Brain Disease: Fighting the Growing Epidemic

McLaughlin Research Institute
2010 | 2011 Annual Report
McLaughlin Research Institute is a center for neurogenetic research on Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and other degenerative nerve diseases. Our work to understand neurodegeneration is the foundation for medical advances that will prevent and cure these devastating diseases. The Institute is an independent, nonprofit organization located in Great Falls, Montana. Our nationally known, genetically engineered mouse models for human disease are widely used for testing and developing new therapies.

Scientists at McLaughlin Research Institute have been working to defeat human diseases since 1954, when research at the Institute was influential in the development of transplantation medicine. Since that time, McLaughlin has also nurtured scores of young scientists-in-the-making through our internship program for high school and college students. Our education program also includes working with the Great Falls Public Schools to enhance science education.

“MRI is positioned to unravel the secrets of Alzheimer’s and other diseases that cause millions of people to lose brain functions.”

–Dr. Irving Weissman

One of the many ways you can support our mission is by spreading the word. Please pass this report on to a friend or loved one.

The report is also available on our new website: mclaughlinresearch.org
It's an exciting time for biomedical science. The path from research to medical practice is far shorter and more direct than ever before, opening up rich possibilities for improving health and saving lives. McLaughlin Research Institute is playing a significant role in the development of an international trend towards translational research that applies genetic information obtained in the lab to medical treatments tailored to individual patients.

This new personalized medicine has been the longtime vision of MRI Scientific Advisory Committee member Leroy Hood, Dr. Hood, President and co-founder of the Institute for Systems Biology (ISB), is a pioneering scientist who has helped push medicine to the brink of revolution. An ongoing collaboration between ISB and McLaughlin has produced promising possibilities for fighting Alzheimer’s and other degenerative brain diseases. Their research has already moved medicine closer to the day when a simple blood test will reveal a person’s predisposition to disease and signal when disease is beginning.

Such tests would enable very early intervention to prevent or slow the disease long before symptoms appear. This would mean that people with a genetic predisposition to Alzheimer’s would be spared what former Montana Attorney General Joe Mazurek and his family have endured. In this report you can read the heartbreaking story of this longtime public servant who was struck by the disease in his late 50s. In telling his story, the Mazurek family hopes to help raise awareness about the need for a cure, which can only come through further research.

Work at McLaughlin has been instrumental in advancing another promising therapy for Alzheimer’s using brain stem cell transplants. Irving Weissman, one of the nation’s leading stem cell biologists and a close collaborator with MRI, is working to develop this therapy. As the longtime Chair of MRI’s Scientific Advisory Committee, Dr. Weissman’s relationship with McLaughlin goes back to its early days in the 1950s: the Institute was a tiny but renowned center of expertise on transplantation research, and he was a high school student getting his start at MRI during a time when it conducted key research that helped make organ transplantation possible.

McLaughlin’s current focus on degenerative brain diseases is building on that history of producing research results with a major impact on human health. The research programs at MRI continue to become increasingly integrated in their common focus on neurodegenerative disease. In this annual report, you can learn how the Institute’s team is poised to help bring the Alzheimer’s epidemic to an end by moving in the exciting direction of clinical research.

At the same time, McLaughlin continues to make progress in its important work on related neurological
diseases, including Parkinson’s, multiple sclerosis, and peripheral neuropathy.

Last year took McLaughlin Professor John Mercer and his wife and colleague Colleen Silan to India, where they are working in partnership with Dr. James Spudich of Stanford University to help establish a lab at the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine in Bangalore. MRI’s expertise in mouse genetics and molecular motors is in demand as India and other countries begin to outpace the U.S. in funding medical research.

Because research funding in the U.S. has tightened, MRI relies increasingly on private donations. In this report we single out one faithful supporter who served for over 10 years as Chair of MRI’s National Development Council. Schindler’s List producer Gerald Molen has had an amazing life in movie making and has always used his success to help make the world a better place.

The completion of the Road to a Cure campaign last year made it possible for MRI to add personnel and equipment that are advancing our research. Our vision of recruiting a physician-scientist for translational research is also supported by that project.

McLaughlin’s education program continues to introduce high school and college students to the challenging work in a research lab, with the help of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). One of these former students, Roger Reichert, MD, PhD, is enjoying success with a new pathology textbook on gynecological cancer, as you can learn about in these pages.

Also with HHMI’s help, MRI brings dynamic speakers to Great Falls to broaden public awareness of the world of science and increase support for science education. Last year, hundreds of Great Falls citizens turned out to hear HHMI’s own Sean B. Carroll, a nationally known researcher and speaker on evolutionary biology. We also brought Leroy Hood to talk about the latest developments in his exciting vision for personalized, predictive, participatory, and preventative (P4) medicine. He left the audience with these words:

“MRI’s superb mouse genetics and pioneering work in neurodegenerative diseases make it a national treasure and a beacon of excellence for science in Montana, where it also offers outstanding opportunities for young people to be drawn into science."

Thank you for your part in making that statement a true one. With your continued support we look forward to reporting some exciting developments in the year ahead.

George Carlson, PhD
Director & Professor

Dr. Irv Weissman; Colleen Silan and Dr. John Mercer with their team in India; postdoc Andrea Grindeland; Dr. Sean B. Carroll; Neal Copeland speaking at the NDC meeting in August 2011; student intern Sarah LaPierre.
Early-onset Alzheimer’s Strikes
Former Montana Attorney General Joe Mazurek

As Montana’s attorney general in 1996, Joe Mazurek argued a case before the United States Supreme Court while maintaining daily contact with the director of the FBI to bring the 84-day standoff with the Freemen in eastern Montana to a successful conclusion. He juggled these extremely demanding tasks alongside other pressing and complex legal matters in his combined role as the state’s chief legal officer, its highest law enforcement officer, and the administrator of the Department of Justice. The Department had 10 divisions with 700 employees and a $40 million budget.

According to one colleague, Mazurek carried “file cabinets” full of information in his head that he could easily retrieve on demand. But several years after leaving office, when he was in his late 50s, his mind began to disintegrate.

