

Discovery Insider

Fall 2025



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Fighting for Our Future: Rescuing Research Campaign

Protect Today. Power Tomorrow.

In February of this year, ASRM researchers began to feel the impact of the U.S. government funding cuts. Entire areas of study, once federally supported, are now sidelined due to ideological and political interference. These cuts are destabilizing the careers of brilliant investigators and dismantling the momentum of transformative research.

"Promising research proposals are no longer being reviewed. Projects that have the potential to shape the future of fertility treatments, women's health, embryology, and reproductive science are being halted mid-stream," said ASRM CEO Jared Robins, MD, MBA.

ASRM is responding decisively through the Fighting for Our Future: Rescuing Research Campaign. This initiative will allow us to provide competitive grants to immediately stabilize research while also building the Research Institute's endowment. The ASRM Board of Directors has committed \$1 million of reserves to launch this effort.

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Inside the ASRM Research Institute: How We're Driving the Future of Fertility and Reproductive Health

At the heart of ASRM's mission to advance reproductive health, the ASRM Research Institute serves as a catalyst for groundbreaking discoveries. It funds innovative studies, fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, and expands access to care in areas not eligible for government funding.

Mission

The mission of the ASRM Research Institute is to promote and facilitate interdisciplinary research activities in reproductive care and the reproductive sciences. The Institute accomplishes these goals by providing financial support to meritorious researchers and organizations, by generating information and guidance regarding trends and best research practices in the field, by convening and serving as a forum for interested parties and researchers, by enhancing and

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Inside the Research Institute, continued from page 1

supporting the education and training of emerging scientists and researchers, by fostering interdisciplinarity in the field, and by seeking philanthropic and other external support for its activities.

Priority Areas

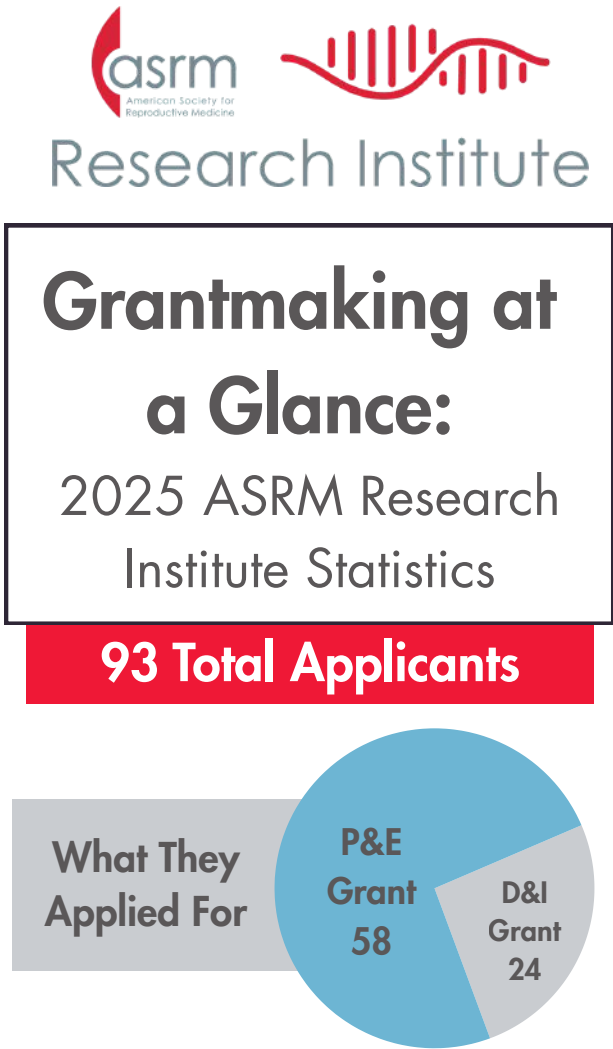
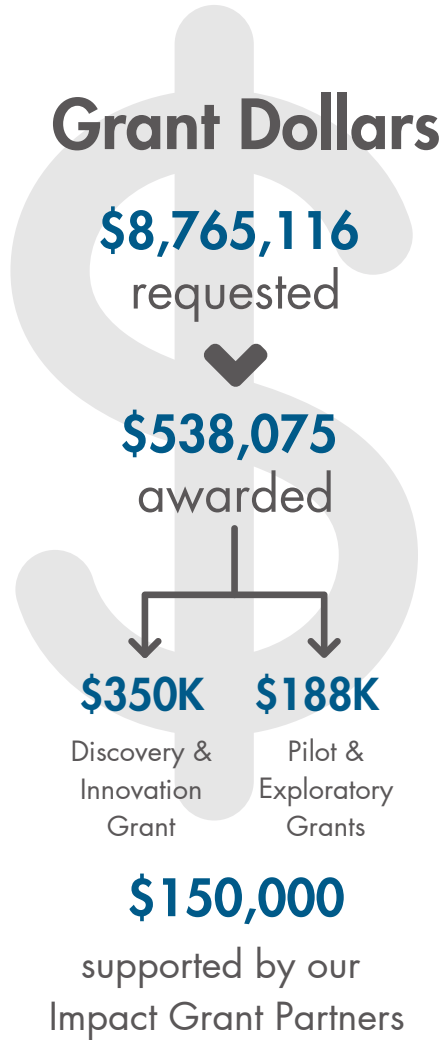
Priority is given to areas of research that (1) are not fundable by current NIH or other federal or state guidelines, (2) answer timely, basic or clinically relevant questions or, (3) address other ASRM strategic research initiatives important to the field and to the membership. The two overarching themes that encompass this priority are: (1) The effects of the genome, epigenome, and the environment on fertility, human

