

## Academic Health Centers: Building a New Economy Through Research

Academic health centers are central to the nation's economic development and U.S. preeminence in science. Academic health centers are pioneering biomedical advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease and chronic illness, and are reinventing the nation's research infrastructure to move proven technologies and therapies more quickly into community practice to improve the health of people worldwide.

### Creating and sustaining a new economy

- 44% of AAHC institutions have at least one research park and/or business incubator to facilitate technology transfer, accelerate entrepreneurial ventures, nurture industry partnerships, and foster regional economic development.
- On average, academic health centers employ 6,000 faculty and staff; in total, AAHC institutions enroll more than 300,000 students in health professions and graduate schools, building the workforce of tomorrow.
- AAHC institutions spent a mean of \$137 million in research expenditures in 2007-2008, double the 1994 level.

### Translating discoveries to communities and health care practice

- On average, an AAHC institution received \$101.2 million in 2007-2008 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to pioneer new discoveries and treatments for disease and illness.
- 31 AAHC institutions received Clinical and Translational Science Awards from the NIH to improve the conduct of research, engage communities, and train the research workforce.
- Academic health centers conduct a majority of the nation's clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of new treatments and technologies.
- Almost 25% of AAHC institutions conducted clinical trials in more than 10 sites, leading the way to expand access for all people to new treatments for disease and illness.

## ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS

### **Investing in research infrastructure: Academic health centers take the lead**

- More than 90% of AAHC institutions have new research space under construction; and, almost 45% have over 250,000 square feet in new research space under construction.
  - Federal funding supported facility construction at less than 40% of AAHC institutions.

### **Renovating research space essential for recruitment, science, and economic development**

- 83% of AAHC institutions are renovating part of their research space to modernize aging facilities and to maximize scarce resources.
- 57% of new space under construction is for very costly wet labs, where chemicals, drugs, or other material or biological matter are tested and analyzed, and water, direct ventilation, and specialized piped utilities are required.

### **Restructuring to facilitate partnerships and development**

- Approximately 60% of AAHC institutions have restructured research administration to stay on the cutting edge, promote collaboration and multidisciplinary efforts, and enhance resources for researchers.

- On average, AAHC institutions spent \$11.2 million in 2007-2008 on research administration to improve processes, optimize operations, and facilitate collaboration with government, industry, and local communities.
- 31% of AAHC institutions have centralized administration of clinical trials in the past year to enhance clinical research and compliance while expanding opportunities and access for patients.

### **Collaborating across disciplines, institutions, and borders to build capacity**

- Academic health centers partner with other institutions of higher education, including other academic health centers (59%), universities without an academic health center (48%), and community colleges (5%), to build research capacity.
- 75% of AAHC institutions have a research partnership with an academic institution abroad to address global health needs.

*The AAHC, representing more than 100 institutions nationwide, is dedicated to improving the nation's health care system by mobilizing and enhancing the strengths and resources of the academic health center enterprise in health professions education, patient care, and research. This information is based on a recent survey of AAHC institutions.*

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