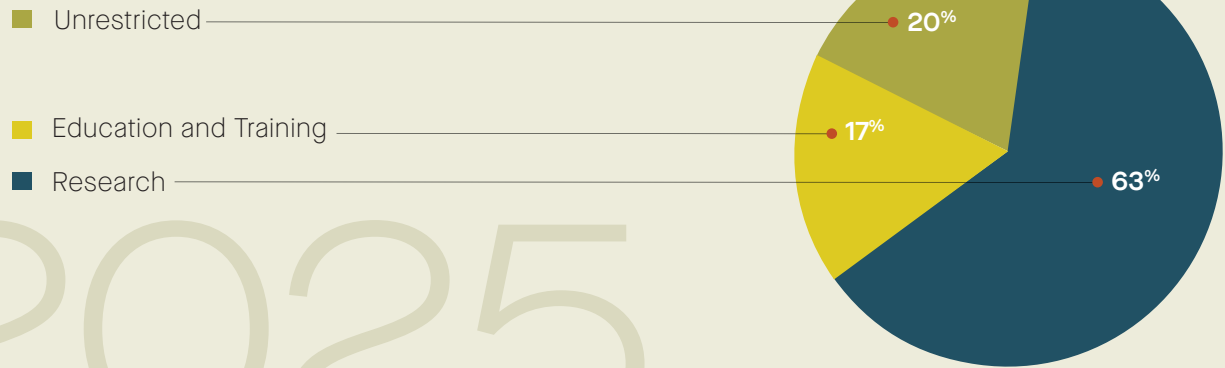
Your partnership enables science changing life,
today and for the future

Scripps Research Donor Impact

Scripps Research is pioneering a model uniquely built for the defining health challenges of our time, from pandemic preparedness and infectious disease to aging, addiction, neurological disorders and chronic disease. By combining world-class fundamental and translational research, we accelerate the development of innovative medicines and reinvest the revenues they generate back into science, amplifying the impact of every philanthropic dollar.

In 2025, the generosity of our donor community made a measurable difference at every level of our work, fueling discoveries in our labs, advancing promising new medicines toward patients and empowering the next generation of scientific leaders at our Skaggs Graduate School. The numbers on this page tell a remarkable story: a growing, deeply committed community choosing, year after year, to invest in a healthier future for all.

BREAKDOWN OF YOUR 2025 SUPPORT:



2025

Nearly
\$25M
in new
planned gifts

150
SUPPORTERS
who gave to
the institute for
the first time

100+ YEARS OF SCIENCE
CHANGING LIFE



103
STAFF AND
ALUMNI
DONORS

Over **17,000** FRONT ROW
attendees (virtually and in-person)

RAISED over **\$46 million**
in philanthropic support for our researchers

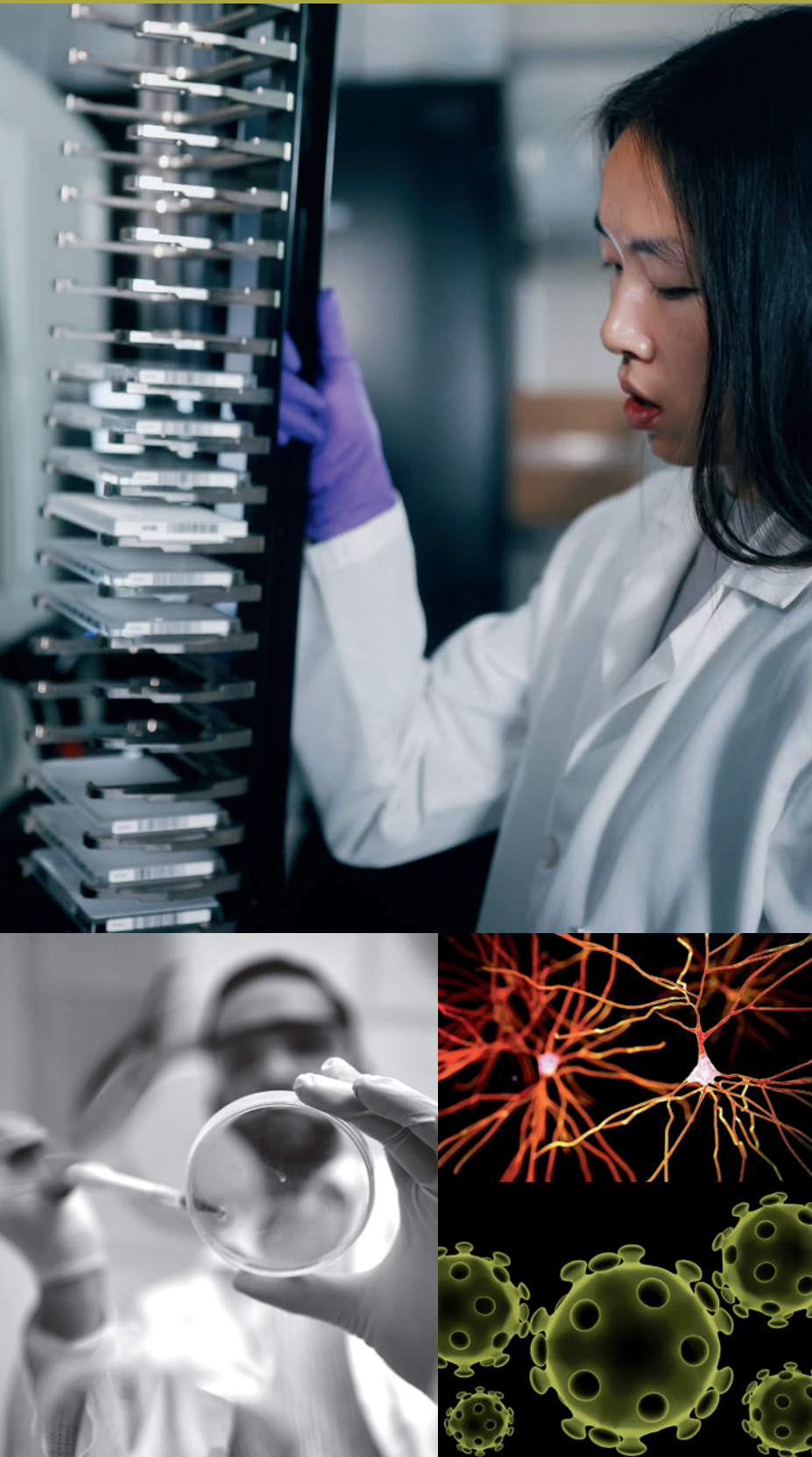
200 current donors who
have supported our science
for 10 years or more