Known across the state for years as one of its leading lawyers, he no longer knows the alphabet nor can count to 10.

His speech is mostly unintelligible and his behavior increasingly childlike. He must rely on others for help with the most basic activities of daily living. For his own protection, he lives behind a locked door. He is just 63 years old.

Early onset Alzheimer’s disease has robbed Joe Mazurek of most of what was his life.

In 2007, Joe was tired all the time and began having trouble completing his sentences. His wife Patty retired from her career as a math teacher at Helena’s Capital High School and has devoted her days and nights to caring for him.

“It’s a devastating disease,” she said. “You notice little pieces of him all the time that are gone. That’s why they call it the long goodbye.”

During Joe Mazurek’s first term as attorney general, Dennis Taylor was his chief of staff. Taylor is a former city manager of Helena and other cities, and the two men are longtime friends. “It’s really hard to watch someone you’ve known for 40 years change so dramatically,” he said.

According to Taylor, the highlights from Joe’s two terms as attorney general included settling two huge cases for the State. He brought an end to the 15-year-old pollution case against Atlantic Richfield Company, leading to the cleanup of the Clark Fork River Basin, and joined other states in a suit against tobacco companies, providing hundreds of millions of dollars for public health in Montana.

“Even before helping to end the Freemen standoff with capture rather than a Waco-style shootout,” Taylor said, Mazurek was known nationally for his ability to peacefully end challenging conflicts, based on an earlier standoff with a fugitive near Flathead Lake. And he was well equipped to handle the legal intricacies his position demanded. “He had such a mind for details,” Taylor said. But since Alzheimer’s began its attack, “it’s been a slow, steady loss of skills and memory. At first, Joe couldn’t give a talk, then he had difficulty using silverware.”

One of the most dramatic changes has been the loss of his gift for dealing with people. “Joe knew everyone,” according to Taylor. “He was extremely social and had a phenomenal ability to remember people. Dorothy Bradley, [who was Joe’s running mate when he ran for governor in 2000] once asked, ‘Is there anyone in Montana that Joe does not know?!’ He had great social skills, he was really good with people, and he’s lost that.”

“Now he’s very anxious and jumpy. He mimics people when he’s confused about how to behave, watches others closely for cues. He’s lost many inhibitions and sometimes frightens people when he’s just trying to be friendly.”

Many of these symptoms are familiar to another friend of Mazurek’s, former Montana Governor Marc Racicot, who watched his grandparents and then his mother die of Alzheimer’s. Eventually, he said, “[The disease] steals their soul and their intellect and their unique character and leaves but a shell – a shell that’s terrified.”

Marc Racicot met Joe Mazurek during the late 1960s when Racicot was president of the student body at Carroll College and Mazurek held the same office at
the University of Montana. Each went on to serve their country in the U.S. Army and then their state in various capacities, including as attorney general. Their personal lives also overlapped, through their families, their church, and mutual friends in Helena. The fact that Mazurek was a Democrat and Racicot a Republican didn’t keep them from sharing a close bond. “I could not estimate the breadth and scope of my affection and respect for Joe,” Racicot said. “He is one of the most genuinely likeable human beings God ever created.”

Among the many experiences the two men shared was that of watching a parent be ravaged by Alzheimer’s and knowing that that meant their own odds for getting the disease were increased. Joe’s father and then Marc’s mother had long bitter struggles with the disease. “We were profoundly aware that it was a possibility in our own lives,” Racicot said, but they thought of it as something that would happen later on—not at such a young age as it struck Mazurek. “It’s absolutely heartbreaking...,” he said, “and it’s a more cruel circumstance even for Patty to have to deal with.”

In February, Patty realized Joe needed more care than she could provide without endangering her own health, which was adversely affected by the stress. “Joe was beginning to be unpredictable,” Patty said. “He can get agitated very quickly, and grab people and shake them; I was afraid he might hurt someone, and that is not anything like the Joe I know.” Erratic and even violent behavior is common among people with Alzheimer’s.

The stress was “unbearable,” according to Patty, and she’d found herself getting angry. A frightening episode with her heart racing uncontrollably was her wake-up call. “It scared me to death,” she said. Caregivers of Alzheimer’s patients are at risk for serious illness or death.

Patty made arrangements for professional in-home care on a part-time basis, and she has taken in a boarder who helps during the other hours. Family
friends pitch in; Dennis Taylor still takes Joe for walks. With this support in place, Patty can keep Joe at home for the time being, but she knows it is a matter of time before Joe will need even more care.

Although he is woefully changed by his disease, a genuine affection for people remains alive in Joe Mazurek, whose own likeable quality is still quite evident. Even when he does not really remember who people are, he knows he likes them and is happy to see them. He still laughs a lot. But he is also easily upset when he senses something’s wrong. In Alzheimer’s patients, the loss of reason as a way to navigate the environment results in an extraordinary sensitivity to other’s feelings, body language, and tone.

When Patty teared up in Joe’s presence while answering a question about the impact of his illness on her, he immediately became distraught. He sobbed openly, and the anguish in his eyes seemed to reflect a momentary consciousness of his predicament, or perhaps it was merely the fear that accompanies a lack of understanding and the shared sense that things are not as they should be.

Listening to those who knew Joe Mazurek before the disease struck, a picture quickly emerges of a fun-loving, outgoing man whose life of service to his community, his state, and his country was balanced by a deep commitment to his family. A faithful Catholic whose years of volunteer work with a number of youth organizations stands out among his many community activities. An accomplished golfer and skier and an avid hiker who hated to miss a Montana Grizzly football game.

Greg Munro is a professor at the University of Montana’s School of Law whose friendship with Mazurek stretches back to childhood. As a politician, he said, “Joe always demonstrated the qualities that were his hallmark back in high school: a respectful willingness to listen to those with whom he disagreed and an unshakable belief in the good and dignity of every human being.” This high regard for other people was the foundation for Mazurek’s strong reputation as a bridge builder, particularly during his service in the Montana Senate, from 1981-1992, where as both a member and as president, he embodied a bipartisan spirit that is hard to come by these days.

