

# findings

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEBRASKANS FOR RESEARCH



Volume 6, Number 2

## RECHERCHE

*by William Penry, Nebraskans for Research Board Member*



Recherche from the French word Rechercher, means "to search, to investigate thoroughly". In English we say Research. We know it as the human activity based on intellectual investigation, aimed at discovering, interpreting, and revising human knowledge on different aspects of the world. It is a subset of Invention. (source: Wikipedia)

It can be basic or scientific. And each of these can be subdivided into many specific categories. It can be fundamental or pure, and it can be exploratory,

constructive, empirical or applied. But in almost all cases it needs funding.

Funding comes primarily from two major sources, corporate and governmental. One of the heaviest burdens placed on the actual researcher or the research organization, is the time investment in competing for grants, to the point of winning funding at the expense of even a fellow researcher.

What does the basic concept of research mean to me as a member of the Nebraskans for Research Board?

In my particular case I am a living beneficiary of the products of research done at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Having received both an Autologous and an Allogeneic Bone Marrow Transplant at UNMC, it is clear that I would not exist today, had these efforts failed to get approval and funding. Less than 20 years ago, a person with a similar prognosis, after failing the standard therapies of the early 90's would have been considered terminal and without hope.

The technology developed through research of prevailing bone marrow transplantation nationally, allows thousands of cancer survivors to reach a well deserved state of remission and continue their lives.

Though many of us are cancer survivors, as board members we have a greater task than just funding. We are one of the frontline forces in gaining acceptance for research. True, our focus is research in general, but our mission statement is to further the medical research being done on the university level in our state. We have strong resistance to the idea of opening up some of the research potentials because of deep seated beliefs of many Nebraskans. As fellow citizens of our state, their beliefs are as important and valuable as our own, and their resistance to our efforts can affect the future of research in our state. This ongoing debate may ultimately affect our immediate economy, the University's ability to attract the best research candidates, as well as the impression we as Nebraskans leave with the rest of the country.

We know very well the arguments presented from both sides of the issue. We have dedicated ourselves to maintaining a course and a presence at the state legislature. We hold honorary luncheons to spread the awareness of what is at stake. We do much more as a group but what do we do individually?

As simple as it sounds, I bring up the issue in the daily course of business, or in the social events I attend, or even in informal conversations. Do people think I am obsessed? Not really. But they know that I believe strongly in an open research environment. And slowly but surely, they find that they too have to take a stand.

It may be a miniscule effort, but every little bit helps. I know many of you are doing the same. But if you aren't, try it. Mention it and see what develops.

### *Save the Date*

Nebraskans for Research  
Annual Tribute Luncheon  
honoring Dick Holland  
will be held on April 14, 2008  
at Happy Hollow Country Club.

### Nebraskans for Research Salute James Armitage, M.D. at Fifth Annual Tribute Luncheon

Happy Hollow Club was filled with more than 200 friends, family and colleagues of James O. Armitage, M.D. as Nebraskans for Research honored him at the annual Tribute Luncheon held Monday, April 23. Each year NFR salutes individuals who have made a difference through their support of medical research. Dr. Armitage, a physician, researcher and educator, is internationally known for his expertise in the research and treatment of lymphoma and bone marrow transplantation.

As he accepted his honor, Dr. Armitage helped the audience understand the significance of research. He asked them to imagine their family picture and then asked the audience if any of their loved ones had appendicitis, diabetes, pneumonia, high blood pressure, glaucoma or lymphoma. Without the research that has led to cures and treatments, "you could X those people out of your picture," he said. Dr. Armitage gave those present a glimpse into the future, predicting "personalized medicine" is on the horizon. With the knowledge gained through research, he said, treatments would be developed that would be tailored to each person.

Dr. Armitage was introduced by Bill Penry, who is living proof of Dr. Armitage's expertise. Penry is a cancer survivor who says he owes his life to Dr. Armitage and his talented staff.

On behalf of NFR, President Carol Russell presented Dr. Armitage with a beautiful piece of art glass.



*Dr. Jim Armitage receives his award from Carol Russell and Bill Penry*

### Public Policy Debate Continues in Nebraska

#### Richard A. Lombardi, Registered Lobbyist

The First Session of the 100th Nebraska Legislature is history. Once again your advocacy has succeeded in keeping repressive biomedical research public policy at bay. LB 700, a bill that would criminalize stem cell research, remains in the Legislature's Judiciary Committee. Notwithstanding the fact that twenty-seven out of the forty-nine legislators lent their names to LB 700, LB 700 is not law and through your continue vigilance will not become law.