56 new
Science Trust
members

92
DONORS
who have made
new endowment
gifts

Science built to last

A Legacy of Innovation



“Scripps Research’s outstanding performance is achieved because of the top-notch leadership, faculty, fellows and students, past and present. To support such an institute is the most worthwhile investment of our future. The future is not here yet. What we do today can influence the outcome.”

Lillian Lou
Scripps Research Board Member

34
endowed
chairs
that support mid-career
and senior faculty

103
endowed
fellowships
that support a student for
the first 3 years of their
graduate studies

The greatest scientific discoveries rarely happen overnight. They unfold over years, even decades, of persistent curiosity, careful experimentation, and the freedom to follow an unexpected result wherever it leads. That kind of science requires something that grants and licensing revenues alone cannot guarantee: stability.

Building a strong base of permanent capital is among the most deliberate strategic priorities at Scripps Research. As we look forward to the future, our ability to pursue the defining health challenges of our time—including pandemic preparedness and infectious disease, aging, neurological disorders and chronic disease—depends on a financial foundation that is resilient and enduring. Gifts held in perpetuity are reinvested into our research programs year after year, allowing our scientists to take risks, pursue bold ideas and work with the urgency that patients deserve.

As Scripps Research President and CEO Pete Schultz notes, this kind of support is more critical than ever: “Endowed chairs and fellowships are some of the most powerful tools we have to support scientific innovation. They provide our faculty and students with the flexibility to pursue the bold, high-risk ideas that often lead to the most consequential discoveries in science and medicine.

At a time when federal funding agencies are increasingly constrained and risk-averse, endowed chairs ensure that our scientists can stay focused on the questions that matter most for advancing human health.”

Anchoring Scientific Leadership

Endowed chairs support the senior scientific leaders whose work defines research directions and shapes

entire fields. This foundational funding provides the intellectual freedom to pursue high-risk, high-reward investigations, the kind that traditional grants rarely support, while also strengthening mentorship and leadership across the institution. Each named chair is a lasting testament to the vision of those who made it possible, ensuring that transformative science continues for decades to come.

Investing in Tomorrow’s Innovators

Our Skaggs Graduate School of Chemical and Biological Sciences ranks among the top programs in the nation, yet an elite education carries significant cost, one that falls to the student’s chosen lab for four or more years after the first. A named fellowship relieves that burden, freeing resources for early-stage research while ensuring that exceptional talent is not lost to circumstance. It gives promising scientists the stability and support to see their ideas through, so that today’s bold questions become tomorrow’s breakthroughs.

The named chairs and fellowships included here are a direct reflection of what philanthropic partnership makes possible at Scripps Research. Each one represents a scientist empowered, a discovery advanced and a legacy secured. Gifts held in perpetuity carry a unique power to honor and extend a personal vision, weaving those values into the fabric of Scripps Research for generations to come, and laying the groundwork for breakthroughs that cannot yet be imagined. The cures, therapies and discoveries that will define the future of human health will be shaped by the long-term investments we make now, and we are deeply grateful to the partners whose sustained commitment makes it possible to build not just for today, but for the next century of discovery.

A family legacy shaped by science and care

Michael Step, Scripps Research supporter



Hannah and Eugene Step

Stuart Lipton

For Michael Step and his family, supporting the work of Dr. Stuart Lipton, professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology and the Step Family Foundation Endowed Chair at Scripps Research, is rooted in personal experience and a longstanding commitment to healthcare. Their philanthropy reflects a belief that scientific research matters most when it ultimately improves patients' lives—and in Lipton, they found both a brilliant researcher and a physician who cared deeply for their family.

