



2019 Annual Report

**Grayson-Jockey Club
Research Foundation**

... funding research to build better equine health since 1940



“ During the last 25 years, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation has progressed to be the premier equine research foundation. It is now the generally recognized leader for research funding for all horses. The selection of research projects and documentation of results serve as the model other organizations now use as a guide to their own credibility. ”

-Dr. Larry Bramlage
Surgeon, Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital

“ The equine research being conducted by Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation supports Thoroughbred aftercare by identifying ways to help racehorses retire sound and helping retired racehorses stay healthy. Funding research goes hand in hand with other programs established to ensure a Thoroughbred has the best chance at succeeding in a second career. ”

-Kristin Werner
Director, The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program



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The forerunner of today's Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation reflected concerns of an era now passed, and yet the aims of the founders are as applicable today as they were at that time. In 1940, a number of leading sportsmen had been discussing for years a method of supporting research into the health and welfare of the horse. Admiral Cary Grayson was connected to some of the formative stages which led eventually to the establishment of the equine research foundation named for him. The American Thoroughbred Breeders Association launched a campaign to raise \$100,000. The Jockey Club, under direction of Mr. William Woodward Sr., was among the initial respondents, pledging 20% of the total. The Grayson Foundation became a reality in 1940, with Jock Whitney serving as the initial president.

The first grant was made before the year was over, a \$1,000 donation to the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School to continue its work on periodic ophthalmia. In 1940, the horse and mule were still deeply involved in military defense, and the scope of the Grayson Foundation's efforts went far beyond the Thoroughbred, to all breeds, although the impetus came from leaders in Thoroughbred racing. Early in its history, the Grayson Foundation sought to disperse \$100,000 annually in grants to specific research projects. Its success in this goal resulted in support for a number of projects that represented steps forward, among them being the development of vaccines against Equine Viral Arteritis and herpesvirus infections, determining causes of viral abortions leading to development of the most effective vaccine yet developed, and influencing estrous cycles in mares to increase fertility.

The Jockey Club created The Jockey Club Research Foundation in 1984, and five years later it was merged with Grayson, to be known since then as the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation (GJCRF, the Foundation). Grayson had a half-century background in research matters, and The Jockey Club had more wherewithal financially. In recent years the combined foundation has been able to disperse more than \$1 million annually in grants.

During the 1990s, three gifts of remarkable generosity were instrumental in enhancing the success of the Foundation in fulfilling its mission. In 1991, the Robert J. Kleberg and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation donated \$2 million to Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. Mr. Kleberg had studied genetics and as head of King Ranch developed the Santa Gertrudis breed of cattle. He also was instrumental in development of the American Quarter Horse, and the many excellent Thoroughbreds he bred included 1946 Triple Crown winner Assault.

In 1993, the Foundation received another major gift when Paul Mellon donated the \$1 million bonus that his Kentucky Derby winner Sea Hero won in the Chrysler Triple Crown Challenge.

Mr. Mellon requested that double that amount be raised in response, and this endowment drive was successfully concluded during the 1995-96 fiscal year. The \$1 million was double matched, as members of The Jockey Club and other contributors donated more than \$2 million. Mellon passed away in 1999, leaving \$2.5 million to the Foundation's endowment. In 2000, the Foundation created the Rokeyby Circle as the designation for those who contribute \$10,000 or more in a given year. Rokeyby is the name of Mr. Mellon's beloved Virginia estate.

Drs. Gary Lavin and Larry Bramlage reorganized the Foundation's process of evaluating grants in 1999. Instead of having separate committees of academicians and practicing veterinarians, a single Research Advisory Committee (RAC) was created. The RAC includes 32 individuals representing various research specialties and veterinary practices from across North America. Each year, the RAC convenes in January to evaluate all proposals submitted by the research community. The RAC spends three days poring over the projects and rates them top to bottom, recommending the best to the board of directors. The board then meets to determine how many projects can be funded in that year.

In 2004, the Oxley Challenge was initiated. Under the direction of Foundation board member John C. Oxley, his family's Oxley Foundation pledged \$1 million over four years contingent on the Foundation's raising a like amount from new income sources. The Foundation was successful in that match, and so received \$250,000 from the Oxley Foundation in each of four years.