development and reproductive health and, (2) access to reproductive care.

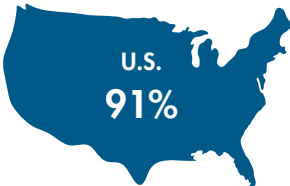
Research and Innovation is one of the main domains of the ASRM FY25-30 Strategic Plan. The overarching goal of this domain is to improve outcomes in reproductive medicine by investing in research and facilitating the adoption of innovative technologies. The objectives identified include:

- 1. Growing the Research Institute Endowment;
- 2. Promoting funding opportunities and disseminating research discoveries;
- 3. Educating members about effective application of innovative technologies.

Efforts are already underway to increase giving opportunities, with a focus on creating more accessible, meaningful, and diverse ways for individuals and organizations to support our mission. This includes expanding online donation platforms, launching targeted fundraising campaigns, and building partnerships that align with our values and goals. By offering multiple entry points for engagement—whether through recurring gifts, corporate sponsorships, or legacy giving—we aim to cultivate a broader community of supporters who are invested in our long-term impact.



Grant Winners By Geographic Location



D&I Grant Winner Proposal Category:
Basic Research

P&E Grant Cycle Awardees Research Categories:
Stem Cell Research
Translational Research
Clinical Research
Basic Research



Driving Change Through Collaborative Research

At the ASRM Research Institute, we believe in the transformative power of collaboration. When communities, institutions, and thought leaders come together with a shared vision, the possibilities for advancement are limitless. That belief is at the heart of our Impact Grant Program—a dynamic initiative that unites like-minded organizations and industry partners to expand opportunities for innovation in reproductive medicine.

Through strategic partnerships, the Impact Grant Program provides critical funding for targeted areas of study, helping to drive forward the most pressing and promising research in the field. By aligning our resources and expertise, we can accelerate scientific breakthroughs, support the next generation of researchers, and ultimately improve patient outcomes around the world.

Together, we can fuel pioneering research, spark meaningful change, and shape the future of reproductive health. To learn more about this program and how to get involved visit the ASRM Research Institute website.



아시아태평양생명의학연구재단
Asia-Pacific Biomedical Research Foundation



INNOVATE

THE SYNERGY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

October 29-30, 2025
San Antonio, TX

Don't miss your chance to be a part of the inaugural reproductive health innovation summit designed to bring together healthcare professionals, thought leaders, and innovators to advance reproductive medicine through science and technology! Scan the QR code to learn more.