“Joe was the consummate diplomat,” according to Bob Brown, a Republican who worked closely with Mazurek for many years in the Montana Senate. In addition to being friends, Brown said, the two served on the same three committees and worked with each other all day, every day. “We were both interested in solutions more than issues, so oftentimes we would work out thorny political problems and then he’d try to persuade his fellow Democrats and I’d try to persuade the Republicans. We were a pretty effective team. We got to know each other so well that we often knew what the other was thinking.”

Montana’s current attorney general and Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Steve Bullock, was shaped by Mazurek’s strong values of public service. Bullock managed Joe’s campaign for attorney general in 1992 and was his chief lawyer at the Department of Justice during his second term. “He taught us that we were all public servants and that that was a high calling,” he said. “Joe was not trying to make himself look good publicly but just trying to get the job done in the best way for those he represented,” Bullock said. “He got along with everyone – there was no stridency – and that was a good lesson for us all. He’s had a profound, positive impact on me and on many others.”

Bullock said Mazurek also showed him “how to lead a life well lived. He was a mentor, a surrogate parent, and, always, a source of inspiration. Alzheimer’s robbed all of us, because he still had so much to give.”
During his career, Joe worked at two of the state’s largest law firms: Gough, Shanahan, Johnson & Waterman, for nearly 20 years after law school until he became attorney general in 1993, and Crowley Fleck, after his second term ended. According to former colleague Jason Loble, Joe had lost his driver’s license by 2008 and could no longer go to the office, where he’d remained a beloved part of the “family” even after his illness kept him from practicing law.

“Alzheimer’s is everybody’s worst nightmare,” Greg Munro said. “We can put up with cancer and heart disease, but this is horrifying to me and my colleagues. I watched Joe in the agonizing position—when he was still fully cognizant of his situation—of going from being the exceptionally well known, competent public servant to suddenly being the guy with Alzheimer’s.”

Alzheimer’s can run in families, and the Mazurek family has had more than its share of the disease. In addition to Joe’s father, three of his uncles and an aunt died from Alzheimer’s. According to Patty, once Joe began to exhibit symptoms “he knew what was coming, so he made sure all his paperwork was in order.”

Now his three sons worry and wait to see if they’ll be spared their father’s fate.

Tom Mazurek is Joe’s oldest son. “It’s already happening to my dad—it’s not something we can turn the clock back on. My brothers and I feel a little like our own clocks are ticking, so we want to help any way we can. If there’s any way possible we can be part of a solution or part of a cure, we want to do that. It’s important to us to try to find a way to treat this.”

The opportunity for the Mazurek family to play a role in the search for a cure arose last year when Joe’s old friend Randy Gray invited Patty and Joe to Great Falls to tour McLaughlin Research Institute. Gray, a former mayor of Great Falls and a member of the board of directors for MRI, has been deeply affected by his friend’s deteriorating condition. Based on Randy’s introduction to MRI, Patty and her family later agreed to tell Joe’s story as a way to help raise awareness about the effects of Alzheimer’s and about the Institute’s important work to help find solutions.

As the number of Americans with Alzheimer’s threatens to triple from 5 million to 15 million over the next several decades, Montana’s own aging population puts it in the top 9 states anticipated to carry the largest burdens of the epidemic.

MRI’s research is helping move medicine toward a simple blood test that will reveal a person’s predisposition to Alzheimer’s and enable very early intervention to prevent or slow the disease. You can read more on pages 8-9 about the many angles the Institute is using to attack this disease that destroys so many lives.

Help Fight Alzheimer’s in Honor of Joe

You can help MRI fight Alzheimer’s by making a contribution in honor of Joe Mazurek. Please indicate on the enclosed envelope or when you give online at mclaughlinresearch.org that your gift is in honor of Joe Mazurek.
MRI Director/Professor George Carlson’s lab uses both transgenic mice and stem cell cultures to look at the mechanisms of Alzheimer’s, frontotemporal dementia, and prion disease. He and his collaborators developed mouse models for Alzheimer’s that are widely used for developing and testing new therapies, some of which have entered clinical trials. A collaboration with StemCells, Inc. (founded by Stanford biologist Irving Weissman) used these mouse models to advance the research towards an Alzheimer’s therapy that would use human brain stem cell transplants.

Assistant Professor Deborah Cabin’s mouse models for Parkinson’s disease allow her to see what happens in the early stages of the disease, in the brain stem, before it moves in a prion-like manner to the midbrain and affects movement and balance. Her hope is to learn what could stop the progression of Parkinson’s in its early stage.

Associate Professor Teresa Gunn’s lab uses mouse models to study the process of cell death common to all forms of neurodegeneration. The form exhibited by these mice shares much in common with Parkinson’s, prion disease, and dementia with Lewy bodies, and could easily provide information relevant to Alzheimer’s as well.

These neurological disorders involve a breaking down of myelin, which insulates nerve cells. This insulation vastly increases the speed of messages transmitted between the cells. Associate Professor John Bermingham’s work on the mechanisms that break down myelin could help explain this aspect of the diseases.

Professor John Mercer and his collaborators have shown that one of the molecular motors he studies plays a key role in memory formation.
MRI’s Progress on Brain Diseases Moves Closer to the Clinic

As the aging of America picks up its pace, so does the fight against the most dreaded diseases of old age – those that involve the loss of brain cells – and MRI is at the leading edge of this fight. Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s are the most common of these neurodegenerative diseases, and several dementing disorders that mimic Alzheimer’s, including frontotemporal dementia and dementia with Lewy bodies, are now commonly referred to under the Alzheimer’s umbrella.

Mouse models for these diseases are studied every day at MRI, and the science behind them is converging in its common ground with the study of prion diseases. Scientists studying neurodegenerative disorders now believe the mechanism once thought unique to prion diseases is common to many degenerative brain diseases. With this convergence, MRI’s key role in prion research greatly strengthens its position as a center for neurodegenerative research.

Now that scientists know that Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, prion and other dementing diseases share a basic mechanism of misshapen proteins spreading through the brain cell by cell in a cascade of dying neurons, it is crucial that they better understand the specific mechanism for each disorder.