In collaboration with The Jockey Club, the Foundation coordinated and underwrote the first Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit (Summit) in 2006. That meeting, and a second gathering of industry experts in 2008, generated a number of recommendations that the industry has embraced to a large extent. The Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Safety Committee endorsed recommendations of the Summit, and the National Thoroughbred Racing Association's race track accreditation program is based in part on those recommendations. Also, the Equine Injury Database, which is designed to provide the industry much needed epidemiological analysis of trends, aimed at improving injury rates nationally, evolved from the Summit. All additional summits have been held at Keeneland, in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018.

Grayson reached a milestone for funding more than \$1 million in research for the first time in 2007, and 2019 is the fifth-straight year that more than \$1 million has been approved.

Since 1983, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation individually provided more than \$27.5 million to fund a total of 366 projects at 44 universities in North America and overseas.

Highlights in Research Since 1940

- First Equine Influenza Vaccine
- Virus Abortion Vaccine
- Equine Infectious Anemia Study
- Development Of The Field Of Biomechanics
- Defined The Cause Of Colitis X
- Control Of The Shaker Foal Syndrome
- Defined Nature Of Wobbler Syndrome
- Equine Viral Arteritis Vaccine
- Study Of Risk Of Injury From Front Toe Grabs
- Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis Study
- Gene Therapy For Equine Arthritis
- Cause And Diagnosis Of Placentitis In Mares
- New Approaches To Vaccination Against R. Equi Pneumonia
- Muscular Factors Influencing Airway Size In Exercising Horses
- Dietary Implications For Colon Impaction
- Equine Viral Arteritis Vaccine
- New Protocols For Alleviating Buck Shins
- Study Of Bacteria Associated With MRLS
- Studies Of Immunity To EPM
- Development Of "Physiological Trim" To Promote Healthy Hooves
- Laminitis Study Leading To Cryotherapy Treatment Protocols
- Initiated Primary Work On Piroplasmiasis
- EIPH Study
- PET Scan Project

Since 1940 Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation has been a leading, non-profit charitable organization that any horse lover can join. We exist to help all horses by funding excellent and significant veterinary research at universities throughout North America and beyond and are committed to the advancement of horses of all breeds.

Research

Continuing its success as a leading international source of funding for equine research, in 2019 Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation funded a total of \$1,338,858 for eight new projects at seven universities, nine continuing projects, and three career development award winners.



A special call for research was issued seeking to understand how bisphosphonates affect the long-term health and soundness of equine athletes.

Joining Grayson in that call were the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium and the American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation.

Membership and Development

The Corporate Partners program was very successful in 2019, and Grayson rounded out the year with 18 partners totaling \$442,500 in donations and pledges. This includes \$100,000 pledges from Keeneland Foundation and Churchill Downs, with a lead gift of \$100,000 from Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort. Other corporate partners include Blue Grass Tours, Dean Dorton Equine, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Horse Country, Great American Insurance, National Horse Show Association, National Steeplechase Foundation, Inc., New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Oaktree Racing Association, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, Runhappy 5K at Claiborne Farm, Thoroughbred Education Research Foundation, United States Eventing Association, Stonestreet Farm, and WinStar Farm.

Through the Horsemen's Bookeeper at each track, jockeys can donate \$1 from each mount to the Foundation. More than \$21,000 in support came from jockeys who participated from these tracks Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, Delaware Park, Emerald Downs, Gulfstream Park, Keeneland, Monmouth Park, Prairie Meadows, Remington Park, Santa Anita Park, Saratoga Race Course.

Residents of Spring Island, South Carolina attended a pre-Derby party hosted by Chairman Dell Hancock, and board members Charlsie Cantey and Dr. Gary Lavin. More than \$25,000 was raised at this boutique event.

The Tribute program continued to see progress. In 2019 the Foundation received 14 champion tributes, nine reserve champion tributes, and nine best of breed level tributes. In the second half of 2019, the Foundation formed partnerships with Dietrich and Lavin equine insurances under which they use the Foundation's program to honor client's horses that have died.

At The Jockey Club's 125th anniversary party Grayson board member John C. "Jack" Oxley was awarded the 2019 Dinny Phipps Award recognizing his long commitment to the health and welfare of all horses. Donations of more than \$132,000 were made to the Foundation in Mr. Oxley's honor.

Sponsorship and Education

Grayson engaged in several sponsorships and education events to build awareness with all breeds and disciplines during 2019.

