



*2017*  
YEAR  
END  
REPORT

**Nebraska Coalition**  
FOR LIFESAVING CURES

## THANK YOU.

Because of you, the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures has been protecting research in Nebraska for 17 years!

This year brought hopeful news on the clinical front both locally and nationally. Dr. Howard Gendelman announced promising news on a Parkinson's disease clinical trial led by his lab at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Asterias Biotherapeutics, a company conducting a combined phase 1 and 2 spinal trial using an embryonic stem cell based therapy to treat spine cord injury, saw 67 percent of its subjects recovering two or more motor levels on at least one side through 12 months when receiving a dosage of 10 million cells.

In 2017, the Coalition felt it was time to take a look at the organization itself; how we work internally in order to be more effective externally. The board developed a strategic plan focused on three primary areas: developing an education initiative, increasing capacity and strengthening governance. Our focus on these pillars will mean a stronger organization ready to lead Nebraskans to understand and embrace the importance of scientific research.

Please return the attached card with your gift today or give at [nebraskacures.com](http://nebraskacures.com) and help us continue our mission to promote, support and advocate research to advance our quality of life and our economy.

Sincerely,



David Crouse, Ph.D.

*President, Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures*

In 1999, Nebraska caught the eye of the national media and local activists who discovered that human fetal tissue was being used for studies of Alzheimer's disease and HIV.

A firestorm erupted, pitting UNMC and the University Board of Regents against organizations who opposed research using fetal tissue.

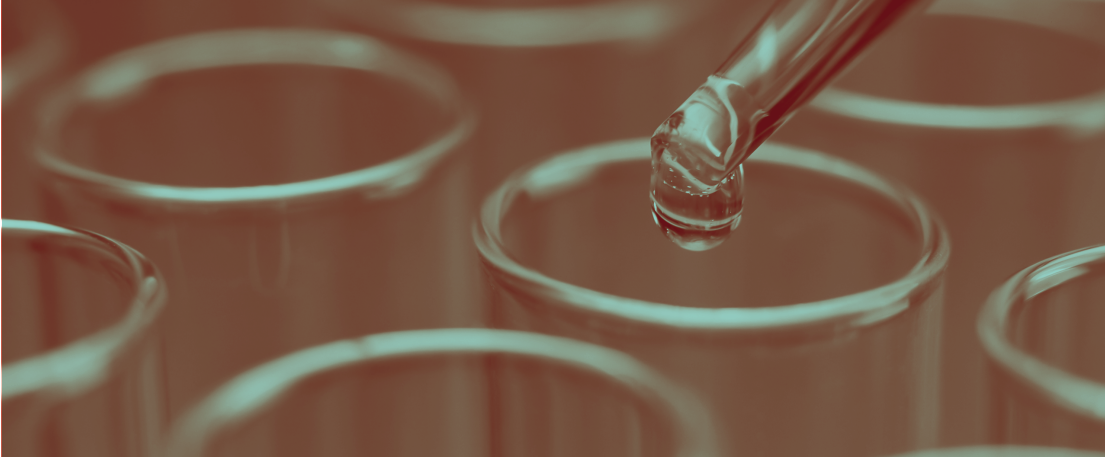
At the center of the storm was Dr. Howard Gendelman, professor and chair of the UNMC Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Neuroscience. As he focused on microglia cells, the role of inflammation in Alzheimer's disease, the patterns of damage and regeneration in brain tissue, protestors marched outside his home, chanting: "whoever destroys a life, it is as if he destroys an entire world." Dr. Gendelman shouted back, "You've got it wrong. Whoever saves a life, it is as if he saved an entire world."

And thanks to Dr. Gendelman's perseverance and other researchers who have spent years devoting their lives to all forms of regenerative medicine research, the world may be saved from many life-threatening diseases.



*"Whoever saves a life,  
it is as if he saved  
an entire world."*

—Dr. Howard Gendelman



Stem cell research holds the promise of providing treatments and cures for many diseases, including diabetes, Parkinson's disease, macular degeneration and more.

As many as one million Americans live with Parkinson's disease.

Approximately 60,000 Americans are diagnosed each year. Although there are treatment options such as medication and surgery to

manage the symptoms, there is no cure. Yet. The combined direct and indirect cost of Parkinson's, including treatment, social security payments and lost income from inability to work, is estimated to be nearly \$25 billion per year in the United States alone.

AMERICANS LIVING  
WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE

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1,000,000

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of vision loss, afflicting one in four people over the age of 65. AMD causes the degeneration of the part of the eye responsible for providing sharp, central vision. Cases of early age-related macular degeneration are expected to double by 2015, from 9.1 million to 17.8 million for those aged 50 years or older.

DIAGNOSED CASES OF AGE-RELATED  
MACULAR DEGENERATION THIS YEAR

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17,800,000

Just this past March, Drs. Gendelman, Pamela Santamaria and R. Lee Mosley tested a drug that transforms the immune system for diagnostic and therapeutic gain in Parkinson's disease, while holding promise for a range of neurodegenerative disorders that include Alzheimer's disease, stroke and ALS. "The Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures saved our soul—the soul that defines what research is—and in so doing changed the world," said Dr. Gendelman. "For that, we are forever grateful to all who have engaged as their mission and their tireless pursuits to do good for so many."

**We are forever grateful to supporters like you.**

With your help, we are able to continue our purpose: to champion scientists, physicians, researchers and educators—like Dr. Gendelman—supporting them, encouraging them and protecting the work they do to benefit all of mankind; to educate the public; and to inspire and reward "science-enthused" youth.

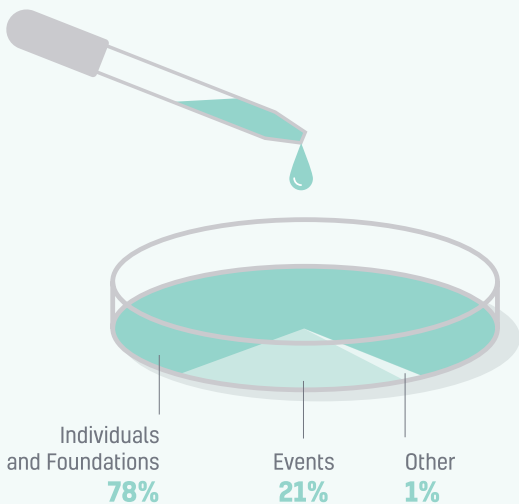


*"The Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures saved our soul—the soul that defines what research is—and in so doing changed the world."*

—Dr. Howard Gendelman

## 2016 REVENUE

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## 2016 EXPENSES

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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*The Nebraska Coalition for  
Lifesaving Cures promotes,  
supports and advocates research  
to advance our quality of life  
and our economy.*

## VISION STATEMENT

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*Leading society to understand  
and embrace the importance  
of scientific research.*

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