

Discovery Insider

Summer 2026



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Funds With Purpose

The ASRM Research Institute was established in 2018 with a bold vision: to advance groundbreaking reproductive medicine research in areas where traditional federal funding is limited or unavailable. By investing in innovative, investigator-driven science, the Institute fills critical funding gaps that enable researchers to pursue transformative discoveries with the potential to improve fertility care and reproductive health worldwide.

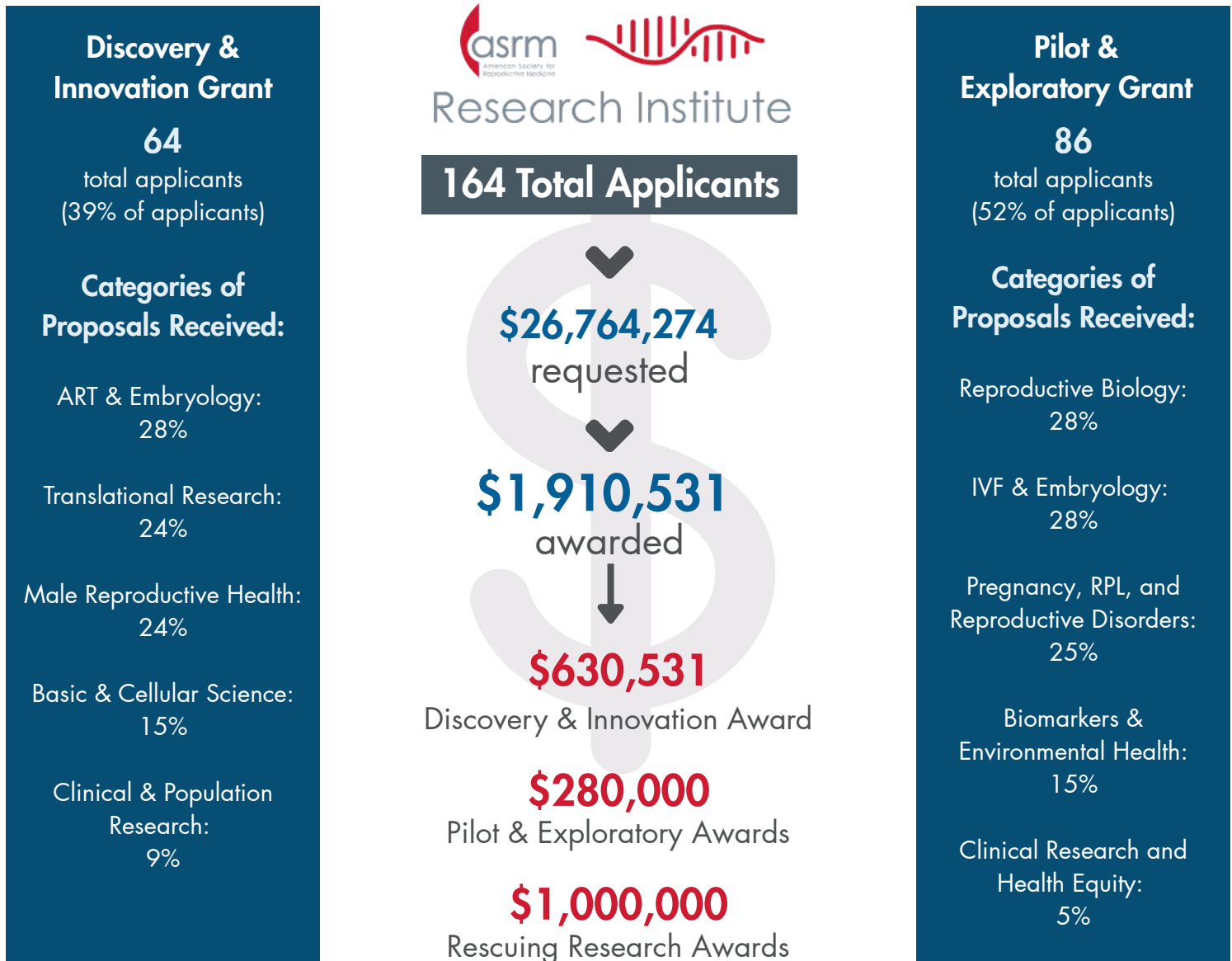
That mission became even more urgent in 2025 as changes to NIH funding priorities and increasing grant restrictions significantly reduced support for reproductive medicine research. Recognizing the immediate threat to scientific progress, ASRM responded with decisive leadership by committing \$1 million from its financial reserves to launch the **Rescuing Research Fund**. Members of the ASRM community answered that call with extraordinary generosity, pledging an additional \$430,000 to ensure that promising research could continue despite the funding crisis. We were honored to help support 8 exceptional investigators researching areas including environmental factors and menstrual cycles, microbiome and vaginal inflammation, molecular origins of human germ cells, and testosterone administration in female mouse models.