- United States Pony Club Research Project Fair
- Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event
- Palomino World Championship Show
- Hat's Off to Kentucky's Horse Industry Day and Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital Grand Prix
- United States Equestrian Pony Finals
- United States Eventing Association American Eventing Championships
- Thoroughbred Incentive Program Championships & New Vocations All Thoroughbred Charity Show
- Retired Racehorse Project Thoroughbred Makeover
- All American Quarter Horse Congress
- National Horse Show
- United States Dressage Federation Dressage Finals



Marketing and Awareness

In 2019, the Professional Circle was officially formed thanks to a donation by Mrs. Jacquelyn Mars. In its inaugural year, the Professional Circle secured eight individuals to serve as rider ambassadors from various equine disciplines. This includes jockeys Mike Smith and Sophie Doyle from racing; showjumping trainer John Madden and his Olympic-medal winning wife, Beezie Madden; Margie Goldstein Engle, eventing; Lauren Kieffer, rider for Professional Circle sponsor Mrs. Mars; Thoroughbred trainer Tom Morley; and NYRA paddock analyst Maggie Wolfendale. Ambassadors assisted with social media promotion about the Foundation and participated in events for Grayson including an autograph signing session with Beezie Madden and Margie Goldstein at the National Horse Show. Sophie Doyle also championed our Fall Racing Preview event.

Research Spotlight, a publication to raise awareness of the impact of Grayson-funded research and to provide updates on Grayson events and news, was inserted in an April edition of the BloodHorse magazine, and the Foundation contributed articles to the magazine's monthly Health Zone.

Grayson worked with the team at Colorado State University to produce a video featuring Grayson-funded research.

At the American Eventing Championships, Grayson produced a video with the help of Dr. Stuart Brown introducing Grayson to the sport horse community.

The Foundation was the beneficiary of the 2019 Claiborne Farm Runhappy 5K Run/Walk held in September.



The Elizabeth Locke jewelry trunk show, held annually at Keeneland, donated a percentage of the proceeds to Grayson. The sale is traditionally held during the Keeneland September Yearling Sale.

Grayson partnered with the Palomino Horse Breeders of America Amateurs for the Golden Horse Challenge Sweepstakes to raise funds and build awareness that our research benefits all breeds and disciplines.



Stonestreet Farm sponsored the Stonestreet Giving Challenge to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Rachel Alexandra's 3-year-old campaign. With a lead gift of \$25,000, Stonestreet Farm also hosted a "Haskell Watch Party with Rachel" catered by Ouita Michel's culinary team at Holly Hill Events.



Kentucky Downs once again held a Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation Day at the races raising funds and awareness of the Foundation's mission.

Hagyard Equine Medical Institute sponsored the Fall Racing Preview Party at AZUR Restaurant & Patio. The event was hosted by international racing broadcaster Nick Luck.





The Research Advisory Committee evaluates research proposals and advises the Foundation's board of directors on the basis of the needs of the industry and scientific quality of each project. For the 2019 grants allocation, the committee was composed of the following persons who served the Foundation without compensation.

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Internal Medicine & Shareholder, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital; Emeritus Professor, The Ohio State University and Adjunct Professor, Gluck Center, University of Kentucky Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital • Lexington, KY Graduate - The Ohio State University

Consultant

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Comparative Biomedical Sciences Researcher
Former Storm Cat Award Recipient
Cornell University • Ithaca, NY
Graduate - University of Pennsylvania

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Graduate - Cornell University

Ramiro Toribio, DVM, MS, PhD, ACVIM

Clinician/Researcher, Endocrinology and Internal Medicine
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Graduate - Universidad Nacional de Rio Cuarto (Honors)

Regina Turner, VMD, PhD

Theriogenologist
University of Pennsylvania • Kennett Square, PA
Graduate - University of Pennsylvania

Andrew Van Eps, BVSc, PhD

Associate Professor
University of Pennsylvania • Kennett Square, PA
Graduate - The University of Queensland

Uncovering The Blood B Cell Immune Response To EHV-1

Tracy Stokol, Cornell University

By sequencing individual blood B cells, we will identify changes in B cell immunity after EHV-1 (*equine herpesvirus-1*) vaccination and will generate a sequencing database that will uncover new antibodies against EHV-1.

Antimicrobial Properties Of Equine MSCS

Laurie Goodrich, Colorado State University

This study is expected to impact the equine industry by validating TLR (*Toll-like receptor*) activated equine MSCS (*mesenchymal stem cells*) as an effective, novel therapy in treating multi-drug resistant infections.

Intrauterine Antibiotics May Augment Placentitis Therapy

Christopher Bailey, North Carolina State University

This proposal will explore the potential for intrauterine antibiotic treatment to improve foal survival and health in mares with ascending placentitis.