FY 2025 Grant Awardees



Ecem Esencan, MD

SREI Young Investigator Grant Awardee \$10,000

(Supported by an educational grant provided by Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc.)

"CHECK2 mediated molecular pathways as targets to improve folliculogenesis."



Nickie Andescavage, MD

Maya's Wings Foundation Research Award \$25,000

(Supported by an educational grant provided by the Maya's Wings Foundation)

"Advanced Imaging and Epigenetic Insights into Placental Development in Assisted Reproductive Technologies-Conceived Pregnancies"



Monica Mainigi, MD

RPLA Research Grant Awardee \$40,000

(Supported by the Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Association)

"The Role of Uterine Macrophages in Early Placentation and Recurrent Pregnancy Loss"



Shruti Agarwal, DO

ASRM Diversity Fellowship Grant Awardee \$15,000

(Supported by an educational grant provided by EMD Serono)

"Investigating the Role of Follicular Fluid microRNAs in Ovarian Aging and Assisted Reproductive Success"



Isabelle Mason, MD

SREI Young Investigator Grant Awardee \$10,000

(Supported by an educational grant provided by Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc.)

"Impact of trophectoderm biopsy location on embryonic gene expression in a mouse model."



Katie Ayers, PhD

KY Cha Grant Awardee \$20,000

(Supported by an endowment from the Asia-Pacific Biomedical Research Foundation)

"Developing a scalable stem cell model to analyze genes and regulatory regions involved in fetal gonadal development and difference of sex development"



Matteo A. Molé, PhD

ASRM Discovery & Innovation Grant Awardee \$350,000

"In Vitro Modeling Human Embryo Implantation: Mapping the Early Embryo-Maternal Interactions"

ASRM is proud to announce the full list of awardees to receive funding through the ASRM Research Institute in FY25. These incredible researchers and topics round out an exciting grant season for the Research Institute, with a total of twelve projects being funded. Join us in congratulating the latest cohort of grant recipients!



**Mary Beth Murray,
MD, BSN, RN**

**ASRM Nursing/Physician
Assistant Professionals
Research Awardee**

\$7,500

(Supported by an educational grant provided by EMD Serono)

"The Effect of a Four-Week Hatha Yoga Intervention to Improve Quality of Life, Anxiety, and Depressive Symptoms in Individuals Undergoing Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Treatment: A Randomized Controlled Trial"



Margaret A. Rush, MD

**ASRM In-Training
Surgical Research
Award**

\$4,000

"Hysteroscopy for diagnosis and treatment of pregnancy of unknown location"



**Pasquale Patrizio, MD,
MBE, HCLD, FACOG**

**ASRM Pilot &
Exploratory Grant
Awardee**

\$50,000

"Ex vivo" perfusion of whole human ovaries in a bioreactor: a novel method to study ovarian physiology folliculogenesis and oocytes maturity."



**Karen Trister Grace,
PhD, MSN, CNM, FACNM**

**ASRM Nursing/Physician
Assistant Professionals
Research Awardee**

\$7,500

(Supported by an educational grant provided by Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc.)

"Understanding and measuring intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion among people experiencing infertility"



Catherine Baril, MD



**Lindsey Pileika,
MD, ScM**



**Kathleen Waeldner,
BA**

**ASRM Menopausal
Research Award**

\$15,000

(Supported by an educational grant provided by Progyny)

"Integrating Wearable Technology and Virtual Shared Medical Appointments to Enhance Menopausal Care: A Pilot Study"

Rescuing Research Grants

The first rapid turnaround, competitive application opened on August 15 and has a deadline of October 10. Awards will be \$125,000 each for one year. The Institute is planning to have additional competitive application periods over three years.

Research Institute Endowment

The Institute's endowment is designed to sustain the future of reproductive medical research. This campaign aims to increase the fund from the current level of \$14 million to \$20 million as quickly as possible. In this way, the Institute can begin making larger and more numerous awards that will provide stability for the research community.

"Building a strong research endowment ensures that no matter the political or funding climate, the next generation of scientists will always have the resources they need to pursue discovery and innovation," said ASRM President Elizabeth Ginsburg, MD.