In order to better distinguish among the diseases and make early diagnoses, which are important for newly emerging treatments to be successful, there is a push to find indicators, or “biomarkers,” that are specific to each disease. These genetic markers reflect changes that can be detected at the molecular level in the blood or other fluids or tissues, even before symptoms appear. Finding these markers will someday make it possible to delay the onset of the diseases, minimize their symptoms and slow their progression. In the case of Alzheimer’s and most of the diseases, once a person displays symptoms, it may be too late to significantly alter the disease progression.

MRI Director and Professor George Carlson and his collaborators have had recent success with finding a marker specific to prion disease that can be detected in mice before signs of clinical disease appear. “Now that we’ve found this in mice, we’re ready to look for it in human patients,” Dr. Carlson said.

Biomarkers for disease are a top priority in the national agenda to fight Alzheimer’s and related neurological diseases. The search for particular combinations of proteins that indicate the earliest stage of a particular disease is just one of a number of approaches to the problem of understanding and treating the diseases, and MRI is using a variety of strategies. Each of the Institute’s scientists works on a different aspect of neurodegeneration, as you can see on the facing page.

McLaughlin’s multifaceted approach to the urgent problem of fighting Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and other deadly brain diseases positions the Institute at the right place to meet the challenges of the neurodegenerative disease epidemic resulting from the world’s changing demographics.

Using their mouse models for neurodegenerative diseases, MRI’s scientists can look at how some of these diseases progress from their earliest to their latest stages. The next step is to look at blood and stem cell lines derived from human patients to find the markers for each disease. In fact, that step is already underway in a collaboration with the Institute for Systems Biology. Distinguishing among these similar diseases in living patients and understanding the processes involved will make it possible to intervene in disease progression.

McLaughlin’s various collaborators and partners, including pharmaceutical companies, offer promising opportunities for translating the vital information acquired in McLaughlin’s laboratories into medical applications that eventually will allow healthy aging and prevent dementing illnesses.

The Institute is quickly moving into an exciting new chapter of improving human health.
A few years after receiving an Academy Award for Best Picture for his film *Schindler’s List*, Hollywood producer Gerald Molen asked the film’s director and his close colleague Steven Spielberg for a favor.

The two had just made their fourth film together, *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, and Jerry had an idea. As a new member of McLaughlin’s National Development Council, he wanted to help raise awareness of the important research happening in his home state. “What would you say to premiering *The Lost World* in Great Falls, Montana?” Jerry asked the über famous director.

“I put him in a position where he couldn’t say no,” he explained, “when I rattled off the names of the diseases MRI works on.” On a May evening in 1997, searchlight beams crossed over the Civic Center in downtown Great Falls. The red carpet was rolled out to the street where actors and other notables arrived at the screening. “It was such an exciting night,” Jerry said.

For the Institute, the public awareness and the $85,000 raised that night was a tremendous boost. For Molen, the added thrill was being back in his hometown, in the theater where he’d watched Saturday matinees as a boy, wide-eyed at the big screen. Now
the screen was filled with his own production, one of the hottest movies that year. “I still have the key to the city that the mayor gave me,” he said.

That event was the most dramatic of Jerry Molen’s contributions to MRI, but it was just the beginning. That same year, he co-chaired a $2 million capital campaign with Nancy Davidson to help increase funding to bring in more scientists and helped produce a video to promote the Institute’s work. In 2000 Jerry became chair of MRI’s National Development Council. He stepped down from that role at the end of 2011 as he cut back on activities that require travel.

While he still flies to L.A. for meetings on his latest movie project, Jerry and his wife of 57 years, Pat, now live year-round at their home in Bigfork, Montana. He’s come full circle, having been born in Great Falls and moved to southern California at age 12. His father opened a diner across from the Republic Pictures studio, which specialized in westerns with Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, and John Wayne.

The young Molen brothers befriended the studio’s guards, who hid them backstage where they could watch the films being made. “I loved John Wayne’s movies,” he said. In addition to the westerns, Jerry vividly recalls watching Orson Welles’s classic Macbeth in production. Of course the movies got in his blood, and he later had jobs in the industry ranging from truck driver to production manager. Jerry was thrilled to get to work with the “Duke” himself on the film McQ, and to work in films as big and as varied as Psycho, Tootsie, and The Color Purple, which was his breakout film.

In addition to Schindler’s List, he produced the hit films Hook, Jurassic Park and Minority Report, among many others, and has had small acting roles in a number of films. He acted opposite Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise as the psychiatrist in Rain Man, which he also co-produced, and with Leonardo DiCaprio as an FBI agent in Catch Me if You Can.

In addition to his many filmmaking awards and two honorary doctorates, Jerry has won many awards for his humanitarian work. McLaughlin is just one of the worthy causes he has supported. His relationship with MRI began when he encountered another film producer from Great Falls living in L.A. Lauren Weissman, sister of eminent Stanford scientist Irving Weissman, told him that her brother was involved with a research facility in Great Falls and encouraged him to visit it on his next trip to Montana. He toured MRI, and “that started a love affair,” he said. He was especially interested in the Institute’s research on Alzheimer’s, because his aunt was in the beginning stages of the disease.

Jerry and Pat Molen have been generous contributors to MRI ever since, and he encourages others to do what they can.

“It would be wonderful if people didn’t wait until they or a loved one were suffering greatly from these diseases that maybe could have been solved by the scientists at McLaughlin. If people could open their hearts and open their checkbooks and think about the future, especially at a time when government monies aren’t that readily available, and help support these scientists who are working so diligently to make things better for us all, that could make such a difference.”

MRI Champion Until his recent retirement from the National Development Council, Jerry was an unwavering supporter, attending annual meetings. Here shown with Irv Weissman at the 2011 gathering.
Several years ago, Roger Reichert, MD, PhD, gave up his position as Chief of Pathology at St. Luke’s Hospital in St. Louis to concentrate on writing a medical textbook. Published in December 2011 to much acclaim, Diagnostic Gynecologic and Obstetric Pathology: An Atlas and Text is destined to become a classic in the field, according to eminent Stanford pathologist Richard Kempson, who wrote the book’s foreword.