Michael's connection to science began long before Parkinson's disease touched his family. His father, Eugene, built a career at Eli Lilly, eventually serving as president of the pharmaceutical division, and Michael later followed a similar path into biotech and pharma. Both his father and mother, Hannah, were prominent philanthropists in San Diego. That history shaped how the family thought about giving back. As Michael puts it, "Our interest in healthcare and in science comes from our background in the drug business."

Over time, that perspective helped shape the family's foundation and its core values. "We have three pillars: a healthcare focus, a patient focus and a local focus," Michael says. Those principles have guided much of the family's philanthropy, especially when it comes to helping people facing urgent medical challenges and supporting work that has the potential to improve lives in tangible, practical ways.

It's part of what makes their support of Scripps Research—and of Lipton's work in particular—so meaningful. Michael says the foundation does not typically gravitate toward early-stage research. In general, he prefers areas where the path to patient

benefit is more direct and more visible. But Lipton's work became a compelling exception.

Lipton is a world-renowned neurologist and scientist, and he was also a trusted friend of the family and the neurologist who treated both of Michael's parents after they developed Parkinson's. Best known for helping advance memantine, an FDA-approved drug used in Alzheimer's treatment, Lipton has built a career translating fundamental discoveries in brain science into promising therapeutic approaches, with current work aimed at new treatments for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and related disorders.

Watching his mother and father live with Parkinson's, and ultimately die from its effects, made the need for better treatments painfully real. Supporting Lipton's research was not simply an abstract investment in science but a way to stand behind research led by someone the family knew to be both an exceptional scientist and a deeply compassionate physician. "Stuart is worth it," Michael says.

That trust was built not only on Lipton's scientific reputation but also on the care he showed the family over many years. Michael speaks warmly of Lipton's energy, compassion, and ability to move between patient care and scientific discovery. For the Step family, that combination helped bridge the gap between research and real-world impact.

It also reinforced Michael's belief in the value of endowed support. In his view, one of the greatest gifts philanthropy and endowments can offer a scientist is the freedom to focus less on fundraising and more on the work itself: "The less time they

have to spend chasing money, the more time they can spend on doing the research, setting up labs and thinking about how to develop cures to diseases. That's what we want our support to do," Michael explains. In 2020, the family formalized that commitment by establishing the Step Family Foundation Endowed Chair for Lipton.

That idea reflects the family's broader values around giving. For Michael, philanthropy is about helping the right people do the right work in ways that can make a difference for patients and families. Years in the pharmaceutical industry gave the family an appreciation for how innovation moves forward, but their experience with Parkinson's gave them something else: a firsthand understanding of how urgently patients need better answers.

This perspective continues to shape the family's support of Lipton and Scripps Research. Although early-stage science can take years to translate into new treatments, Michael sees promise in work that helps researchers better understand neurological disease and move closer to meaningful breakthroughs.

In the end, the family's support comes back to the same three priorities that have shaped their philanthropy from the start: healthcare, patients and local impact. Michael recalls advice from a former mentor that has stayed with him over the years: "Do right by the patients, and success will result."

For the Step family, that advice defines what endowments should accomplish: giving exceptional researchers the support and freedom to pursue discoveries that may one day change lives.

Your investment fuels bold research that advances human health

Donor Impact on Research

Thanks to your ongoing support, Scripps Research is able to make a global impact:

Every gift to Scripps Research is an investment in discovery and in 2025, that investment reached across some of the most consequential areas of human health. The following pages offer a glimpse into the breadth and depth of the science your generosity makes possible, from foundational research uncovering the biological mechanisms underlying disease to translational programs advancing bold new therapies.

This past year, donor support was directed across a wide range of research priorities, with neurodegenerative disease and cardiovascular disease among the most highly funded areas, a reflection of both the urgency of these conditions and the trust our community places in our scientists to pursue them. The statistics that follow speak to the caliber and impact of our faculty, whose work is driving discovery at the highest levels of science. It is your generosity that gives our scientists the freedom to pursue these questions and the research highlights on the pages ahead offer a window into what that freedom makes possible.



“We owe it to society and to the next generation to ensure our work not only expands human knowledge but also directly improves lives. To do that, we must empower the world’s best scientists to push the frontiers of science and capture the impact of their groundbreaking discoveries in new medical advances for the benefit of human health.”

