



# STOWERS INSTITUTE®

FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

## FACT SHEET

### RESEARCH

- The Stowers Institute for Medical Research conducts basic research on how genes and proteins control fundamental processes in living cells. Among other things, Institute scientists seek to understand cell multiplication, differentiation, migration, and death in the context of early development of organisms.
- Stowers research focuses on long-term solutions to genetically-based diseases such as cancer, diabetes, dementia, birth defects, and many others.
- Much Institute research relies on animal models such as mice, chick embryos, zebra fish, fruit flies, and yeast. These models have genetic plans similar to those of humans and are conducive to efficient research.
- Institute scientists currently conduct early stem cell research using animal models and adult stem cell research using both human and animal models.
- Because the Institute is privately funded, Stowers researchers have the freedom to investigate promising ideas before there is enough evidence to garner outside financing — an arrangement that gives Institute researchers opportunities to initiate ground-breaking research.

### INSTITUTE

- The 600,000 square-foot facility is situated on a 10-acre campus in the heart of Kansas City, Mo.
- The first labs in the facility opened in November of 2000.
- Institute facilities feature state-of-the-art laboratories supported by the most advanced technologies. Common areas were thoughtfully designed to facilitate collaboration among researchers.
- The \$300 million construction project was financed by long-term, tax-exempt medical research facility revenue bonds.
- When the existing facility is filled, the Institute will house as many as 30 independent research programs with ten to 20 scientists, research associates, and technicians in each.
- In 2009, the Institute opened a 280,000 square foot complex in south Kansas City to house support functions and storage facilities. The property also houses the headquarters of BioMed Valley Discoveries, a for-profit translational R&D organization, whose mission is to develop basic biomedical discoveries into applications to improve human health.
- More than 490 people work at the Institute daily, including more than 350 members of the scientific staff.
- Currently, the Institute houses 20 independent research programs and three technology development programs in bioinformatics, proteomics, and imaging.
- Independent laboratory leaders are appointed with the unanimous approval of the Scientific Advisory Board, made up of seven members of the National Academy of Sciences.
- The Stowers Institute for Medical Research is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization structured as a Medical Research Organization under U.S. Treasury statutes.

**FOUNDERS**

- Inspired by their personal battles with cancer, long-time Kansas City residents Jim and Virginia Stowers founded the Stowers Institute for Medical Research in 1994.
- Mr. Stowers is founder of the multi-billion-dollar American Century Companies. Mrs. Stowers made her career as a nurse-anesthetist.
- Together, they have dedicated their personal fortune to benefiting humankind through basic research on genes and proteins. They believe this research will unlock the mysteries of disease and point the way to effective treatment and prevention.

**FUNDING**

- Jim and Virginia Stowers endowed the Institute with gifts totaling \$2 billion. The endowment resides in a large cash reserve and in substantial ownership of American Century Investments, a privately held mutual fund company that represents exceptional value for the Institute's future.
- Additional donors support the Institute through the Hope Shares<sup>®</sup> program.
- Stowers researchers receive additional financial support for specific research projects from the National Institutes of Health and other scientific grant-funding organizations.