

# Howard Hughes Medical Institute

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The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) is the nation's largest private biomedical research institution, with a staff of 3,000 nationwide and a self-sustained endowment that fully supports our work. HHMI's mission is to drive science forward, by selecting and generously supporting innovative basic science researchers, educators, and students. We do that in several distinct ways.

The Institute employs more than 300 scientists—at universities, hospitals, and other research host sites around the country—as HHMI investigators. Our investigators continue to be affiliated with their host institutions. HHMI provides investigators with core support for the salaries and benefits of lab staff, plus supplies and equipment, for renewable five-year terms. Nationwide, we currently employ over 1,500 lab and administrative staff who directly support these scientists. Many Investigators are with HHMI for 10 to 15 years or more, with rigorous review at five-year intervals. Our Investigators are expected to make significant discoveries, with the freedom and flexibility to pursue novel, high-risk research directions.

In addition to this “big science” approach to funding researchers in their home labs, HHMI also maintains the Janelia Research Campus ([janelia.org](http://janelia.org)), an innovative research center in Ashburn, Virginia, that employs more than 500 scientists and support staff from around the world. Our Janelia teams focus on imaging and brain research, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration at the nexus of experimentation, computation, and theory. Janelia seeks to share its scientific advances broadly, by actively engaging visiting scientists and providing new biological tools to the scientific community for free.

To supplement these long-term efforts and to meet timely challenges in the fields of basic research today, HHMI launches targeted programs to provide funding—for example, to support scientists who are early in their careers or those who are developing technologies with the power to transform biomedicine.

HHMI is also the largest private funder of science education in the United States. HHMI provides grants

to colleges and universities, and directly to individual faculty, to support science education for all students. Through a combination of grants and fellowships, HHMI also enables undergraduates to conduct hands-on research, prepare for careers as K–12 teachers, gain the benefits of mentoring, and more. HHMI support continues for exceptional graduate and medical students. To spark and deepen students' interest in science, HHMI creates classroom media for educators through our BioInteractive ([biointeractive.org](http://biointeractive.org)) program. Finally, to expand access to powerful stories of scientific discovery, HHMI's Tangled Bank Studios ([tangledbankstudios.org](http://tangledbankstudios.org)) creates and develops popular films for television and the big screen.

Internationally, HHMI partners with leading institutions to support high-impact efforts, such as South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV and the open access journal *eLife*, based in the U.K. We also support select scientists for basic research worldwide.

Founded in 1953, HHMI is headquartered just outside Washington, D.C., in Chevy Chase, Maryland. As a nonprofit medical research organization, HHMI has fostered the success of 19 Nobel laureates, including researchers awarded the 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and 2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, among other respected scientists. Over the past decade, the Institute has provided over \$7 billion in direct support for medical research and science education. Find out more at [hhmi.org](http://hhmi.org).

