CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
ACLAM FOUNDATION
BEGINNINGS

The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) Foundation originated from the braintrust and visionary leadership of the College in the early 1990s. Dr. C. Max Lang served as the College’s treasurer from 1981-90. During this period, he carefully and frugally oversaw the College’s budget for its operational costs, but also gradually built up a savings account to cover any unexpected financial contingencies the College might face.

In the early 1990s, the Board invested some of this money as part of a growth and development initiative when they hired an outside consultant to provide an intensive strategic planning assessment for the College. From this session, initial discussions emerged noting the challenges many aspiring laboratory animal veterinary candidates faced as they sought funding for short term projects, which could fulfill the College’s requirement of having a lead authorship in a peer reviewed journal. The NIH grant process was cumbersome and lengthy. The Board felt it could, and even should, help in some way.

According to Dr. Samuel R. Adams, Jr., President of the Board from 1995-96, “All we wanted was to offer grants which could compensate a tech and a few supplies, enough to get a project done, get posters and Kodachrome slides made, and keep administrative costs very low.”

The nest egg was right there when the College needed it - from the contingency savings conceived by Dr. Lang and with the Board’s approval, the ACLAM Foundation found its first foothold in 1995 as an organization dedicated to funding small projects in animal research.

Dr. Martin “Marty” L. Morin stepped up as the Foundation’s principal cheerleader. Tapping into his extensive experience with fundraising for his church, he along with Dr. Adams tag-teamed as the initial lead development officers. Under their dedication, the Foundation coffers grew substantially, principally from the generous response of the membership. Morin’s gregarious personality went the distance to coax members to give cheerfully (and give often!) at each annual ACLAM Forum.

In time Morin and Adams reached out to colleagues in larger corporations, finding inroads to larger, consistent donations. Charles River Laboratories, Merck, Pfizer,
Taconic, AbbVie, and others became steady contributors to help fulfill the Foundation’s mission. The President’s Circle for Sustained Giving found its place in the early 2000s, welcoming donors providing a $5000 pledge over ten years’ time. To date, there are nearly 160 College members committed to the President’s Circle.

The ACLAM Foundation Committee, drawn from members in the College, principally managed development, handing off grants review to the Grants Management Sub-committee, chaired by a Board-appointed Scientific Director. In time the Board separated the functions of the Foundation into two committees: Foundation-Development and Foundation-Grants Management, offering the lead officers a monthly stipend for their dedication and time.

Initially, research grants ranged from $1000 to $10,000, depending on the size of the project. As costs for research increased over the years, the Foundation-Grants Management Committee took that into consideration. Recent awards have ranged between $25,000 and $30,000.

For the past 25 years - plus! - the ACLAM Foundation has brought meaningful connection to the science and laboratory animal community. We stay committed to assisting the scientists of today to bring us the science of tomorrow.
The tried and true model of recruiting and sustaining donors: an organization presents with a financial problem and calls upon a community to provide the financial solution.

The ACLAM Foundation got its start from energized visionaries who worked steadily toward solving the problem, in part or in full, of providing accessible and unrestricted funding for research grants. Blessed with the accumulated nest egg of financing within the College, the first grant awardees certainly could be written as a tempting success story. Yet sustainment contingencies hadn’t been solidified for the long term.
For most ACLAM Diplomates, training in the art and science of fundraising does not come as second nature! Over 25 years the College has been able to capitalize on the volunteer spirit of leaders and committee members who have made a difference in both development and sustainment. The Development team has successfully laid the groundwork to recruit sponsors and volunteers, with tremendous support through promotional activities both online and at the Forum. Sustainment initiatives such as the annual member appeal, silent auctions and raffles at Forum, and consistent corporate sponsors have become a welcome norm.

Donors react to the emotional stories we tell them, highlighting both the direct and indirect application of peer-reviewed research on public and animal health. From these stories, we connect with each other at meetings, in the hallway, on a flight, in animal rooms, through video chats, social media, text messages, and emails, finding ourselves at the close of another week of the unexpected, knowing we could not have made it alone or in isolation.

Your donation, at any level, will ALWAYS make a difference.
How have your dollars made a difference?

The Grants Management team annually collects and reviews submissions for funding requests, taking into account the nature and scope of each project. They give serious consideration to all proposals. Through a two-tiered system for competitive review a letter of intent is followed by a request for a full grant proposal.

The Foundation funds studies in the following five lab animal research subjects:

- Analgesia/Anesthesia
- Behavior/Well-being
- Diagnostics/Diseases
- Husbandry
- Refinement of Animal Models - emphasizing the 3Rs developed by Russel and Birch (reduction, refinement, and replacement)
Over the years the Foundation has established eponymous grants, dedicated to those gone before us: the Henry and Lois Foster Grant, ER Griffin Research Foundation Grant, and the Greg Boivin Memorial Award. In earlier years corporate sponsors also assisted grant funding alongside the Foundation. Corporate support has been recognized from AAALAC, the Dolphin Trust, 3M, AALAS, and GlaxoSmithKline.

With your support since 1995, the Foundation has awarded over $2,700,000 in research dollars funding 125 research grants at 60 institutions. Importantly, these projects have resulted in over 70 publications and more than 160 presentations at national meetings. We are extremely proud of our grantees and the significant impact their studies have made in our field.
We welcome the celebration of the
25TH ANNIVERSARY
of the ACLAM Foundation!

Happy Silver Anniversary!

MISSION STATEMENT
The ACLAM Foundation seeks to expand knowledge supporting biomedical research and the health and welfare of research animals through the funding of research grants.

For more information on making a donation and/or applying for a grant, please visit https://www.aclam.org/foundation