—Pete Schultz, President and CEO



6 Nobel Prizes
2 MacArthur Fellows

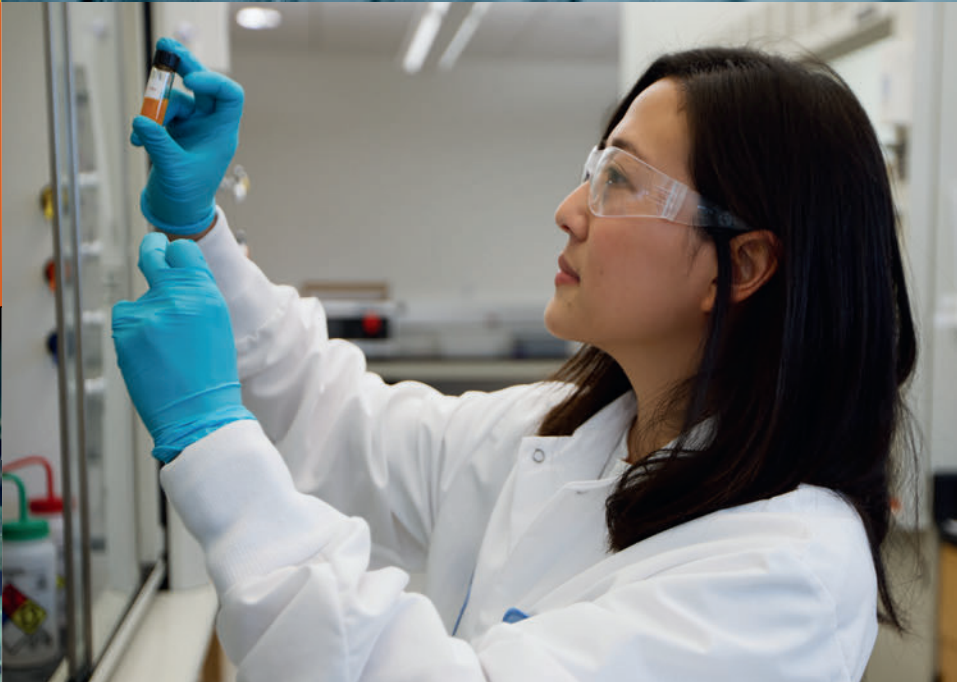


1,100+
U.S. Patents

Ranked among the
top 5 biomedical institutes
in the world for **impact on
innovation** —NATURE INDEX



50+
active spin-off
companies



19 FDA-approved
drugs and
vaccines
have arisen from
our discoveries

6 WOLF
PRIZES
2 WELCH
AWARDS



30
memberships
in the National
Academy of
Sciences,
Engineering,
and Medicine

A Year of Remarkable Science

Donor impact on research



Scientists in the labs of Scripps Research President and CEO **Pete Schultz** and Assistant Professor **Christian Diercks** developed a **synthetic biology platform** that accelerates evolution, opening a new door for how researchers can engineer therapeutic proteins for **cancer, neurodegeneration** and essentially any other disease area.

By using computer modeling to predict chemical reactions, **Ryan Shenvi** and his laboratory were able to synthesize 25 variations of a plant compound that could **potentially treat brain diseases**.

Jin-Quan Yu and his team discovered a technique that unlocks the potential of ketone and ester molecules—implications for **greener and more efficient drug development**.

Nobel laureate **K. Barry Sharpless, Peng Wu**, and other collaborators used an innovative set of **machine-learning models** to enhance **electrical and thermal performance in energy technologies** by screening a library of nearly 50,000 polymers for an optimal combination of properties.

A collaboration between the teams of **Ashok Deniz** and **Lisa Racki** revealed how **DNA, magnesium** and **polyphosphate** form a balance that is crucial to many biological processes, which could lead to new methods for tuning cellular responses.

A preclinical study led by **Marisa Roberto**'s lab found that **apremilast, an FDA-approved anti-inflammatory drug**, reduced both **drinking** and **pain sensitivity** in animal models of alcohol use disorder.

Scientists in the labs of **Benjamin Cravatt** and **Michael Erb** uncovered how small molecules interact with **FOXA1**, a **cancer-related protein** historically considered “undruggable.”

Scientists led by **Ali Torkamani** at the **Scripps Research Translational Institute** developed a machine learning model that more accurately estimates a patient's **risk of coronary artery disease (CAD)** compared to the standard clinical practice, which is based primarily on age.

Scientists at **Calibr-Skaggs** designed a single injection, long-acting preventative medicine for **malaria** that entered a first-in-human phase 1 clinical trial in January.

Now in a phase 1 clinical trial, a universal vaccine developed by **Chi-Huey Wong** and his team targets **coronaviruses** and the sugars they use as a shield. This “**low-sugar**” **vaccine** can provide broad **immunity** against **coronavirus variants**.

Andrew Ward and his lab discovered that repetitive **HIV vaccinations** can lead the body to produce antibodies targeting the immune complexes already bound to the virus. If understood, this discovery could lead to improved HIV vaccines.

Scientists in **Darrell Irvine**'s lab found that a **two-part vaccine delivery strategy**, combining two immune-activating molecules known as adjuvants, can train the immune system to produce a stronger response to **HIV**.

Giorgio Quer and **Ed Ramos** showed how **artificial intelligence** can use a combination of data to provide a more nuanced view of diabetes risk. Using continuous **glucose monitor data** alongside **gut microbiome, diet, physical activity and genetic information**, the new model flags **early signs of diabetes risk** that standard blood tests may miss.

Using **cutting-edge genetic tools, 3D electron microscopy and AI**, **Anton Maximov**'s lab uncovered key structural hallmarks of **long-term memory**, which could lead to innovative **treatments for memory loss** and other **cognitive impairments associated with aging**.

Stuart Lipton and his lab discovered how a chemical change in the brain known as **S-nitrosylation** disrupts normal **brain cell function** and may contribute to **memory loss** in **Alzheimer's disease**.