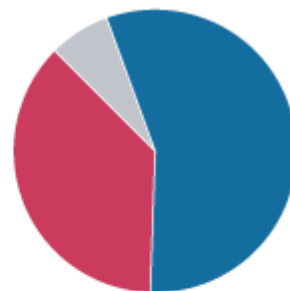
This marks the fourth year that Nebraskans for Research has succeeded in stemming the tide of regressive public policy. Four years ago, with a margin of only one vote on a cloture motion, Nebraska dodged the adoption of an almost identical provision as is contained in LB 700. Let's face it, the majority of the Legislature supports bad public policy in the biomedical research arena. However, because of you and an incredibly committed group of State Senators, Nebraska has bought time to build an appreciation for life saving biomedical research.

Nebraska holds a huge debt of gratitude to the following key legislative leaders whom will be leaving us after next session: Senator DiAnna Schimek, Senator Ernie Chambers, Senator Joel Johnson, Senator Ron Raikes and Senator Lowen Kruse. These folks have been relentless in their support for stem cell research even when confronted by overwhelming odds.

You and your organization are the only obstacles standing in the way of misguided and debilitating public policy. Your success is directly linked to building Nebraskans for Research and Research Nebraska. Your support for Nebraskans for Research affords you

an opportunity to support a critical public education effort on behalf of biomedical research and your support for Research Nebraska supports your advocacy before the Nebraska Unicameral. Organizations are the tools individuals use to gain power. Make no mistake our goal is power. The power of hope. Hope will only happen through action. Thank you for your support for the action of advocacy. Build this organization, and you will build hope for thousands of Nebraskans.

#### Federal Funding for Embryonic Stem Cell Research



Do you favor or oppose federal funding for research using embryonic stem cells?

56% favor

37% oppose

7% don't know

SOURCE: Your Congress-Your Health Survey, 2007 Charlton Research Company for Research!America

## Nebraskans for Research Awards First Annual Monetary Recognition to BRIN/INBRE Scholars

The Board of Directors for Nebraskans for Research has created a Future Scientist Award to further recognize and reward students participating in the Biomedical Research in Nebraska (BRIN) Scholars Program, sponsored by INBRE. The Scholars Program provides summer fellowships for advanced research training at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University Medical Center or the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, all of which are PhD granting institutions.

During the annual BRIN/INBRE conference, August 7-9 in Grand Island, members of the Scholars Program have the opportunity to share their research findings either through oral or poster presentations. The NFR Future Scientist Awards were presented to the students who placed first, second and third in both the oral and poster categories. These top six students, selected by INBRE faculty, received monetary awards from Nebraskans for Research totaling \$1700.

President of Nebraskans for Research, Carol Russell said the Board of Directors of NFR felt this was a particularly appropriate group of individuals to honor. "These students represent the future of research in the state of Nebraska. We must nurture these students who have the potential to be our future scientists. Nebraskans for Research are proud to recognize and reward their achievements," Russell said.

INBRE, which began in 2001, is funded by a \$17 million grant from the National Institutes of Health and has supported 145 BRIN Scholars to date, according to James Turpen, Ph.D., vice chair for Genetics, Cell Biology and Anatomy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and principal investigator of the Nebraska INBRE program.

The awards were presented by Russell at the BRIN/INBRE banquet on Thursday, August 9, at the Interstate Holiday Inn in Grand Island.

The 2007 NFR Future Scientist Awards went to:

### *Poster Presentation:*

First place -- Lynsey Crosby, Nebraska Wesleyan University, from Albion, NE.

Second place -- Katy Emanuel, Nebraska Wesleyan University, from Dodge, NE.

Third place -- Katie Wilcox, Doane College, from Doniphan, NE.

### *Oral Presentation:*

First Place -- Kelly Westfall, University of Nebraska at Omaha-Biology, from Omaha, NE.

Second Place -- Natalie German, Creighton University, from Humphrey, NE.

Third Place -- Stephanie Brady, University of Nebraska at Omaha-Computer Science, from Omaha, NE.



## Contribute to Medical Research Today!

Select one or both options to continue your support for life-saving research.

### Nebraskans for Research Membership

Contributions to NFR are tax deductible.

**Make checks payable to: NFR**

<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Membership	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Membership	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Membership	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Membership	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Membership	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Membership	\$1000

### Research Nebraska! Contribution

Contributions to Research Nebraska!, the advocacy arm of NFR, are not tax deductible

**Make checks payable to:  
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My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
is enclosed.



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## CALL TO COMMITTEES

The following committees have openings for new members. Please call Victoria at 402-475-0727 for more information. We would be delighted to have you volunteer to work on a committee.

Committees with openings:

Membership

Fundraising

Education

Issues Advocacy