

# FAST FACTS 2010

## **BENAROYA** **RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

UNLOCKING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM®

### Who We Are

Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason (BRI) is a non-profit biomedical research institute in Seattle, Wash. BRI is an international leader in immune system and autoimmune disease research translating discoveries to real life applications. BRI Director Gerald T. Nepom, MD, PhD, and Executive Director Jack Nagan, JD, lead a team of more than 200 staff members, including 20 principal scientists. Dr. Nepom is also Director of the Immune Tolerance Network (ITN), one of the largest government-funded clinical research networks in the nation working to establish new treatments for diseases of the immune system. ITN operates at 200 clinical sites in more than 10 countries. This appointment confirms BRI's international leadership role in immunology research.

### Our Mission

BRI is one of the few research institutes in the world devoted to discovering causes and cures to eliminate autoimmune diseases. The work of BRI scientists is generating new knowledge and opportunities for novel therapeutics, through a unique approach in which the patient's genetics and immune properties are carefully evaluated. BRI's research aims to block autoimmunity and to develop therapies to reverse disease by redirecting faulty immune systems so they won't attack healthy tissues.

### Our History

First established in 1956 as the Virginia Mason Research Center, the Institute developed a unique niche as a basic sciences research institute associated with a major medical center and a teaching program. Renamed in 2002 in recognition of the Benaroya family of Seattle, the Institute now combines expertise in laboratory investigation with innovative clinical research.

### Autoimmune Diseases

Autoimmune diseases strike one in 20 Americans, with conditions such as Type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, scleroderma, Crohn's disease and many others. Autoimmune diseases happen when the body's immune system, designed to protect the body, attacks it instead. There are more than 80 different autoimmune diseases. No tissue or organ is immune from autoimmune disease.

### Quick Profile

- BRI's research volume is \$28.5 million, funded through research grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the American Heart Association, and a variety of other national and regional foundations, as well as by individual philanthropic gifts.
- BRI is a center of innovation for a variety of major consortia projects: PADI, the Program for Autoimmune Disease Intervention funded by the Washington State Life Sciences Discovery Fund; one of five national centers designated by the National Institutes of Health as an Autoimmunity Prevention Center; the Pacific Northwest clinical center for Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet, and the JDRC Center for Translational Research.

### Donations

BRI needs community support to continue its crucial work of unlocking the immune system and eliminating autoimmune diseases. For more information about supporting BRI please call (206) 583-6083 or visit [BenaroyaResearch.org/donate-now](http://BenaroyaResearch.org/donate-now).

For further information, please visit our Web site at [BenaroyaResearch.org](http://BenaroyaResearch.org).