Advancing Human Health Through the Support of Biomedical Research

Your Invitation to Join

inspiration

The Founder's Council was established in 1988 as a dynamic organization that would honor the founder of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR), Thomas Baker Slick, Jr., and work in support of his extraordinary vision.

With bold foresight, Tom Slick set out at the young age of 25 to fulfill his dream of creating "a great center for human progress through scientific research." Today, the fledgling institution he founded in 1941 has emerged as a renowned, independent biomedical research center that is a pacesetter in the race to find new preventions, treatments and cures for life's most serious diseases.

Although Tom Slick died tragically at age 46, his vision lives on through the continued achievements of SFBR scientists and many friends and benefactors such as the Founder's Council who support their work.

The ission

The Founder's Council welcomes individuals ages 25 to 46 to embrace Tom Slick's vision by becoming community advocates and financial supporters of life-saving biomedical research.

Members' annual donations help fund competitive grants to SFBR scientists for their vital work, while the group's funfilled special events increase community awareness of SFBR's research and its positive impact on human health. Through these means, the Founder's Council upholds an inspiring vision to build a brighter future for us all.

The power of research

When you join the Founder's Council in support of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, you become an integral part of a world-class organization that is making a positive difference in the lives of people everywhere.

A leading research institution

One of the leading independent biomedical research institutions in the United States, SFBR is recognized around the globe for the quality of its basic research into the nature, causes, preventions, treatments and cures for disease.



Highly productive scientists

SFBR's outstanding team of approximately 70 doctorallevel scientists, who conduct nearly 180 major research projects, publish more than 100 articles per year in prominent scientific journals, where they report their latest findings on osteoporosis, cancer, hepatitis, herpes, psychiatric



disorders, diseases of

premature newborns, emerging diseases such as dengue and SARS, and bioterror agents such as anthrax and Ebola.

Extraordinary resources

To better enable their research, SFBR scientists have access to some extraordinary resources. Within the nation's only privately owned maximum containment laboratory, for example, SFBR virologists can safely study lethal pathogens for which there are no treatments or vaccines. SFBR's Southwest National Primate Research Center maintains and develops unique animal models that provide scientists nationwide with invaluable insights into human health and disease. And the SBC Genomics Computing Center at SFBR houses the world's largest computing cluster devoted to statistical genetic analysis.

Impact of philanthropy

Many of SFBR's programs and facilities would not have been possible without the assistance of the Foundation's friends and benefactors. Philanthropy has enabled SFBR to recruit renowned scientists, maintain world-class research facilities and, most importantly, offer hope for a healthier tomorrow.

The benefits of membership

Generosity has its rewards. When you make a donation of \$125 for a single membership or \$175 for a couple's membership to the Founder's Council, those rewards include some unique opportunities.

Four times during the year, the Council hosts member luncheons and cocktail receptions that feature the cutting-edge research of one of SFBR's outstanding scientists. At these fun-filled events, members get the opportunity to meet some of the greatest scientific minds in the country and hear firsthand how their research impacts human health. Previous topics have included such compelling issues as cancer drug discovery, efforts to stamp out the "silent killer" hepatitis C, the quest to unlock the mysteries of the genome and the race to eliminate threats of bioterror.

In the spring, Council members are invited to participate in an evening tour of SFBR, offering an intimate look at one of San Antonio's research jewels.

The annual Holiday Party, held in December, is the highlight of the year's events. It is during this event that the Council presents competitive grants – raised from membership dues – to SFBR scientists in support of their research projects.

All these events give members a chance to be informed and inspired by the incredible, life-changing work of SFBR scientists. Moreover, new friends are made and successes are celebrated as we work together in building "a great center for human progress through scientific research." And, lastly, members enjoy a feeling of goodwill as they see how a little generosity can make a big difference in the lives of people for generations to come.



For members

"Not only does the Founder's Council open doors to the latest research findings at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, it connects San Antonio's young professionals to a network of interesting and influential peers," says **Mary Meek**, Founder's Council member.

For scientific research

"My laboratory was in a difficult situation when a critical piece of equipment stopped functioning properly, and there were no funds in our budget to replace it. We rely on this piece of equipment daily, so the ability to purchase a new one with funds from the Founder's Council's Albert Steves IV Memorial Grant had an immediate and continuous impact on my research program," says **Dr. Robert Lanford**, who leads SFBR's efforts to find a vaccine and new therapies against hepatitis C, the number one cause of liver failure in the United States.



"The general philosophy that quides the scientific endeavor of the Foundation is that basic research is the key to life's mysteries. It is the pathway upon which man has traveled in his conquest of nature, and its discoveries have changed every aspect of our daily lives." Thomas Baker Slick, Jr.

These are just a few of SFBR's milestone achievements to date:

- ▶ The hepatitis B vaccine, currently administered to all U.S. children, was tested for efficacy and safety at SFBR and is helping to raise a generation free from a devastating infection that can lead to liver cancer. Today, Foundation scientists have produced the first evidence that a vaccine against all strains of hepatitis C should be possible, which means we might eventually be able to stamp out the nation's leading cause of liver failure and liver transplants.
- SFBR developed the chimpanzee animal model for HIV infection, and to date has tested more than 25 candidate AIDS vaccines. Two of those vaccines progressed to clinical trials with humans.
- Geneticists at SFBR have mapped the locations of more than 50 genes influencing heart disease, thrombosis, obesity, psychiatric disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, infectious diseases and Alzheimer's. Further research to identify the responsible genes and define their function will help in the development of new methods for disease prevention and treatment.
- Work with premature baboons at SFBR assisted in the development and testing of high-frequency ventilators and surfactant, used in neonatal ICUs across the country to rescue premature infants from pulmonary distress.

For more information on the Founder's Council, please contact SFBR's Development Office at (210) 258-9871.

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