“Scientific discovery is the foundation of progress in reproductive medicine, and when traditional funding falls short, ASRM has a responsibility to lead. I am proud of the ASRM Board of Directors and ASRM donors for stepping up to the challenge of providing support for these investigators. **By investing in innovative research today, we are empowering the brightest minds in our field to pursue breakthroughs that will advance reproductive health and transform the lives of patients and families for generations to come.** Your support of the ASRM Research Institute is more than a gift, it's an investment in the future of reproductive medicine.”

– Jared Robins, MD, MBA, ASRM CEO

Grantmaking at a Glance:

2026 ASRM Research Institute Statistics



Awardee Publication & Presentation Highlights:

- Dr. Matteo Molé had an article published in *Cell* magazine in January 2026
- Dr. Chao Zhou had his work published in *Communications Biology* in 2025
- Dr. Aileen Portugal presented at the 40th Annual Rothman Research Day at WashU
- Emily Smith MSN, CNRP is presenting at the 2026 Annual Women's Healthcare Conference in Richmond, VA in September 2026
- Dr. Marina Peluffo presented her work at the 2026 SSR Annual conference in Indianapolis, IN
- Dr. Pasquale Patrizio has a manuscript in preparation for *Fertility and Sterility*, and presented at the William A. Little OBGYN Alumni Society 46th Annual Scientific Meeting in June 2026.
- KY Cha awardee Katie Ayers presented at the 10th International Vertebrate Sex Determination in Crete, in March 2026
- Dr. Xavier Santamaria had his work published in *Nature Communications* in 2026



FERRING
PHARMACEUTICALS



ASRM Research Institute Impact Partners: Driving Change Through Collaborative Research

At the ASRM Research Institute, we believe in the transformative power of collaboration. When communities, institutions, and thought leaders come together with a shared vision, the possibilities for advancement are limitless. That belief is at the heart of our Impact Grant Program—a dynamic initiative that unites like-minded organizations and industry partners to expand opportunities for innovation in reproductive medicine.

Through strategic partnerships, the Impact Grant Program provides critical funding for targeted areas of study, helping to drive forward the most pressing and promising research in the field. By aligning our resources and expertise, we can accelerate scientific breakthroughs, support the next generation of researchers, and ultimately improve patient outcomes around the world.

Together, we can fuel pioneering research, spark meaningful change, and shape the future of reproductive health. To learn more about this program and how to get involved, visit the ASRM Research Institute website.

\$180,000 provided this year

**EMD
SERONO**

KY Cha, MD, PhD
APBRF
Asia-Pacific Biomedical Research Foundation

FY 2026 Grant Awardees

ASRM is proud to recognize this year's recipients of Research Institute funding. Together, these outstanding investigators represent the future of reproductive medicine, pursuing innovative research that has the potential to improve patient care, expand scientific understanding, and drive meaningful advances across the field. Join us in celebrating our newest cohort of grant recipients.



Discovery and Innovation Grant: \$630,531

Colm P. Kelleher, PhD
Syracuse University

"Quantitative Links Between Cellular Energy Availability, Spindle Function, and Chromosome Segregation in Human Oocytes"

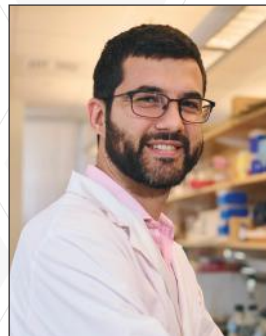
The Discovery and Innovation grant cycle is partially supported by the Thomas Kosasa, MD, Fund for Excellence in Research.