Dr. Reichert got his start at MRI. “My roots at McLaughlin Research Institute were the foundation upon which my career in pathology was built,” he noted recently, “and for that I will always be grateful.”

Dr. Reichert’s early interest in medicine was sparked by his father’s death from cancer when he was a young boy. During his father’s illness, Roger’s mother, Arlyne, went to work at MRI to support her family. As a high school student, Roger had a part-time job cleaning the Institute’s mouse box cages. He pursued his interest in science at Stanford University, and in 1979, between his sophomore and junior years, he returned to MRI as a summer intern. By this time, Arlyne was Assistant Director to McLaughlin’s only scientist, Dr. Jack Stimpfling. As an intern, Roger had the opportunity to learn firsthand about Dr. Stimpfling’s groundbreaking research on immunology and transplantation medicine.
“That summer at MRI served as the springboard for my PhD research and career in medicine,” Dr. Reichert said. “Jack would take our small group of students, interns, and technicians into the library and teach us the basics of immunology and the importance of the major histocompatibility complex in the outcome of transplantations, and my mom taught us practical laboratory procedures such as how to use a centrifuge, handle and inject mice, and use a pipette.”

This valuable experience laid the groundwork for Roger’s next step, which was working in Dr. Irving Weissman’s lab in the pathology department at Stanford the following summer. Dr. Weissman was McLaughlin’s first student intern, during the 1950s. He is now one of the country’s most prominent scientists and a leader in the field of stem cell biology. He is also the longtime chair of MRI’s Scientific Advisory Committee.

“My positive experience in Irv’s lab was of great assistance in helping me to stand out from the crowd when it came time to apply to medical and graduate school,” Dr. Reichert recalled, “and I was very fortunate to be accepted to a combined MD/PhD program at Stanford where I could continue my immunology research with Irv and his postdoc, Eugene Butcher.”

After receiving his MD and PhD degrees from Stanford in 1987, Dr. Reichert remained there to become trained as a pathologist. His career in private practice pathology was at St. Luke’s Hospital in St. Louis, including 10 years as Chief of Pathology and President of West County Pathologists, Inc.

Reichert notes that although he did not choose a career in research, his valuable scientific training at MRI and Stanford has enabled him to take a scientific approach to medicine. It also taught him how to think critically, write for publication, engage in public speaking, take calculated risks, and to persevere.

These skills played a role in the success of Dr. Reichert’s book, which was published by the highly regarded Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, and is sure to bring him much recognition for his expertise in the complex field of gynecologic pathology. Dr. Reichert is now working as an independent consultant in that field. For more information about Dr. Reichert’s book and his work, check out reichertpathology.com.

Early Supporter Dr. Reichert’s mother Arlyne has been an unwavering supporter of the Institute for more than 45 years. Pictured here at MRI’s 2011 National Development Council annual meeting.
Sharing Dr. George Carlson discusses current research with National Development Council members in August 2011. At right, council members Sandy Peters, Jerry Molen, Nancy O’Brien and Mitch Tropila. At left, Dr. Deborah Cabin demonstrates 3-D imagery produced by the new confocal microscope, purchased in 2011 with NIH Recovery Act funds. Also pictured Dr. Daniel Perl, Dr. Carlson, Dr. Gerald Davidson, Elly Perl, Mary Woolley and Jerry Molen.
George Carlson, PhD

**September 2010**
Presentation, *Early events in protein misfolding diseases.*
28th Annual Workshop on Biomedical Sciences, McLaughlin Research Institute, Great Falls, MT
Participant, Economic Summit, Montana School of Mineral Science and Technology, Butte, MT
Board of Directors Meeting, N. Bud Grossman Center for Memory Research and Care, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

**October 2010**
Presentation, *Genetic, stem cell, and systems analyses of mouse models for neurodegenerative diseases.*
24th Annual International Mammalian Genome Conference, Crete, Greece
Invited seminar, *Genetic, stem cell, and systems analyses of mouse models for neurodegenerative diseases,* Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

**February 2011**
Invited seminar, *Early events in protein misfolding diseases.* Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Singapore

**April 2011**
Presentation, *Prion infection and frontotemporal dementia: shared and unique perturbations in gene expression,* Prion Review Meeting, San Francisco, CA

**June 2011**
Participant, International Mammalian Genome Society, Washington DC

**July 2011**
Presentation, *Early Detection & Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease & Other Dementing Disorders.*
Champions of Quality Conference, Helena, MT

**August 2011**
Presentation, *Transgenic Models for Frontotemporal Dementia: Role of Endogenous Mouse Tau.*
29th Annual Workshop on Biomedical Sciences, McLaughlin Research Institute, Great Falls, MT

**November 2011**
Advisory Panel Meeting, Biology Department Review, Montana School of Mineral Science and Technology, Butte, MT

John Bermingham Jr, PhD

**March 2011**
Poster Presentation, *Translational control of expression of the epilepsy-related protein Lgi1.*
American Society for Neurochemistry meeting, St. Louis, MO

**October 2011**
Presentation, *The secreted protein Lgi4 is required for peripheral nerve development.*
Biogen, Cambridge, MA

Deborah Cabin, PhD

**March 2011**
Presentation, *Genetic approaches to alpha-synuclein function and toxicity.*
University of Montana, Missoula, MT

**April 2011**
Presentation, *Modeling Neurodegenerative Diseases in Mice.*
Benefis Health System, Great Falls, MT

**June 2011**
Poster presentation, *A genetic approach to α-synuclein function.*
Mouse Genetics 2011 Conference, Washington DC
Poster presentation, *The influence of α-synuclein on Aβ plaque formation in TgCRND8 mice.*
Mouse Genetics 2011 Conference, Washington DC

**November 2011**
Presentation, *Genetic approaches to α-synuclein function and toxicity.*
29th Annual Workshop on Biomedical Sciences, McLaughlin Research Institute, Great Falls, MT

**October 2011**
Presentation, *Can mouse SNCA help us understand human SNCA toxicity?*
Weissman Retreat, Hamilton, MT
### Teresa Gunn, PhD

