

# FAST FACTS



## WHO WE ARE

- Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason (BRI) is an international leader in autoimmune disease research translating discoveries to real life applications.
- One of the few research institutes in the world devoted to finding causes and cures for immune system diseases that include type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, allergies and asthma.
- A non-profit medical research institute in Seattle, focusing on autoimmune disease research for 30 years and affiliated with Virginia Mason.

## OUR GOAL

- To leverage our world-class scientific discoveries to:
  - prevent and cure autoimmune diseases and harmful immune responses in the future, and
  - improve peoples' lives today by increasing the ability to predict disease risk, target treatment, halt disease progression and make therapies safer and better.

## OUR APPROACH

- We uniquely combine advanced laboratory experimentation with translational research programs and clinical trials to help develop innovative therapies.
- Because diseases of the immune system all share a common cause—mistakes made by the body's immune system—we're fighting them together. A breakthrough in one disease can lead to progress against them all.
- Our major programs encompass Diabetes Research, Immunology, Translational Research, Matrix Biology and Systems Immunology, integrated with core laboratories providing expertise in state-of-the-art technologies, bioinformatics and systems biology.

## OUR STAFF

- BRI is led by President Jane H. Buckner, MD, and Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer Homer W. Lane Jr.
  - 300 scientists, staff and volunteers
  - 23 faculty and 10 core laboratories

## OUR FINANCES

- \$69 million of revenue in 2017 from these sources:
  - 73% – government grants and contracts
  - 10% – philanthropic donations
  - 5% – foundations and other grants
  - 5% – pharmaceutical studies
  - 7% – other support
- BRI's sponsored research funding has increased 77% over the past five years despite a national reduction of NIH funding during the same time.
- Current sponsors of our research include: National Institutes of Health (NIH), JDRF, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, the United States Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA), and Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE).

## GLOBAL IMPACT

- At BRI, we measure growth through our impact. BRI leads the Immune Tolerance Network (ITN), a collaborative, worldwide network for clinical research funded by NIH and focused on the development of therapeutic approaches that lead to immune tolerance. Disease areas include asthma and allergy, autoimmune diseases and solid organ transplantation.
- BRI leads Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet, a multinational clinical trial network funded by NIH with 23 clinical centers and 200+ screening sites across the globe.
- We are also a center of innovation for other significant consortia projects including: the NIAID Autoimmunity Prevention Centers, JDRF Biomarker Working Group Core for Assay Validation and TrialNet Hub.

## HOW WE WORK

### Discovery Starts in the Laboratory

One of the unique qualities of BRI is the close integration of three types of medical research—laboratory research, translational research and clinical research—to improve people’s lives. Leading investigators in each of these areas work closely together, sharing the same vision, partnering to ensure rapid and cost-effective use of shared resources to advance biomedical knowledge.

### Translational Research and Biorepositories

Translational research is the link between laboratory research and clinical research, built upon an exchange of materials and information between these two disciplines. BRI scientists and collaborators work together to study blood and serum samples along with medical and demographic data collected from people with autoimmune and immune-mediated diseases. These include multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, allergies and asthma. BRI maintains an extensive biorepository with samples dating back to 2000 in seven disease categories, as well as a biorepository of people without autoimmune diseases for comparison purposes.

### Clinical Trials Bring Research Results to Patients

Clinical research studies involve individuals who volunteer to participate in new medical approaches not available outside the clinical trial setting. They play a major role in pushing the boundaries of knowledge about their disease and new therapies. BRI supports clinical research at Virginia Mason, where there are hundreds of active clinical studies being conducted at any time.



### Prevention of Diseases

One of the important lessons learned in BRI’s quest to diagnose, better treat and cure autoimmune diseases is that earlier intervention is better than later intervention. And the ultimate goal of early diagnosis and therapy is prevention—before immune system diseases become a clinical problem.

### A Vision of Personalized Medicine

Immunology research is driving toward individualized treatment for each person with autoimmune and immune-mediated diseases. Each person’s genetics, environment and immune system mechanisms are unique. People react to therapies differently and their responses may change over time. The optimal approach will be to individualize health care for each person and offer the right treatment at the right time.

## JOIN THE FIGHT

- **Visit us online** at [BenaroyaResearch.org](http://BenaroyaResearch.org) or [Facebook.com/BenaroyaResearch](https://www.facebook.com/BenaroyaResearch).
- **Support life-saving research** by donating online at [BenaroyaResearch.org/support](http://BenaroyaResearch.org/support) or call (206) 583-6083.
- **Help advance medical knowledge** by joining a biorepository at [BenaroyaResearch.org/BIO](http://BenaroyaResearch.org/BIO) or call (877) 202-5200.
- **Sign up for a clinical study** by joining the Clinical Research Registry at [BenaroyaResearch.org/CRR](http://BenaroyaResearch.org/CRR) or call (206) 342-6915.