



2020

YEAR END REPORT

Nebraska Coalition
FOR LIFESAVING CURES

THANK YOU.

As the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures (Nebraska Cures) started 2020, we were ramping up to celebrate 20 years of protecting and advocating for vital biomedical research. Our accomplishments over the years have helped to allow lifesaving research to continue at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. We created the Maurer Scientific Achievement Award for early career researchers and Holland Future Scientist awards for college students. We've hosted and supported numerous science cafes, meets and festivals to increase science literacy. After alerting him to the problem last year, in July the Nebraska Attorney General filed a lawsuit against clinics offering unproven, potentially dangerous stem cell therapies. None of this would have been possible without your support.

The scientific challenges presented to our community by the COVID-19 pandemic have gone beyond the search for effective and safe vaccines and treatments that will allow us to safely return to life as we knew it. The frightening level of scientific misinformation has muddied the water and made reasonable people question the scientific process. Nebraska Cures must rise to the challenges of today.

What you will see in this annual report is a new, expanded direction for Nebraska Cures. I hope you find it exciting and will be an active participant in making our vision a reality.

Please return the attached card with your gift today or give at nebraskacures.com and help us continue our mission to promote, support and advocate research leading to lifesaving cures and a healthier Nebraska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Crouse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Crouse, Ph.D.

President, Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures

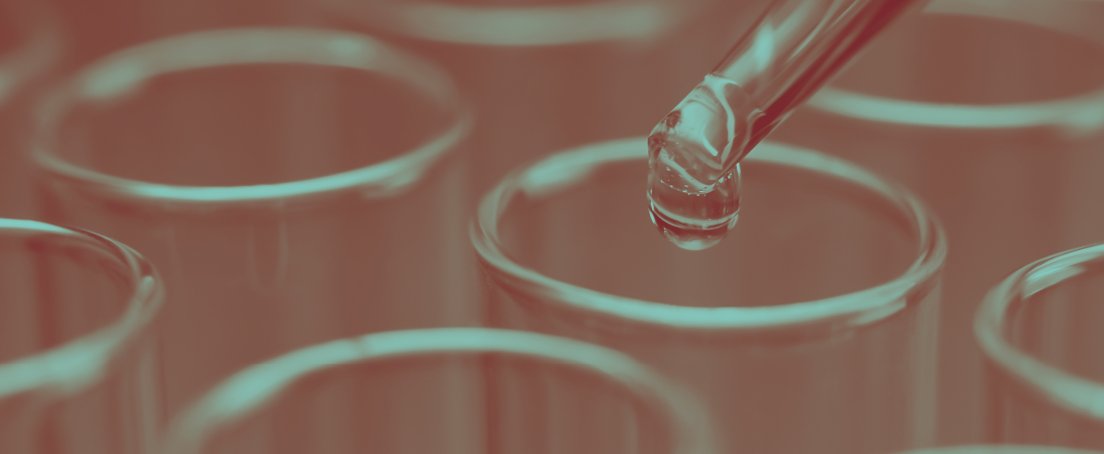
LAUNCHING AN EXPANDED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Nebraska Cures has thrived for two decades, fighting back repeated attempts to change both state law and University of Nebraska policy to restrict biomedical research. Our success has protected critical research that will save lives.

The health disparities of the pandemic and the spread of health science misinformation have spotlighted the need for our organization to take on an expanded role in health science communication and advocacy. Expanding our work will allow us to take action on the most urgent health science needs of our community, such as educating Nebraskans about vaccines, clinical trials and the need for more diversity in research. At the same time, we will continue to educate about biomedical research and the false promises of unregulated stem cell therapies.

NEW GUIDING STATEMENTS

- As the leading advocate for health science research and education that advances quality of life, Nebraska Cures will educate the public on research advancements that could lead to lifesaving cures, stop the spread of disease, support the economy and lead to a healthier Nebraska.
- As a trusted source of health science information, Nebraska Cures will educate the public on sound science, increase science literacy and challenge health-related misinformation.
- As an advocate for the development of new and diverse leaders in health science professions, Nebraska Cures will support emerging professionals, educators and students through grants, awards and mentoring.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 20 YEARS OF SUPPORTING RESEARCH

2000

The organization was founded as Nebraskans for Research to educate policymakers about the value of medical research and the economic impact of restricting this lifesaving research.

2008

Nebraska Cures was instrumental in passing state legislation allowing the use of existing embryonic stem cell lines to conduct lifesaving research.

2013

The Richard Holland Future Scientist awards were established. Over \$40,000 has been awarded to undergraduate research students across the state.

2015

The first Maurer Scientific Achievement Award was presented. Six scientists have received the award for a total of \$60,000 invested in locally conducted research.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



- 1** Before the pandemic, Nebraska Cures supported two science meets organized by the Nebraska Panhandle AHEC (pictured) and Northeast Nebraska AHEC.
- 2** Clinical Trials – Participation in clinical trials is critical to developing new treatments and vaccines. McGill Johnson is currently in a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial and is working to educate the public about clinical trials. In September, she interviewed State Senator Tony Vargas about his participation in a similar clinical trial and about the importance of recruiting people of color to participate.
- 3** Going Virtual – When the pandemic hit, Science Cafés and other community presentations moved online. The May Science Café was a vaccine development Q&A with Dr. Crouse and Executive Director Amanda McGill Johnson.
- 4** Advancements in stopping unproven stem cell clinics – On July 16, Nebraska Attorney General Doug Pederson filed a lawsuit against several clinics offering stem cell therapies. Dr. Crouse was able to make several presentations on the topic to audiences in Omaha and Kearney, including one in person in January.

MISSION STATEMENT

*The Nebraska Coalition for
Lifesaving Cures promotes,
supports and advocates research
to advance our quality of life
and our economy.*

VISION STATEMENT

*Leading society to understand
and embrace the importance
of scientific research.*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amanda McGill Johnson

COMING IN 2021

- Increasing awareness of Nebraska-based research through a new virtual series Talking Research. Coming February 4th at noon! See our website and social media for more details.
- Working with community partners to educate the public on vaccination so that when the COVID-19 vaccine is ready and available, people will feel safe getting it.
- Building relationships with science teachers to support them in recruiting more youth, particularly from under-represented populations, into careers in the health sciences.
- Launching a Science Advisory Committee and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee to help guide our work and priorities.

**I want to help support the Nebraska Coalition
for Lifesaving Cures and its mission.**

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*Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures is a not-for-profit, statewide organization.
Contributions to the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures are tax deductible.*

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Make checks payable to Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures.

☐ Please charge my support level in the amount of \$.

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