Non-Invasive Evaluation Of Host-Microbiota Interactions

Canaan Whitfield-Cargile, Texas A&M

This study aims to develop a non-invasive platform to serve as a diagnostic test for gastrointestinal inflammation prior to severe disease and to reveal how bacteria in the gut influence horse health.

additional funding by 

Standing PET Scan Of The Racehorse Fetlock

Matthew Spriet,

sponsored by



University of California-Davis

Validation of a PET technology for early detection of fetlock lesions in standing horses to prevent catastrophic breakdowns in racehorses.

Training Programs For Prevention Of Fetlock Injury

Sue Stover,

sponsored by



University of California-Davis

Predicting proximal sesamoid bone fracture in racehorses from a calibrated computational model that incorporates training programs, track surface properties, and bone's reparative processes.

Racehorse Stride Characteristics Injury And Performance

Chris Whitton,

sponsored by



University of Melbourne

By identifying changes in stride characteristics of racehorses over time we can identify those parameters that can be used as an early indicator of injury or that are key to injury development.

additional funding by



Robotic CT For Assessing Of Bone Morphology

Kyla Orted,

sponsored by



University of Pennsylvania

Preventing catastrophic injuries in the Thoroughbred racehorse: screening fetlock joints using standing robotic CT and biomarker analysis.

CONTINUING PROJECTS

Development Of Limited View 3D Imaging

Chris Kawcak, Colorado State University

The goal of this proposal is to develop a point-of-care, 3-dimensional imaging technique that can be used to better characterize and prevent injuries in racehorses.

Thoroughbred Sales Radiology-Ultrasonography Study

C. Wayne McIlwraith, Colorado State University

This study will improve the industry's understanding of the significance of sesamoiditis, ultrasonographic suspensory branch changes, and stifle lucencies in sales yearlings and 2-year-olds.

Investigating Metabolic Stress And Viral Hepatitis

Sabine Mann, Cornell University

We will study metabolic pathways and hepatic viral infection to find a relationship with maladaptation to training syndrome/high GGT to help improve the health and performance of race-horses.

Host Factors Involved In EHM Pathogenesis And Latency

Gisela Soboll Hussey, Michigan State University

The development of tools to protect horses from EHV-1 infection, compare the immune responses in old and young horses to identify the mechanisms causing clinical EHM (*equine herpes myeloencephalopathy*).



AMPK (5' AMP-activated protein kinase enzyme) Agonists And Insulin Dysregulation In Horses

Teresa Burns, The Ohio State University

This project directly impacts the treatment of equine metabolic syndrome by assessing the efficacy of two drugs, metformin and acetylsalicylic acid, in the treatment of equine insulin dysregulation.

Effects Of Low-Dust Forage On Lung Health Of Athletic Horses

Laurent Couetil, Purdue University

This proposal seeks to provide a non-pharmaceutical solution to the widespread problem of equine asthma by evaluating the benefits of low-dust forage for horses engaged in athletic activity.

Host-directed Control of R. equi Foal Pneumonia- Part II

Angela Bordin, Texas A&M University

We propose to use an inhaled product applied directly into the lungs to increase immune responses to protect foals against *Rhodococcus equi*, a bacterium that causes severe pneumonia in foals.

Unraveling Complex Traits By Defining Genome Function 2

Carrie Finno, University of California-Davis

Developing an atlas of gene regulation in the horse.

Epidemiology Of Drug-Resistant R. Equi At Horse Farms

Kelsey Hart, University of Georgia

We will determine if isolates of *Rhodococcus equi* highly resistant to antibiotics are widespread at horse breeding farms in Kentucky.



2019 CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

The Storm Cat Career Development Award, inaugurated in 2006, is a \$15,000 grant designed as an early boost to an individual considering a career in equine research. It has been underwritten annually by Mrs. Lucy Young Hamilton, a GJCRF board member whose family stood the champion stallion Storm Cat at Overbrook Farm. In 2019 there were two award winners:

Holly Stewart, Colorado State University

She is currently working with Dr. Chris E. Kawcak, Professor and Director of Equine Clinical Services at CSU, on the project “Optimization of dual-energy CT for equine imaging.”

Lynn Pezzanite, Colorado State University

Currently working on the project, “Antimicrobial and immunomodulatory properties of TLR ligand activated mesenchymal stem cells,” with Dr. Laurie Goodrich, Professor Equine Surgery at CSU.

