

ARDF

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



The past year brought many exciting developments for the Alternatives Research & Development Foundation (ARDF) and we are thrilled to share some of our biggest accomplishments in 2022.

ANNUAL OPEN GRANT PROGRAM

The **ARDF Annual Open Grant program** is our scientific highlight of the year, and we could not be more enthusiastic about the 2022 awardees. We received an outstanding set of proposals and, as is often the case, there were more promising projects than we could fund. However, the six awarded projects truly were standouts. The [funded projects for 2022](#) include:

- **In vitro human-specific 3-dimensional co-cultures to substitute animal models of cancer drug efficacy** (Eugen Dhimolea, PhD; Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, NY)
- **Generation of “transgenic” microphysiological systems to study gene function in the pathogenesis of osteoarthritis: a pilot study** (Hang Lin, PhD; University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA)
- **OpenTox SSDM - A novel framework for Species Sensitivity Distribution Modelling** (Eugene Muratov, PhD; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC)
- **Exploring 3D bioprinting and dynamic growth in bioreactors to recapitulate leukemia cell dissemination ex-vivo** (Cristina Scielzo, PhD; Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy)
- **3D In-vitro platform integrating the Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma microenvironment** (Meenakshi Upreti, PhD and Peter Chiarelli, MD, DPhil; Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA)
- **Development of an in vitro culture system for *Cryptosporidium hominis* using a hollow fiber bioreactor** (Nigel Yarlett, PhD; Pace University, New York, NY)

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In July, ARDF hired a full-time Program Director, Dr. Angela Hvitved, to manage the Annual Open and AiR (Alternatives in Research) Challenge programs. Having previously been a contractor supporting the Annual Open grant program, she was familiar with ARDF’s work and is enthusiastic about its mission. We look forward to the new opportunities ARDF can take on with our expanded staff.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING

ARDF staff participated in several national and international opportunities for outreach and engagement to advance non-animal methods.

- ARDF President Sue Leary continued her term as an **appointed member of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods** (SACATM), which advises the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM).
- ARDF **sponsored the inaugural MPS World Summit**, held in New Orleans, LA at the end of May. President Sue Leary had the pleasure of representing ARDF and networking with researchers who are making remarkable advances in this cutting-edge area of alternatives research.
- In October, President Sue Leary presented ARDF’s [2022 Cave Award](#) to Dr. Daniel Bagley for his decades of work advancing non-animal testing methods in the consumer products industry. The award was given during the **11th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cellular and Computational Toxicology (ASCCT)** in Chapel Hill, NC, for which ARDF was also a Platinum Sponsor. Dr. Bagley donated the \$10,000 honorarium to the Institute for In Vitro Sciences (IIVS) in Gaithersburg, MD.

- In November, ARDF Program Director Angela Hvitved attended the **21st International Congress of the European Society of Toxicology In Vitro (ESTIV)**, held in Barcelona, Spain. She gave an exhibitor presentation on the Annual Open Grant program and used the opportunity to engage with European researchers—in the hope they might become future applicants and reviewers!

We are grateful for the community's continued interest in and support of ARDF's work, and look forward to another year of advancing non-animal research methods together.

The Alternatives Research & Development Foundation expresses its appreciation to the Institute for In Vitro Sciences of Gaithersburg, Maryland, for coordinating the review process, and thanks all applicants who submitted proposals and others for their interest in developing alternative methods of conducting high quality scientific research.

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