

Supporting OHSU's Graduate Research Partners

OHSU is an engine of discovery. Exceptional graduate students provide the horsepower. You can provide the fuel.

Our headlines and history books chronicle the achievements of illustrious researchers whose names are forever connected with great scientific discoveries. These famous minds are indeed worthy of society's adulation and gratitude. Behind the headlines, however, their success was almost certainly made possible by a cadre of unsung scientific heroes — their graduate students.



In modern academic research, progress would simply not be possible without the help of graduate-level scholars, who make vital contributions to their mentor's work while honing their own knowledge and research skills.

Students put the "labor" in laboratory. They are the ones who do the painstaking, piecemeal bench work that drives knowledge, and they bring excitement and energy to these tasks that trigger innovation and stimulate discovery. Graduate students are often the functional bridge that makes collaborative interdisciplinary research possible. OHSU's power to attract top students is increasingly crucial to keeping and recruiting world-class faculty.

OHSU currently hosts more than 500 exceptional graduate students studying in 23 different programs ranging from biomedical computer science to molecular and medical genetics. These rising stars come to us from across the nation and around the world, already highly accomplished in both undergraduate study and life experience. From graduate school, many find permanent positions at OHSU or in other Oregon institutions. Others will go on to productive careers in academic, private industry or government laboratories. All help to enhance OHSU's and Oregon's reputation as a world leader in research and health care, while laying the strongest possible foundation for their own successful scientific careers.

Attracting the highest caliber of graduate students possible – and more of them – is a critical priority for OHSU. It bears directly on the impact and productivity of our research laboratories and on the academic culture of the university as a whole.

The more of these exceptional research partners OHSU can attract and support, the more rapidly our research enterprise will move forward. The more we invest in the grooming of these up-and-coming scientific leaders, the sooner our world will gain cures to cancer, asthma, infectious diseases and other health issues. The more future scientists we can influence in their early careers, the greater our influence and stature will be in the global scientific community.

Alexis La Chapelle and Igor Landais are key contributors to the cancer research program of Maureen Hoatlin, Ph.D., in OHSU's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

A significant opportunity exists for philanthropic partners to accelerate the pace of discovery by supporting OHSU's doctoral students. Currently, graduate research partners are supported by stipends from the Dean of the School of Medicine or by faculty grants. Neither of these sources is adequate to achieve the productivity benefits within our reach if we could increase our graduate student ranks.

OHSU's primary goal is to establish a substantial endowed fund to offset the cost of salary, tuition, health insurance and other fees for Ph.D. students. A \$4 million endowment would, in principle, produce enough income to support as many as six additional graduate students per year in perpetuity.

The effort to raise support for graduate students is a central goal of OHSU's current Faculty Support Initiative, which seeks to raise at least \$100 million over the next three years to retain and recruit exceptional faculty, provide them with the resources they need to do their best work and stimulate the kind of interdisciplinary research collaborations that drive success.

Grad Stats

2.2

Dollars in new state business activity generated by each \$1 of OHSU research funding from NIH

28

Typical age of students at the start of their research

56

Percentage of graduate students who are women

500

Number of OHSU graduate students in 23 programs

"OHSU graduate students are the lifeblood of the research enterprise."

– Peter Gillespie, Ph.D., Director, OHSU Neuroscience Graduate Program

OHSU's research community has come together to enlist private support for future stars of science who are making our success possible today. There are three principal opportunities to partner with OHSU in this important initiative.

Endowed Fund for Graduate Research

A \$4 million investment in future generations of scientists. As the endowment grows, it will provide sustainable funding for graduate-level researchers serving programs across all OHSU basic and clinical science departments.

Sponsor one or more individual students

A pool of current-use funds providing funding for selected graduate students. OHSU estimates the annual per-student cost of salary, tuition, benefits and fees to be approximately \$40,000. Lesser amounts might be used to support conference attendance, required equipment such as laptop computers, and related expenses associated with the productivity and development of graduate students.

Designate a gift to support graduate research in a chosen area

OHSU supporters may designate their endowed or current-use gifts to benefit a particular disease area or program of interest. Each recipient's professional publications and presentations would showcase the donor's commitment to health and science in international scientific circles.

Make a Gift

OHSU Foundation staff members are available to help coordinate the details of a gift. For further information, contact:

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