The Rockefeller University is highly dependent on private philanthropy to fuel its scientific progress. Today, more than ever, support from Rockefeller friends, volunteers, and benefactors is vitally important to take advantage of revolutionary opportunities in the biomedical sciences that are emerging at a pace unparalleled in history.

Advances in science and medicine are shedding new light on such problems as cancer, aging, and neurodegenerative disorders, to name only a few. At Rockefeller, private gifts are the main source of funding to support the recruitment of new faculty, the acquisition of new technologies and instrumentation, the launch of new collaborations in key areas, the renovation of existing buildings, and the construction of new ones. Philanthropy also helps to maintain one of the world’s premier graduate programs and provide cost-free education to top students seeking careers in biomedical research.

Over the past several decades, The Rockefeller University has created compelling opportunities and avenues of involvement for benefactors and other friends who want to learn about biomedical research. At Rockefeller, benefactors have an unusual degree of direct contact with scientists and are truly embraced as members of the community. Our benefactors receive an insider’s view of scientific breakthroughs in real time, years before they become widely known to the general public.
Rockefeller’s philanthropic programs feature several affinity groups that interact synergistically; although united around a common purpose, each group maintains its own special focus. This structure for funding basic and clinical biomedical research has become widely renowned and replicated worldwide.

The Rockefeller University Council is a group of distinguished individuals committed to supporting the university’s scientific and educational missions. Since the Council’s founding in 1973, members have served as ambassadors for the university, increasing awareness of Rockefeller’s many different programs. Through their philanthropic commitment and advocacy, Council members help provide the resources that enable the university to nurture innovative ideas, train the world’s most outstanding young investigators, and launch new initiatives. Council membership is by invitation only.

The Committee on Trust and Estate Gift Plans, established in 1974, is composed of leading attorneys, bankers, and financial advisers in the trust and estate field. This esteemed group sponsors events each year to introduce clients, professional colleagues, and prospective benefactors to Rockefeller. The Committee helps make the work of Rockefeller more widely known and generates support for the university from foundations, trusts, and individuals. Committee membership is by invitation only.

Women & Science was established in 1998 to highlight the crucial role of basic and clinical research in addressing scientific challenges related to women’s health. The Women & Science initiative also showcases the contributions of women scientists and raises funds to support their work. Fall and spring programs and the annual spring Women & Science lecture and luncheon feature Rockefeller scientists and guest speakers who discuss a wide range of women’s health concerns and medical issues.

Parents & Science was launched in 2007 to provide a resource for parents interested in recent discoveries relevant to the development, health, and well-being of children, from infancy through adolescence. Parents & Science sponsors events featuring Rockefeller scientists and guest speakers from such fields as psychology, medicine, education, and the social sciences. Donors to the Parents & Science Discovery Fund help support research on child and adolescent health, as well as the university’s Science Outreach Program, which provides educational programs for students and educators in the K–12 community.

University Associates are individuals interested in biomedical research who are committed to supporting the university’s mission. Through unrestricted gifts, associates help provide Rockefeller scientists with the means to pursue unanticipated leads that are vital to scientific discovery.

The Laureate Circle recognizes benefactors who have taken the special step of including the university in their estate plans. Testamentary gifts of any size are welcomed at Rockefeller. Whether their planned gift is made via a bequest, trust, or other philanthropic arrangement, the university’s generous Laureate Circle donors help to sustain the excellence of Rockefeller’s scientific research and educational initiatives. The university remains deeply grateful for the foresight of these enlightened Laureate Circle benefactors.

If you would like to become involved with The Rockefeller University, please contact:

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