RPLA Research Grant: \$40,000

Anne Steiner, MD, MPH
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

"Thyroid dysfunction and autoimmunity as a cause of pregnancy loss"



The KY Cha Award in Reproductive Medicine: \$40,000

David Pépin, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital

"Extrafollicular Ovarian Steroidogenesis: Stromal Hormone Production as a Therapeutic Target in Ovarian Aging"



REI Fellow Health Equity Research Grant: \$30,000 (Sponsored by EMD Serono)

Ariya Mobaraki, MD
Case Western Reserve University

"Chronic Endometritis-Associated Progesterone Resistance in Endometrial Organoids Derived from Women with Recurrent Pregnancy Loss"



ASRM Nursing/Physician Assistant Professionals Research Award: \$10,000 (Sponsored by EMD Serono)

Brittany Woods, PhD, RN, CNOR
University of Alabama

"Understanding Factors Influencing Nurse and Advanced Practice Provider Retention in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Clinics"

ASRM Pilot & Exploratory Grant



Nahid Punjani, MD, MPH
Mayo Clinic Arizona

\$50,000

"Sperm Epigenetics as a Molecular Biomarker for Fertility Recovery Following Chemotherapy: A Proof-of-Concept Longitudinal Study"



Rabindranath De La Fuente, DVM, PhD
University of Georgia



Maria Viveiros, PhD
University of Georgia

\$50,000

"Development of a Deep Learning Computational Pipeline for the Non-Invasive Selection of Live Oocytes with High Developmental Potential"

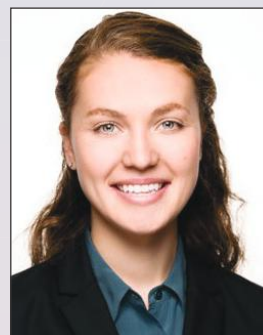
SREI Young Investigator Grant (Supported by an educational grant provided by Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc.)



Allison Eubanks, MD, FACOG
Shady Grove Fertility

\$10,000

"Evaluating the Efficacy of ICSI Versus Conventional Insemination in Non-Male Factor Infertility Using Cryopreserved Sperm: A Randomized Sibling-Oocyte Trial"



Elena HogenEsch, MD, MSCR
University of California San Francisco

\$10,000

"Fertility, Reproductive outcomes & Time to conception-Impact of long-term IUD exposure on reproductive outcomes"

ASRM Rescuing Research Grant Awardees



Amander Clark, PhD
UCLA

\$125,000

"Defining the Molecular Origins of Human Germ Cells to Improve In Vitro Gametogenesis"



Christina Farr, PhD
Case Western Reserve University

\$125,000

"Investigating the microbiome and inflammation in the vaginal microenvironment"



Scott Michael Gordon, MD, PhD
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

\$125,000

"Roles for individual uterine natural killer cell types in shaping trophoblast fate and function"



Shruthi Mahalingaiah, MD, MS, FACOG
Harvard University

\$125,000

"Climate factors, racial/ethnic disparities and menstrual cycle health"



Lisa Mehlmann, PhD
UConn Health

\$125,000

"Reproductive consequences of puberty suppression and testosterone administration in female mice: Implications for the treatment of transgender men"



Md Saidur Rahman, DVM, PhD
University of Missouri

\$125,000

"Targeting Dendritic Cells for Endometriosis-Associated Infertility"



Elizabeth Rubin, MD, MCR
Oregon Health & Science University

\$125,000

"The impact of hyperandrogenemia on embryo development and arrest"



Daphna Stroumsa, MD, MPH, MSc
University of Michigan

\$125,000

"Unraveling the Roles of Minority Stress and Testosterone Use in Preeclampsia Among Trans Individuals-A Multi-Site Study"

Collab Fertility Environmental Fellows Awardees

(Supported by an educational grant provided by Collab Fertility)



Jasmine Eliwa, MD,
University of South
Florida

\$10,000

"The identification and impact of microplastics in myometrial and fibroid tissue"



Melissa Mathes, MD,
University of Iowa
Healthcare

\$10,000

"Endocrine disrupting chemical detox: a practical method to decrease environmental exposures and an evaluation of the impact of invitro fertilization treatment"

ASRM's KEEPR Program: Bridges to Equity Initiative Resident Research Award

(Sponsored by EMD Serono)



Alexis Baranoff, MD
University of Texas
at Austin

\$5,000

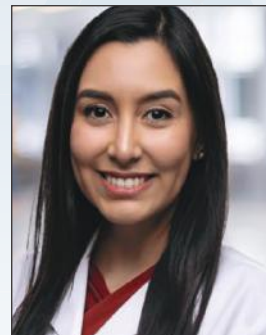
"A study to identify barriers to infertility care of Hispanic women"