ASRM is asking its members, its partners, and everyone concerned about the future of reproductive health

to give generously. Every gift is an investment that will protect research today and power discoveries tomorrow. The fundraising campaign is led by the ASRM Board of Directors and championed by the following volunteer leaders: Sandra A. Carson, MD, Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD, Gaurang S. Daftary, MD, Peter N. Schlegel, MD, James H. Segars, Jr., MD, and James P. Toner, MD, PhD.

**Please consider a gift
to the Fighting for our
Future: Rescuing Research
Campaign today. Every gift,
no matter the size, is an
investment in the future of
scientific research. For more
information, please contact
Holly Jaap Hilton, Director of
Charitable Giving at
(205) 978-7702
or hhilton@asrm.org.**



Spotlighting Research at ASRM 2025

Join us in San Antonio as we highlight groundbreaking reproductive medicine research and showcase impactful ASRM-funded projects!

Carlos Simón Research Symposium

Wednesday, October 29 | 12:20 PM at the
ASRM 2025 Scientific Congress & Expo

Established to recognize and showcase field-changing research in reproductive medicine, the Carlos Simón Translational Research Symposium honors scientific innovation that bridges bench to bedside. Join us for this year's symposium featuring Dr. Dennis Lo, internationally renowned for his pioneering work in noninvasive prenatal testing. His lecture, "Noninvasive Prenatal Testing: From Dream to Reality, and Impact to Other Fields," will explore the groundbreaking science that transformed prenatal care and its broader implications.

ASRM Research Institute Presents

A Two-Part Special Event

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 28 and Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM, at the ASRM Spotlight & Engagement Pavilion.

This two-part series will showcase the groundbreaking work of ASRM Research Institute grant recipients. Hear directly from innovative researchers as they present the impact of their ASRM-funded projects across basic, translational, and clinical research. Discover how ASRM-supported research is pushing the boundaries of reproductive medicine and transforming patient care. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with the future of the field.

Cut Off: The Human Toll of Research Funding Losses

Stories like these prompted ASRM to launch the Fighting For Our Future: Rescuing Research Campaign:

**Jeffrey T. Jensen,
MD, MPH**
Oregon Health
& Science University

Lost: \$158,000

Dr. Jensen's subcontract for the USAID-backed UChoose project was halted in its final year, just before critical animal testing could be completed. The termination wasted years of work.

"The current state of affairs consolidates my decision to retire."

Lisa M. Mehlmann, PhD
University of Connecticut

**Potential Loss:
\$1.5 Million**

Five days before review, Dr. Mehlmann's NIH proposal, studying fertility impacts of puberty blockers and testosterone in female mice, was pulled because her title included the word "transgender." With no alternative funding, she is abandoning the work.

"With no possible funding from NIH at this time, and no alternative sources, none of this work can continue."

**Brent Monseur,
MD, ScM, FACOG**
Stanford University

**Lost: \$1.1 million
grant + \$200,000
loan repayment**

NIH ended Dr. Monseur's five-year project less than a year in, halting data collection on LGBTQ family building. After fulfilling clinic duties, he plans to leave academia.

"I truly felt like I was being asked to put my research career back in the closet."

JOIN US FOR THE



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025

MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

6:00 PM COCKTAIL RECEPTION
AND SILENT AUCTION
7:00 PM DINNER AND PADDLE RAISE
9:00 PM DESSERT RECEPTION

Black-Tie or Cowboy Formal

PURCHASE A TABLE OR A TICKET



TABLE OF 10: \$5,000

SINGLE TICKET: \$500

Proceeds for the 2025 President's Gala will support
the ASRM Research Institute.

Discovery Insider



Research Institute

In this issue, learn how the ASRM Research Institute is fueling groundbreaking science, responding to critical funding losses, and showcasing this year's inspiring grant awardees. From innovative research to powerful partnerships, see how we're protecting today's work and powering tomorrow's discoveries.



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American Society for
Reproductive Medicine
J. Benjamin Younger Office
of Public Affairs
726 7th St. SE
Washington, DC 20003