



December 2011

Dear Friends,

Holiday greetings! On behalf of the HSSA Board and staff, we wish you and your families and organizations a joyous holiday season.

This has been a busy year for the HSSA. We collaborated with the Empire Health Foundation on a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for Health Sciences in Spokane. Our intent was to leverage the funds each of our organizations have available for health sciences research. (You may recall that we reported late last year that through Spokane County the HSSA had successfully bonded 75 percent of our revenues and raised \$10,700,000 at very favorable rates for this purpose). We surveyed many leaders in business, academia and health sciences, held a public meeting in mid-August where we heard testimony about our then draft plan, made a few modest changes to the SIP, and voted unanimously in September to accept the recommended Strategic Investment Plan. Then we went to work establishing these grant competitions.

There are three main priorities identified in the SIP that are intended to receive \$10 million in research funding by HSSA over the next several years. The Strategic Goals are as follows:

- 1) Invest in Human Capital to Accelerate Spokane's Health Sciences Research Capacity*
- 2) Fund Innovative Research to Expedite Commercialization and Spur Job Growth*
- 3) Support Innovative Research that Advances Spokane as National Leader in Health Delivery Research*

In November we issued three Requests for Proposals (RFPs) directly related to these three funding priorities, and we are pleased to report that we have received several proposals for the Board's consideration. We expect decisions to be made on funding for RFP #5 (Invest in Human Capital to Accelerate Spokane's Health Sciences Research Capacity) proposals at our January board meeting.

Since HSSA began its operations in 2009, we are proud to have made great progress, and will share just a few of these accomplishments here.

- HSSA has committed \$1,267,400 to date in grants, \$675,000 for the development of bioscience infrastructure and \$592,400 to organizations who increase access to health care for the under- and uninsured in Spokane County.
- Another \$10 million has been set aside to fund health sciences research in the three strategic priority areas mentioned above.

- Project Access has received \$225,000 and for every \$1 of HSSA funds, Project Access has achieved a \$12 return on donated medical care, or about \$6.3 million, plus another \$68,000 in dental. Project Access has received an additional HSSA grant of \$100,000.
- ISM has created a clinical data repository and has developed the framework for a bio-specimen repository.
- Payroll to date for all funded grants is approximately \$1.2 million, resulting in 38.5 full-time positions and 13 contract employees.
- HSSA grants to date have leveraged additional funding of \$565,550.
- In terms of providing access to health care, 3,869 County residents received health care services they otherwise would not have received.

As this year comes to a close, our Board and staff are excited about how our grant recipients perform, and also for the coming year and the anticipated increased level of giving toward our strategic research priorities, as well as our annual commitment to those organizations who collaboratively and efficiently provide important health care services to those in need. We are grateful for your support and we look forward to working with you toward a prosperous, happy and healthy new year.

Happy Holidays!



Nancy L. Isserlis
HSSA Board Chair

About Our Board:

In addition to Nancy Isserlis, Partner, Winston & Cashatt and HSSA Board Chair, HSSA Board Members are Earl F. “Marty” Martin, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Gonzaga University and HSSA Board Vice Chair; Michael Wilson, Interim Chief Executive, Providence Health Care and Grants Committee Chair; Jason Thackston, Vice President of Energy Delivery, Avista Corp. and Finance Committee Chair; Dr. Jeff Collins, Medical Director, Providence Health Care; Kelsey Gray, Partner, Spectrum Group; Kevin Oldenburg, Ph.D., President, MatriCal Bioscience, Inc. David J. Vachon, Ph.D., CEO/Founder, Iasis Molecular Sciences, and Gary Pollack, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Health Sciences, Dean and Professor, College of Pharmacy.

About HSSA:

The **Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County** was established in 2007 by the Washington legislature, authorized county-wide by Spokane County in late 2008 to promote bioscience-based economic development, and began operating in 2009. Its mission is to advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and to promote public health. HSSA invests funds to create and support a nationally competitive health sciences research cluster in Spokane County, and works to catalyze higher education research and the health sciences industry to lead to higher wage jobs, long-term sustainability and economic diversification. For more information, visit our website at www.hssaspokane.org, or contact Susan Ashe, Acting Executive Director at 509.358.2113 or info@hssaspokane.org.