Giordano Lippi revealed how **microRNAs** guide the development of **Purkinje cells**, a rare type of neuron linked to **neurodevelopmental disorders**, a discovery which may help uncover the complicated origins of these conditions.

A longstanding partnership between **Martin Friedlander** and the Lowy Medical Research Institute culminated in the FDA approval of **ENCELTO**, a first-of-its-kind **eye implant** that slows vision loss in patients with **macular telangiectasia type 2**, a rare eye disease.

To read more about our most recent discoveries visit scripps.edu/discoveries.

Driven by a singular purpose—delivering life-changing medicines to the patients who are waiting for them—Calibr-Skaggs challenges convention, eliminates red tape and boldly pursues uncharted scientific territory. Equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and deep multidisciplinary expertise and made possible by the generosity of our philanthropic supporters, Calibr-Skaggs has established itself as a leading drug discovery and development engine in the nonprofit world, and a place where patients are always at the center of the work.

**Beyond Symptom Management:
The Promise of Regenerative Medicine**

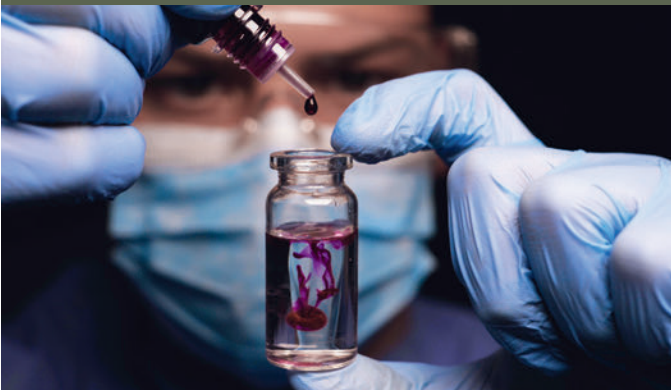
Some of the most exciting therapies in development at Calibr-Skaggs are regenerative medicines that go further than treating symptoms or slowing disease progression. These therapies have the potential to actively repair damage to the heart, lungs and gut, restoring health for patients living with neglected and infectious diseases, cancers, neurological disorders and chronic diseases of aging. This bold approach represents a new frontier in what medicine can achieve.

More than a dozen novel medicines created at Calibr-Skaggs are already advancing through human clinical trials, an accomplishment without parallel among nonprofit research institutions. In 2025, two significant milestones reinforced that momentum: the FDA cleared an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to test a switchable CAR-T therapy in patients with autoimmune diseases, notably without the need for chemotherapy, and the first patient was dosed in a phase 1 trial testing the same switchable CAR-T technology in metastatic breast cancer. Dozens of additional potential medicines remain in early-stage development across a broad range of conditions, including a long-acting injectable malaria drug that entered its first-in-human study in 2025, advancing a critical tool against one of the world’s most persistent infectious diseases.

For the millions of people living with inflammatory bowel disease, treatment options remain limited. For those who have undergone life-altering surgery, the challenges can continue long after the operating room. Calibr-Skaggs Chief Medical Officer Amy Lightner, MD, is working to change that with a first-of-its-kind clinical trial testing a therapy designed not just to manage symptoms, but to actually repair damaged tissue in patients suffering from chronic pouchitis. This work is made possible by donors who share our belief that patients deserve better options, including Ed Bachrach, whose generosity is helping bring this promising therapy one step closer to the people who need it.

“What excites me is to be a part of the remarkable and burgeoning field of scientific research that will be opening doors to health treatments for so many hopeless and miserable diseases.”

Ed Bachrach
Scripps Research Donor



The Scripps Research Translational Institute (SRTI) works to accelerate individualized healthcare for all—harnessing genomic, digital and informatics innovations to detect, prevent and manage disease across the lifespan. Under the leadership of Founder and Director Eric Topol, MD, and made possible by the generosity of our philanthropic supporters, SRTI’s mission took meaningful shape in 2025 across digital clinical research, AI-powered medicine, genomic surveillance and the training of the next generation of translational scientists.