Danielle Jean, MD
University of Michigan

\$5,000

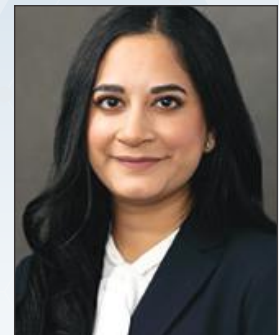
"The REI Night Clinic: A Model to Expand Equitable Access and Enhance OB/GYN Resident Education"



Andrea Parra Jaimes, MD
UT Health Sciences
at San Antonio

\$5,000

"Does Birth Control Affect My Fertility? Contraception, Future Fertility Knowledge, and Reproductive Autonomy Among Latina Patients in South Texas"



**Zara Siddiqui,
DO, MPH, MS**
Boston Medical
Center

\$5,000

"A Mixed Methods Research Study of Patient Perceptions of an Infertility Patient Navigator Program at a Safety Net Hospital"

ASRM INNOVATE: Where Innovation Meets Reproductive Medicine



**2025 INNOVATE
Pitch Tank Winner**
Cara Wells
*CEO and Founder,
EmGenisys*



Learn More

ASRM INNOVATE is a dynamic two-day summit dedicated to accelerating the future of reproductive medicine by bringing together clinicians, researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders. Through collaboration across science, technology, and clinical care, attendees will explore the innovations shaping tomorrow's reproductive healthcare.

One of the meeting's signature events, the **Pitch Tank Showcase**, will feature up to five finalists presenting groundbreaking reproductive health innovations live on stage. Following expert panel discussions and audience engagement, one innovator will be awarded a **\$10,000 prize**, highlighting ASRM's commitment to advancing new ideas from concept to clinical impact.

Following a successful inaugural meeting that brought together more than **240 clinicians, founders, funders, and entrepreneurs**, ASRM INNOVATE returns with an expanded focus on identifying unmet needs, fostering partnerships, and accelerating solutions that improve patient care.



INNOVATE
THE SYNERGY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

October 28-29, 2026
Baltimore, Maryland

Exploring the Future of Endometrial Repair Through Regenerative Medicine

The ASRM 2026 KY Cha Symposium in Stem Cell Technology and Reproductive Medicine will feature an exciting topic, **“Repairing Endometrial Defects Using Regenerative Medicine,”** led by renowned experts **Dr. Hugh Taylor** and **Dr. Xavier Santamaria**.

This forward-looking symposium will explore emerging advances in regenerative medicine and the growing potential of stem cell-based therapies to restore endometrial function and improve reproductive outcomes. Attendees will examine innovative approaches to addressing complex conditions such as Asherman syndrome, thin endometrium, and recurrent implantation failure—persistent challenges that can significantly impact fertility treatment success.

Attendees will gain insight into the biological mechanisms of endometrial repair, current diagnostic and therapeutic limitations, ongoing clinical trials, and translational research that is bringing laboratory discoveries closer to clinical practice. The session will also highlight how regenerative strategies may shape the future of reproductive medicine by offering new, personalized treatment options for patients with limited alternatives.

Join us at ASRM 2026 in Baltimore, October 24–28, as we explore groundbreaking innovations that are advancing reproductive medicine and transforming patient care.

KY Cha Symposium in Stem Cell Technology and Reproductive Medicine: Repairing Endometrial Defects Using Regenerative Medicine

Presented at the ASRM 2026 Scientific Congress & Expo, Baltimore, MD

Tuesday, October 27, 2026
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Speaker: Xavier Santamaria
Chair: Hugh Taylor

Funds With Purpose, continued from Page 1

Every charitable gift to the ASRM Research Institute is an investment in scientific discovery, innovation, and hope. These investments help preserve critical research programs, retain talented scientists, and accelerate discoveries that have the potential to improve patient outcomes for generations to come.

We are deeply grateful to the individuals and organizations whose generosity has made these grants possible. Their commitment ensures that groundbreaking ideas are not left unfunded, thus ushering in the next generation of reproductive advances.



Smart Ways to Support More Research

ASRM members have committed their careers to helping patients build families and the research that makes that possible. You can extend your legacy in the field through philanthropic giving.

Every gift matters! Please consider making the ASRM Research Institute part of your philanthropic strategy! Whether you would like to contribute through establishing an endowment, provide for the future of reproductive medicine in your estate plan, or put your investment to work immediately, please consider a gift to ASRM.