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<th>Month</th>
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| September 2010 | Presentation, *What's Shakin'*?  
28th Annual Workshop on Biomedical Sciences, McLaughlin Research Institute, Great Falls, MT |                                                                                        |
| October 2010 | Session co-chair, *Epigenetics, Neoplasia and Aging I*.  
24th Annual International Mammalian Genome Conference, Crete, Greece |                                                                                        |
| October 2010 | Invited seminar/presentation, *Using mouse genetics to understand the cell biology of neurodegeneration*.  
Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT |                                                                                        |
| November 2010 | Invited seminar/presentation, *A mouse model of prolidase deficiency*.  
National Cancer Institute, Frederick, MD | Presentation, *Loss of prolidase in mice causes pigmentation and heart defects*.  
Department of Developmental Biology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA |
| February 2011 | Poster presentation, *A role for the neurodegeneration-associated E3 ubiquitin ligase MGRN1 in mitochondria*.  
Neurodegenerative Diseases: The Molecular and Cellular Basis for Neurodegeneration Keystone Symposium, Taos, NM |                                                                                        |
| February 2011 | Attended, Montana Bioscience Alliance Board Meeting, Helena, MT          |                                                                                        |
| April 2011  | Presentation, *From mouse pigmentation to neurodegeneration*.  
American Association of University Women meeting, Great Falls, MT |                                                                                        |
| June 2011   | Platform session co-chair, Mouse Genetics 2011, Washington, DC           |                                                                                        |
| October 2011 | Presentation, *Mitochondria, ubiquitination and neurodegeneration*.  
Weissman Retreat, Hamilton, MT |                                                                                      |

### John A Mercer, PhD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location and Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2010 – August 2011</td>
<td>Visiting scholar, Department of Biochemistry, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2010</td>
<td>Co-organizer and faculty member, Pan-American Studies Institute on Function and Regulation of the Cytoskeleton, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| September 2010 | Poster presentation, *Myosin-Va in cell-to-cell transfer and cytoplasmic distribution of RNA*.  
Stanford Biochemistry Research Conference, South Lake Tahoe, CA |                                                                                        |
RNA Trafficking in Neurons Conference, San Juan, PR |                                                                                        |
| August 2011 | Presentation, *A High-Throughput Approach To Inherited Cardiomyopathies*.  
29th Annual Workshop on Biomedical Sciences, McLaughlin Research Institute, Great Falls, MT |                                                                                        |
| August 2011 | Invited article, *International collaborative science courses*, *ASBMB Today* |                                                                                        |
| November 2011 | Invited presentation, *Genetics of Cardiomyopathies*.  
Indo-Spanish Workshop on Health and Medical Research, New Delhi, India |                                                                                        |
| December 2011 | Poster presentations, *ICCBIB - Building an International Network for Student Training and Research Collaboration in the Biological Sciences*.  
*A subset of axonally transported RNAs associates with Myosin-Va in ribonucleoprotein complexes. Schwann cells as local supply of axonal RNA in regenerating mammalian nerves.*  
American Society for Cell Biology annual meeting, Denver, CO |                                                                                        |
**Brenda Canine, PhD**

April 2011  
Attended, Prion Meeting, University of California, San Francisco, CA
Presenter, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Expo, Great Falls Public Schools, Great Falls, MT

July 2011  
Attended, Systems Biology Course, Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle, WA

October 2011  
Presentation, *Utilization of systems biology approaches to identify candidate genes affecting scrapie prion incubation time*, Weissman Retreat, Hamilton, MT

**Miranda Orr, PhD**

December 2011  
Dissertation seminar and defense, *Mouse and Stem Cell Models of Frontotemporal Dementia*.  
Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

**Will Walker, PhD**

July 2010  
Dissertation defense, *Exploring neurodegeneration in the pigment cell model*.  
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

October 2010  
Presentation, *Inducible inactivation of TSG101 causes neurodegeneration in adult mice*.  
American Society For Biochemistry & Molecular Biology ESCRT Biology Conference, Salt Lake City, UT

June 2011  
Poster presentation, *A protein at the intersection of coat-color biology and brain disease: Tsg101 ablation causes neurodegeneration in adult mice*.  
Mouse Genetics 2011 Conference, Washington DC

October 2011  
Presentation, *Tsg101 depletion causes neurodegeneration and spongiform encephalopathy*.  
Weissman Retreat, Hamilton, MT

**Dan Zou, PhD**

June 2011  

August 2011  
Presentation, *How does mouse α-synuclein protect against human A53T mutant human α-synuclein toxicity?* 29th Annual Workshop on Biomedical Sciences, McLaughlin Research Institute, Great Falls, MT
The list above includes articles published July 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011.


### Institute Seminar Speakers

Seminars by guest scientists enrich the academic environment at McLaughlin Research Institute and are open to Montana’s medical and university communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 23, 2010</strong></td>
<td>The roles ofeya and six genes in early kidney development and cell cycle</td>
<td>Pin-Xian Xu, PhD</td>
<td>Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 7, 2010</strong></td>
<td>Harnessing transposons for cancer gene discovery: leukemias and lymphomas</td>
<td>Neal Copeland, PhD</td>
<td>Institute of Molecular &amp; Cellular Biology, Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harnessing transposons for cancer gene discovery: solid tumors</td>
<td>Nancy Jenkins, PhD</td>
<td>Institute of Molecular &amp; Cellular Biology, Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hetercephalus: a rodent model system for sensorimotor studies and so much more</td>
<td>Chris Comer, PhD</td>
<td>University of Montana, Missoula, MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Somatosensory circuit mapping and optogenetic control of larval behavior in drosophila</td>
<td>Steve Stowers, PhD</td>
<td>Montana State University, Bozeman, MT</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Transfer of immunity from man to mouse</td>
<td>Jeff Frelinger, PhD</td>
<td>University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 17, 2011</strong></td>
<td>Genetics of the normal immune system revealed by the collaborative cross</td>
<td>Jeff Frelinger, PhD</td>
<td>University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Genetics of color patterns: model systems and model organisms in a post-genome world</td>
<td>Greg Barsh, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harnessing transposons for cancer gene discovery</td>
<td>Nancy Jenkins, PhD</td>
<td>Institute of Molecular &amp; Cellular Biology, Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transposon-based insertional mutagenesis identifies genes that transform neural stem cells into glioblastoma tumor-initiating cells</td>
<td>Neal Copeland, PhD</td>
<td>Institute of Molecular &amp; Cellular Biology, Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stem cells gone wild</td>
<td>Irv Weissman, MD</td>
<td>Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traumatic brain injury: environmental initiation of prion-like, tauopathic, neurodegeneration</td>
<td>Dan Perl, MD</td>
<td>Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Systems medicine and P4 medicine—a proactive medicine of the future</td>
<td>Lee Hood, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 26, 2011</strong></td>
<td>Brain aggregates: a novel and accurate in vivo model of prion disease</td>
<td>Stephen J. DeArmond, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases, San Francisco, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 16, 2011</strong></td>
<td>Endless flies most beautiful: gene co-option and the evolution of animal form</td>
<td>Sean Carroll, PhD</td>
<td>Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Chevy Chase, MD, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The list above includes talks given July 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011.
# Our Staff