Pioneering Digital Clinical Trials

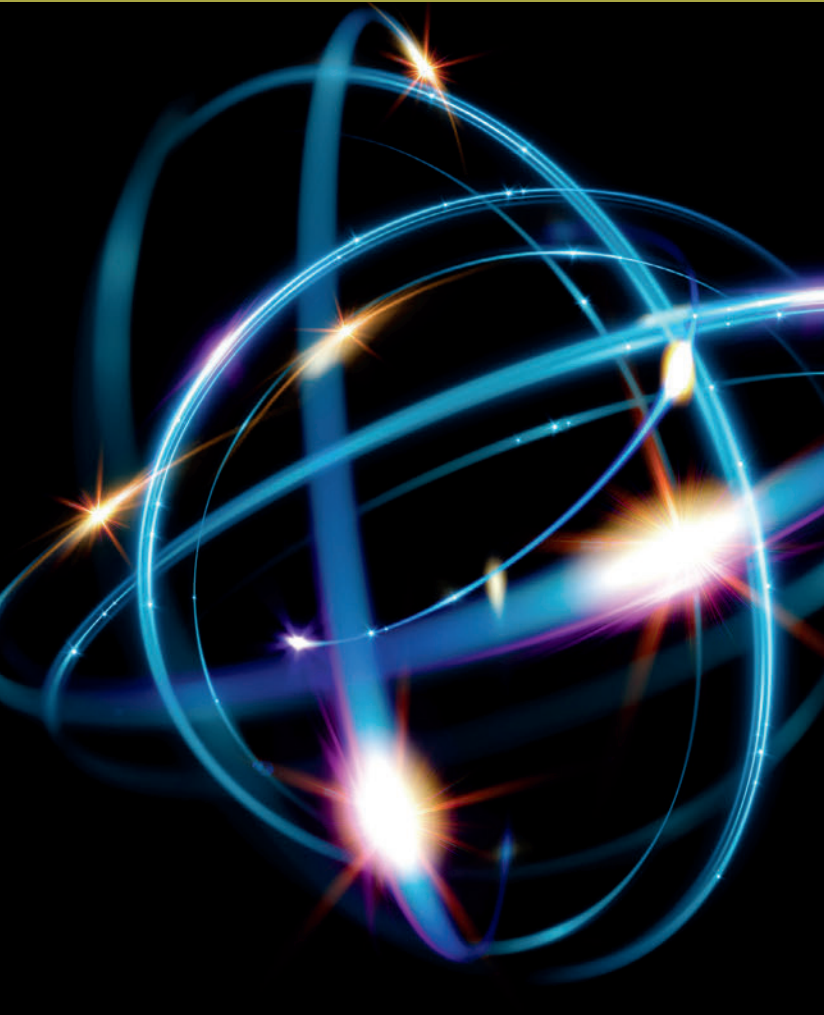
SRTI launched its first-ever therapeutic drug trial, the Long COVID Treatment Trial–Tirzepatide (LoCITT-T)—a fully remote, 1,000-participant study testing whether tirzepatide can reduce long COVID symptoms.

Advancing AI-Powered Medicine

A new SRTI machine learning model integrating genetics, lifestyle and medical history outperformed standard clinical approaches to coronary artery disease risk prediction, identifying twice as many at-risk patients. And the multi-year PROGRESS study further demonstrated how AI can detect pre-diabetes and distinguish individuals with type 2 diabetes from healthy individuals, enabling earlier, personalized intervention.

Genomic Surveillance and Public Health

As part of an international consortium, an SRTI study revealed that mpox circulated in West Africa for years before the 2022 global outbreak. Wastewater monitoring and pathogen sequencing methods, originally developed by SRTI during the pandemic, have been taken over by San Diego County, freeing the team to focus on novel



emerging threats—with surveillance tools now used by public health labs worldwide.

Education and Training

In 2025, SRTI hosted 47 summer interns who completed independent research projects under faculty mentorship. The Perspectives in STEM seminar series continued its mission of cultivating the next generation of scientists through cross-institutional public roundtables on mentorship, collaboration and leadership—bringing together voices from Scripps Research, UC San Diego, SDSU and Johnson & Johnson to foster community and broaden pathways into translational research careers.

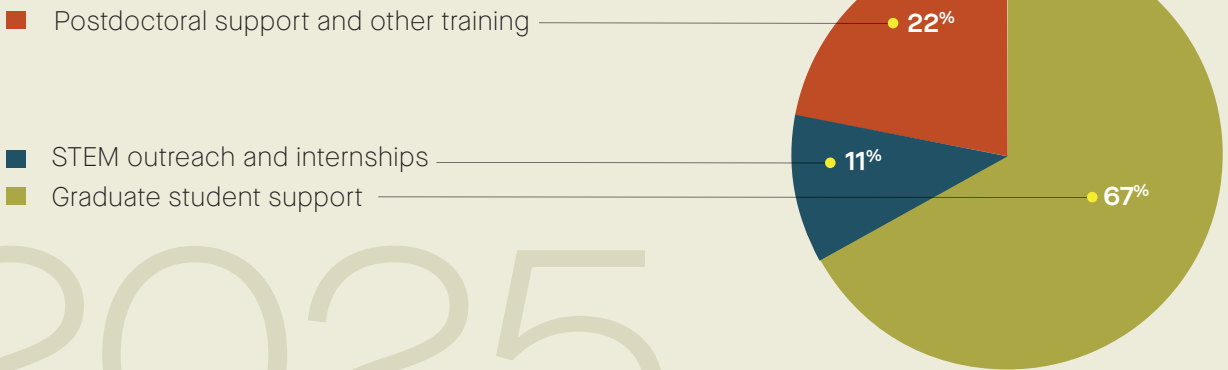
Your support shapes the next generation of scientific leaders

Education and Training Impact

In 2025, the Skaggs Graduate School of Chemical and Biological Sciences celebrated:

At Scripps Research, we believe that training the scientific leaders of tomorrow is inseparable from our mission to advance the science of today. Our top-ranked Skaggs Graduate School has produced researchers who now hold influential positions at universities, institutes and companies around the world, lifting the tide of discovery wherever they go. In 2025, philanthropic support was more essential than ever. Funding uncertainties early in the year created challenges for graduate programs nationwide and donor generosity proved decisive, helping ensure that 52 talented students joined our incoming fall class. From graduate researchers in our labs to high school students in our outreach programs, your support opens doors and changes trajectories. These statistics represent not just numbers, but a pipeline of brilliant, curious minds, each one part of a future made possible, in part, by donors who understood that investing in a scientist is one of the most meaningful investments one can make in the future of humanity.