The Elaine & Bertram Klein Development Award is a competitive program intended to promote development of promising investigators by providing a salary supplement of \$15,000 for one year.

This program is restricted to one award per year and is named in honor of Elaine & Bertram Klein. The grant is funded by the Klein Family Foundation. The 2019 award winner was:

Sian Durward-Akhurst, University of Minnesota

Dr. Molly McCue, Professor and Interim Associate Dean of Research at the University of Minnesota is supervising Sian on the project entitled, “Tools for Precision Medicine in the Horse.”



Application



Since 1999 the Foundation has funded 366 grants, averaging more than \$1.2 million annually in awards for the last five years. The average amount funded during the past five years has been \$114,609 per grant. For 2019, the Foundation received 53 applications from 34 different institutions and eight countries. All applicants must comply with the regulations pertaining to animal use in the proposed study, which is overseen by the INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC). The IACUC must review and approve the research project prior to funding.

RAC Scoring



The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) is a mix of 32 equine scientists and practitioners capable of judging the merit of the most sophisticated proposals with clinical specialists from university clinics and private practices. The group includes representation of the major clinical disciplines such as surgery, internal medicine, and reproduction, along with the academic disciplines of pathology, immunology, microbiology, etc., with geographic diversity to reflect the importance of various local problems.

There is a multi-layered review process for each grant starting with the identification of experts on the subject matter and potential conflicts of interests within the RAC. Each grant is initially assigned four reviewers. The reviewers individually score the grant based on: (a) scientific approach, (b) overall impression, (c) impact, (d) feasibility, and (e) budget. Each grant is scored numerically and given a written review. The RAC members access and read all applications prior to the review meeting.

Final Review



During the RAC meeting, the essential activities are to discuss each proposal with the entire committee and to rank the order for all acceptable proposals. The group endeavors to reconcile mean scores between specialties to ensure that one discipline does not score significantly higher or lower than another discipline. Once grants are ranked numerically to ensure that each grant is ranked correctly for its strengths and weaknesses, each grant is then compared to its neighboring grant. If a grant is moved in the ranking it must be reassessed at each placing, compared to its higher and lower neighbor, to ensure that the placing is correct within the consensus of the group.

Funding



The recommendations of the RAC are presented to the board of directors for final review, with announcement of awards- typically near the first week of March. The funding cycle commences April 1, with three equal payments made through the year.

A timeline is incorporated into the application document so that all investigators are aware of the schedule. The applicant in the original application predicts a schedule of progress. A progress statement is required on November 1 of the original funding year so that any problems with the investigation are identified early and adjustments made. Satisfactory progress must be documented in order to continue receiving funding.

Second-year funding must be approved by the Foundation board following recommendations from the Foundation office.

Since 1983

\$27.5 Million

has been funded in research focusing on both impact and quality of the science for a total of

366 Projects

on a wide range of equine health issues at a total of

44 Universities

Auburn University
Case Western Reserve
Colorado State University
Cornell University
Harvard University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Louisiana State University
Ludwig Maximilian University /Germany
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University
North Carolina State University
The Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University

Oregon State University
Purdue University
Southern Illinois University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Tufts University
University of Bristol/UK
University of California-Davis
University of Edinburgh/UK
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Glasgow/UK
University of Guelph/Canada
University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
University of Melbourne

University of Minnesota
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
University of North Carolina -Wilmington
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Queensland /Australia
University of Saskatchewan /Canada
University of Tennessee
University of Wisconsin
Virginia Tech University
Washington State University



300+ Publications

Results are published in peer-reviewed journals. All funded projects are scheduled for additional publications, including those still with ongoing research.

Special Friends of Grayson

We wish to recognize donors whose generosity has created a profound impact on the Foundation over the years and has been of extraordinary benefit to the horse.

The Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. & Helen C. Kleberg Foundation
Paul Mellon

The Oxley Foundation
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National Steeplechase Foundation, Inc.
New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's
Association
Oak Tree Racing Association
Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort
Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital*

Runhappy 5K at Claiborne Farm*
Stonestreet Farm*
Thoroughbred Education Research
Foundation
United States Eventing Association
WinStar Farm

Rokeby Circle

In honor of the generosity to the Foundation by the late Paul Mellon, GJCRF designates inclusion in the Rokeby Circle for those donors at the \$10,000-plus level within the year. The honor is named for Rokeby Farm, Mr. Mellon's estate in Virginia.

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