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>George A Carlson, PhD</td>
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<td><strong>Professor</strong></td>
<td>John A Mercer, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Professor</strong></td>
<td>John R Bermingham Jr, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Professor &amp; Transgenic Facility Advisor</strong></td>
<td>Teresa M Gunn, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assistant Professor</strong></td>
<td>Deborah E Cabin, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Associate</strong></td>
<td>Dennis Stephenson, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Postdoctoral Fellows</strong></td>
<td>Richard Bennett, PhD</td>
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<td>Brenda Canine, PhD</td>
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<td>Andrea Grindeland, DVM</td>
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<td>Will Walker, PhD</td>
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<td>Dan Zou, PhD</td>
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<td><strong>Predoctoral Fellow</strong></td>
<td>Miranda Orr</td>
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<td>Rose Pitstick</td>
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<td>Delisha Meishery</td>
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<td>Sydni Racki</td>
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<td>Derek Silvius</td>
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<td>Katy K Walker</td>
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<td>Sherry Turner, Supervisor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jill O’Moore</td>
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<td>Janet Peters, LATG</td>
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<td><strong>Animal Resource Center</strong></td>
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<td>Annette Kittleson, LAT</td>
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<td>Lead Resource Technician</td>
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<td><strong>Animal Care Technicians</strong></td>
<td>Mallory Brumley</td>
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<td>Joseph Gilmore</td>
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<td>Sylvia Love, MA</td>
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<td>Ashley Repko, BS</td>
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<td><strong>Media / Public Relations</strong></td>
<td>Ashley Repko, BS</td>
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<td><strong>Assistant to the Director</strong></td>
<td>Jill O’Moore</td>
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<td>Jerry Mohland, CPA</td>
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<td>Wanda Forster, CPP</td>
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<td>Joe Amato, LAT, Supervisor</td>
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<td>Nathan Dear</td>
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<td>Melany Gilmore</td>
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List includes staff with us between July 2010 and December 2011.

![Pictured with John Mercer, PhD](image-url)
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Mr. & Mrs. Gary L. Jensen

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Deborah Arndt Heim

John & Colleen Mercer  
Fern Blewett

Chuck & Shirley Mohr  
Kevin & Lynda Willms

Nancy O’Brien  
Jack & Donna Lewis

Olivia Noelle Proue  
1st Birthday  
Peggy Louise Crawford

Ursula Reymont  
Daniel & Sylvia Banks

Kathy Rice  
Patrick W. Rice

Al Thogersen  
Tom W. Rogers

Al & Edy Thogersen  
Jim & Irene Brown  
Ira Perkins & Sons  
Rock & Janeil Perkins

Edy Thogersen  
Dorothy Clay Malisani

Margaret C. Throckmorton  
Sheryl Frieden

Karen Tordale  
Charla Tordale & Dennis Reardon

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David & Margie Upton

Molly & Bruce Upton  
David & Margie Upton

Irv Weissman, MD  
Dr. & Mrs. Owen Witte

Nadyne & Jerold Weissman  
Mrs. Laura Odell

Dean & Donna Wester  
Ian & Nancy Davidson

Lawrence White  
Dr. Catherine M. White

Mary Lou Widhalm  
Doris M. Boyle

Joan Woodcock  
Barbara Urquhart

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Memorials

Elda Jacobson
Super Enterprises, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. James Super
Marian May

Lenore Johnson
James & Helen Bjelland

Nancy Lee Johnson
Peggy Louise Crawford

Roy Johnson
Barbara B. Urquhart

Bessie Kaltenbach
Hari & Patricia Orham
Barbara B. Urquhart

James Kenison
Marge & Douglas Bensley

Ernie Kind
Betty J. Dirkes

Don Knutson
Joanne Knutson

Richard H. L. Kopper
Kenneth R. Davis
Richard H. Lee

Elizabeth Koski - Mother
The Albrecht Family Trust
Thelma Albrecht

Paul Kuntz
Roy & Marian Meyer

Bob Lamberson
Barbara Tucker

Tom Lane
David & Tanya Cameron

Arleen Largent
Douglas & Barbara Huggins

Earl T. Larson
Pam & Austin Johnson

Joe LaSalle
Pam & Austin Johnson

Robert Lee
Sally T. McGregor

Mary Letz
H. P. Brown

Beverly Lewis
Carl & Anna May Erickson
Jo Ann Woods

John Loch
Roy & Marian Meyer

Paul & Gladys Loendorf
(Mom & Dad)
Edward & Susan Standley

Mary E. Loney
Mike & Diana Delesha

Lois E. & Kaye Long
Martha Garrigues

Mary Lorenco
Mary Bold

Pearl Lucotch
John & Rosemary Husby

Dorothy Marberg
Richard & Carol Marberg

Regina Martens
Richard & Molly Munro

Lorna M. Mayo
Breit A. Mayo
Lorna Mayo Family Foundation

Chuck McCadam
Jack & Mary Dykstra
Alan & Joyce Schubert

Helen Louise McBride
Peter & Sylvia Reiss

Jackie & Jim McDonald
Harry & Kay Mitchell

Jim McDonald
Constance Johnson

Richard J. McGee
Katherine McGee Benzel

Dr. John F. McGregor
Bethann McGregor &
Dave Cerotzke

Mary K. McGregor &
Eric Schultz

Mr. & Mrs. J. L. McLaughlin-
Grandparents
Stella P. Holt Foundation
Marilyn McGrath Lewis