How you impacted the education and training programs



2025



17

high school teachers worked with Scripps Research scientists to co-create new lesson plans taught to **1,500** local high school students

75%

of the students admitted in 2025 were supported by philanthropy

The **1,000TH** PhD conferred since the program's first commencement in 1993



61 graduates in 2025



33 ALUMNI

volunteered to mentor current graduate students through the Scripps Research Alumni Mentorship Program (AMP)

The graduate program is consistently ranked as one of the best graduate schools in the country:

#1 in Biological Sciences and **#7 in Chemistry** according to *U.S. News & World Report*



52

students joined the incoming 2025 fall class



NEARLY

400

CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS representing 30+ countries

Investing in the future education of science

Allison and Thomas Kurian, members of the Global Ambassador Council



Allison and Thomas Kurian



“I think everyone is needed right now. It’s an all-hands-on-deck situation for science.”

Allison Kurian

Scripps Research Donor

Allison and Thomas Kurian see graduate education as one of the clearest ways to strengthen the future of science. Their recent gift to Scripps Research established the Allison and Thomas Kurian Graduate Award, which funds the stipend of a graduate student in the Skaggs Graduate School of Chemical and Biological Sciences and reflects a shared conviction that promising young researchers need meaningful support at the very moment their ideas, discipline and scientific identity are beginning to take shape.

That belief is rooted in both of their life experiences. Allison, a professor of medicine and of epidemiology and population health at the Stanford University School of Medicine, grew up in Boston in a household shaped by scholarship. Her parents were both professors and she was raised to value learning not only for its own sake but also for its power to do good in the world. Thomas, CEO of Google Cloud, followed a different path, from India to Princeton and ultimately into the technology sector, but one grounded in many of the same values: education, rigor and intellectual curiosity.

Their connection to Scripps Research also carries deep family meaning. Allison’s father, the late Dr. Christopher Walsh, a former Scripps board member, spoke often and enthusiastically about the institute. His admiration made a lasting impression. A devoted Harvard loyalist, he did not give his praise lightly, which made his regard for Scripps Research all the more striking. “The fact that he was going on and on about this Southern California institution,” Allison recalled, “it had to be something special.”

Last spring, that long-held impression became tangible when Allison visited Scripps Research for the first time, along with her mother and 17-year-old son. Three generations of her family came together to see firsthand the place her father had so deeply respected. Touring labs, meeting faculty and seeing the work underway on campus left a powerful mark.

“It was dazzling,” Allison says. “Scripps Research is a place that is really, really focused on the thing it does, and it does it very well.”

That visit helped clarify how Allison and Thomas wanted to make their gift. Honoring her father’s legacy was meaningful, but so was responding to what they saw on campus: a focused scientific community, a commitment to excellence and a culture built around discovery.

For Allison, who has spent her own career in medicine and research, supporting graduate students felt especially urgent. At a time when scientific funding is increasingly uncertain, she sees trainees as among the most vulnerable members of the research community, even as they are often the source of its most original thinking.

“The best ideas, the most novel ideas, are coming from young people,” she says. “For people to lose that enthusiasm, lose hope, lose optimism because they feel this is not a road they can walk because of a funding gap, I think that is a giant loss.”

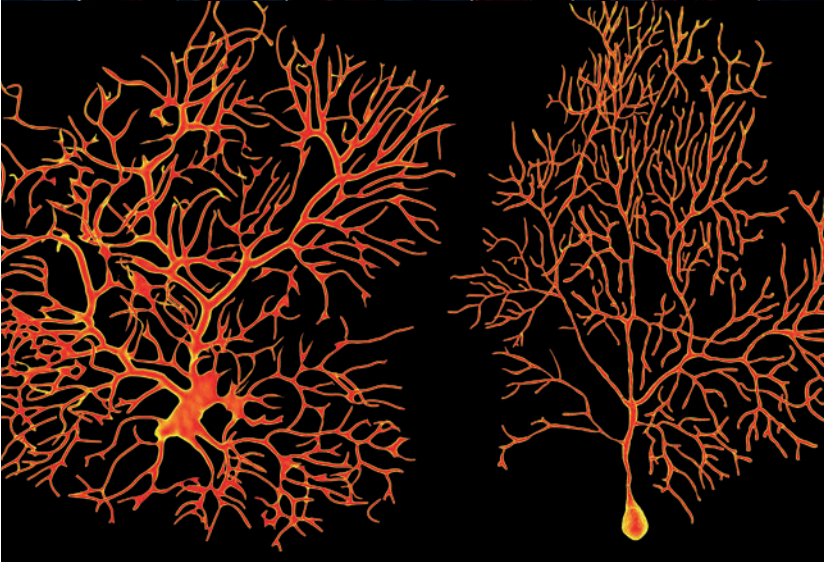
She describes graduate training as one of the most pivotal periods in a scientist’s life. These are the years when young researchers begin to develop not only technical skills but also the mindset that science demands: tenacity, rigor, patience and the willingness to keep going through setbacks in pursuit of hard problems. “Those are formative years,” Allison says.