Catalyst funds are a new way to support the future of reproductive medicine. Catalyst donors accelerate progress in the

ways that feel most important to them – either through research, education, or advocacy. You can power up ASRM's mission through a major gift that makes an immediate impact in the field that you love. Catalyst gifts are \$25,000 or more and can be made through a one-time gift or a multi-year pledge. ASRM will recognize your contribution for the grant or program you support!

Ways to make charitable gifts and reduce your tax burden:*

- Donor Advised Funds
- Family foundations
- IRA qualified charitable deductions
- Appreciated stocks
- Estate planning

We know that your charitable giving decisions and estate planning is something that you want to plan carefully. We are here to discuss your philanthropic interests and how they intersect with ASRM's mission.

Start the conversation by contacting the Director of Charitable Giving at hhilton@asrm.org. Use this QR code to learn more:



**This information is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. Please consult a tax attorney, estate planner, or other qualified professional.*

ASRM Research Institute Major Supporters 2018-2026

Cumulative giving includes gala tickets and sponsorship.

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**KY Cha, MD, PhD

VISIONARY

**Thomas S. Kosasa, MD

SUSTAINER

**Anonymous

**Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD

**James P. Toner, MD, PhD

**Catalyst Gifts

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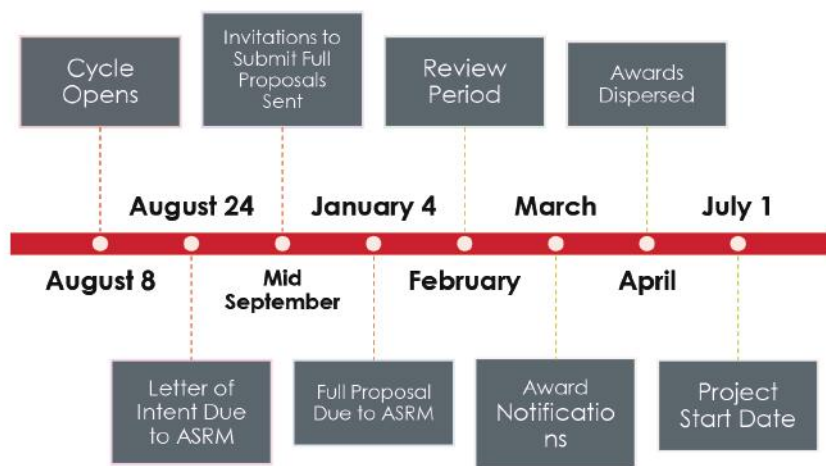
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2027 Research Institute Grant Cycle

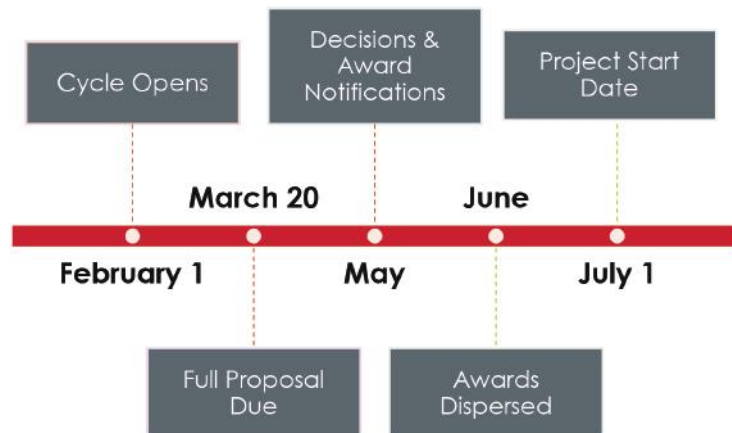
Mark Your Calendar!

The FY27 ASRM Research Institute grant cycles are approaching! Whether you're pursuing an innovative new idea or generating the preliminary data needed for future funding, now is the time to start planning. Review the timelines to stay on track and prepare for each key milestone along the application process.

FY27 Discovery & Innovation Grant Cycle



FY27 Pilot & Exploratory Grant Cycle



Discovery Insider

In this issue, discover how the ASRM Research Institute is advancing reproductive medicine through strategic investments in innovative research. Meet this year's grant recipients, explore the impact of our funding programs, and see how donor support is accelerating discoveries that will improve patient care for years to come.



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