Greg McMahon
Robert & LeeAnn Hawkins

Ella Mehmke
Dr. Stephen Roth

Ron Miller
Mark & Sue Elings

Donald G. Monroe
Richard & Molly Munro

Shan Morrison
Sheryl Friden

Dr. James Mungas
Dr. & Mrs. J. John Allaire
Jerrold & Nadyne Weissman

E. R. ‘Chub’ Munger
John, Patty, E. J.
& Blake Cohlepp

Florence Nelson Munro
Richard & Molly Munro

Archie Naismith
Ralph Cox & Alta Mae Buford-Cox

Mary Naismith
Ralph Cox & Alta Mae Buford-Cox

Margaret Neighbor
John H. & Elizabeth Caldwell

Dora Nelson
Lois & Roger Nelson

Edward A. Nelson
Lois & Roger Nelson

Charles Bruce Newman
Elaine Schoyen & Michael Crockrey

Jim O’Rourke
James D. & Mary P. Larson

Beulah Odegard
Tom & Tamara Dinke

Elsie Orcutt
James & Helen Bjelland
Albert & Betty Carleton
Linda Carlson
Steve Kellogg
Dr. & Mrs. Phillip Kreuzowski
Jorunn Ruff
Shirley Sanders

Orville Overland
Darlene Kravik

Bobbie Jean Parrott
Planning & Community Development Staff
City of Great Falls

Harry Paulsen
Arle J. Lane

Bonnie Pearson
Walter & Loretta Coffman

Dr. Walt Person
Dr. & Mrs. F. John Allaire
Dr. James & Gayle Edson
Russ & Nona Jane Kendall
Dayton & Polly Kolstad
Edy & Al Thogersen
Evie Ugrin

Suzy Peters
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Jean Clary
Richard A. Clary
Robert F. Clary
Ann Clary Gordon

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Bobby Preston
Richard & Carol Whitmore

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Richard Knapp

Lorraine Prevost
Robert & Charlotte Reighan

Marjorie Ann Prindle
William & Ora Bucher

Bruce E. Privett
Anonymous

Ann & Stephen Day
Donald & Evelyn Holt
Ray & Lynn Louthen
Jayne & Maxwell Moore
Dean & Nancy Jean Newhouse

Robert Rahn
Robert & Charlotte Rahn

Betty L. Reed
Noella Goodell
Shirley J. Jacobsen
Duane Talcott

Robert ‘Bob’ Requiam
Chris R. & Cindy Requiam

Virginia Reiss
Peter & Sylvia Reiss

Rick Rigg
Kent & Randi Graves

Dan Perry Ritter
Dennis & Mary Mollander

Joyce Robson
Jo Ann Woods

Alice Romanchuck
John & Rosemary Husby

Jerry Romanchuck
Ruth Feller

Carl Rosenleaf
James D. & Mary Larson

Reece Rowling
Debra Thatcher & Nick Bonfili

Eloise Rustvoid
William & Carol Crews
Diane Nelson
Alda Nummi

Frank Schlosser
James & Helen Bjelland

Art Schmidt
Roy & Marian Meyer

Leroy Schott
Loretta Pearce

Ray Schwantes
Dorothy Hamman

Bernice Scott
Walter & Loretta Coffman

Dr. William G. Shull
Scott & Lisa Shull

Vivien (Mom) Siewing
Jay & Carolyn Yeska

Carol Simonich
James D. & Mary P. Larson

Billie Lou Smith
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<td>Carole LaValley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Spencer</td>
<td>Ted Woodcock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leland &amp; Margaret Walker</td>
<td>Barbara B. Urquhart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Stack</td>
<td>Margaret &amp; Phil Yates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Kay Artz</td>
<td>Patrick &amp; Linda Yates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles H. Steele</td>
<td>Patricia Zunino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Catherine H. Steele</td>
<td>Donald Zunino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Steen</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Carol Whitmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard &amp; Carol Whitmore</td>
<td>Dr. Jack Stimpfing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlyn Reichert</td>
<td>Gus Strizich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Talcott</td>
<td>Katherine Titus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert &amp; June Toner</td>
<td>Dorothy Torgerson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam &amp; Austin Johnson</td>
<td>Jack Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Torgerson</td>
<td>Violet E. Tverstol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug &amp; Kalu George</td>
<td>Joan Twedt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Twedt</td>
<td>Barbara Urquhart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheila Eastman</td>
<td>Charles &amp; Diana Schedel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Catherine H. Steele</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

McLaughlin Research Institute is proud to have received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. This means that MRI *exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its Cause. Givers can be more confident that in supporting those charities with a high rating they will be supporting organizations that are more financially healthy, accountable and transparent.*

Please use the enclosed envelope to make a donation by mail, or visit our new website at mclaughlinresearch.org and go to Support MRI.

Your gift will help us fight Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, multiple sclerosis and other neurodegenerative diseases in time to make a difference for millions of families.

For more information, call the development office at 406.454.6009.
McLaughlin Research Institute’s Tax ID is 81-0459235.
### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$15,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>223,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>48,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and supply inventories</td>
<td>50,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>3,891,516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>313,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>5,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>10,743,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,291,835</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reproduced from the June 30, 2011 Financial Statements, audited by Douglas Wilson & Company, PC. The complete audit report and financial statements are available from McLaughlin Research Institute.

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

#### LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>496,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
<td>77,206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants received in advance</td>
<td>691,264</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>271,959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift annuity obligations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,716,445</strong></td>
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</table>

#### NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted / undesignated</td>
<td>9,577,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted / board designated</td>
<td>1,437,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>35,604</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>2,524,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,575,390</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,291,835</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Summer Scientists** CM Russell High School teacher Dan Rediske learns alongside Geraldine High School student Hallie Bronac during the 2011 summer intern program.