That is what makes philanthropy so important. Support for graduate education eases financial pressure and protects the pipeline of discovery by giving emerging scientists the chance to stay in the field, pursue ambitious questions and build the foundation for a lifetime of work. It also creates room for the kind of early stage, high-risk inquiry that can be difficult to sustain through conventional funding structures alone.

For Allison, donor support carries another message too: “There is somebody voting with a gift and saying, ‘Listen, I care about this,’” she says. In moments of uncertainty, that kind of affirmation can matter deeply to both faculty and trainees. It reminds them that their work matters, that others believe in its value and that they are not carrying the future of science on their own.

Ultimately, the impact of Allison and Thomas’s support reaches beyond a single student, though that student’s training will be directly strengthened by their generosity. Their gift helps sustain the next generation of scientists and preserve the momentum of discovery at a place uniquely equipped to move science forward.

“I think everyone is needed right now,” Allison says. “It’s an all-hands-on-deck situation for science.”



Building connection across science

Peter Rory Hall, Scripps Research graduate student, and **Gregory Tabor**, alumnus, class of 2015



Gregory Tabor
Scripps Research Alumnus 2015



“When I first entered my career, I had the opportunity to have a mentorship with a fellow Scripps Research student. That was very instrumental for me coming in, having confidence in the workplace and being able to get my footing.

Then, I realized I could give back to others who may also need that mentorship. If I can take a couple of hours a month to go and help somebody, which could help them potentially get to where they’re trying to go, I really see no reason not to do so.”

Gregory Tabor

Scripps Research Alumnus 2015

When deciding where to pursue a PhD, Peter Rory Hall was looking for a place where interdisciplinary science could be lived out in practice—where ideas could move across fields, mentors would invest in students’ long-term growth and funding would create room to explore rather than force young scientists into narrow lanes. That’s what drew him to Scripps Research.

Raised in the United Kingdom, Peter Rory pursued undergraduate studies in natural sciences with a focus on biochemistry and chemistry. Even early on, he was drawn to the space between fields rather than any one in isolation. “When I say ‘interdisciplinary,’ I really mean bringing physics, chemistry and biology together,” he says. “That’s my main interest.”

It was this mindset that led him to the Skaggs-Oxford Program and, ultimately, to Scripps Research. During his first visit to San Diego, he encountered a scientific culture that stood in contrast to more traditional academic environments. “Their philosophy of interdisciplinary science and open research was an atmosphere I really resonated with,” Peter Rory recalls. It was not just the caliber of research that stood out but also the openness to ideas and the ability to pursue them across boundaries.

Since arriving in 2022, Peter Rory has built a graduate experience defined by that freedom. His work in drug discovery targeting membrane proteins spans biology, chemistry and structural biophysics, and at Scripps Research he has been able to pursue that work across multiple laboratories. He splits his time among labs with different strengths—Professor Andrew Ward’s structural biology lab, Professor Stefano Forli’s computational biology lab and Professor Christopher Parker’s chemical biology lab—an approach that reflects how he thinks about science but one that is difficult to sustain in more rigid, grant-driven environments.

At many institutions, funding structures can naturally push students into a single lab or narrowly defined project. At Scripps Research, flexible philanthropic support, like the Baxter Foundation Fellowship he received this year, makes a different model possible. “The philanthropy is really important for that freedom,” Peter Rory explains. “Otherwise, I’d be much more in the silo of one lab.” Support for graduate education funds a student’s training and expands what kind of scientist that student can become.

Mentorship has played a defining role in shaping how Peter Rory approaches his path beyond the lab. Through his connection with alumnus Greg Tabor, Peter Rory found someone who understood the Scripps Research experience firsthand and could help him think beyond the day-to-day demands of the PhD. Their conversations focused on how to position his work, strengthen his professional skills, improve his CV and explore opportunities outside traditional academic paths. Greg’s perspective helped connect Peter Rory’s graduate training to what comes next.

For Greg, mentoring is a way to offer the kind of perspective that helped him early in his own career, when guidance from a fellow Scripps Research alum gave him confidence as he entered the workforce. He also recognized the value of creating a resource that did not formally exist when he was a student: a trusted, external voice who can offer honest advice, a second opinion and reassurance during a demanding stage of scientific training. “Greg gave me a good confidence boost,” Peter Rory says. “Like, ‘you’re doing well—keep going with it.’”

That combination of support and perspective has widened Peter Rory’s sense of possibility. It has helped him look beyond a single path and consider a future at the intersection of science, business and innovation in drug discovery.

Looking ahead, Peter Rory hopes to keep working at the intersections where disciplines, ideas and people come together. That ambition reflects both his own curiosity and the kind of graduate education that Scripps Research—and the mentors and donors who support it—make possible.



Peter Rory Hall,
Scripps Research
Graduate Student



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