



Enduring Hearts

Healthy Kids ♥ Stronger Hearts ♥ Better Lives

National Pediatric Nonprofit Collaborates with American Heart Association to Fund Translational Research Awards

A \$3 million collaboration will fund crucial research for Pediatric Heart Transplantation

ATLANTA – August 8, 2023 – [Enduring Hearts](#), a nonprofit with a mission to fund innovative research to improve the quality of life for pediatric heart recipients, announced its collaboration with the [American Heart Association](#) (AHA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. These two organizations are collaborating to fund the [Translational Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation](#), which will advance research to improve the treatment and outcomes for pediatric heart transplant recipients by funding important scientific research in areas like basic science, clinical studies, population research, and technology in Pediatric Heart Transplantation (PHT).

Together, Enduring Hearts and the AHA are investing \$3 million to support two studies that will further the potential for clinical application of highly impactful innovations and sciences by improving longevity of PHT. The [Translational Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation](#) will be presented to researchers dedicated to improving the life expectancy and quality of life of pediatric heart transplant recipients. Applications will open in August 2023 and awardees will be announced in April 2024.

According to the registry of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, approximately 600-700 pediatric heart transplantation procedures are performed worldwide each year. Even with medical advancements, a heart transplant is not a cure. Many of these children and their families will face a lifetime of challenges and may need to undergo additional heart transplants.

Research focused on pediatric transplants is crucial due to the early age of the patients and the limited lifespan of heart transplants. Based on past studies and aggregated information, a pediatric heart transplant lasts less than 20 years on average. Unfortunately, that means nearly half of these children will lose their heart or life after transplant, with approximately one in four transplants failing within five years due to organ rejection.

"Enduring Hearts exists to fundamentally improve the health and quality of life of pediatric heart transplant recipients by funding transformative and ground-breaking research. Our collaboration with AHA will enable us to continue down that path" said Ruth Manlapas, Board Chair of Enduring Hearts. "While the area of pediatric transplant has experienced advances in immunosuppression, critical care, dedicated transplant teams, and mechanical support—all paving the way for improvements in waitlist mortality and post-transplant survival, we still have a long way to go! We are excited to provide dedicated funding to research in this area and see tangible, positive results in clinical care strategies and longevity outcomes."

"The American Heart Association is committed to a world of longer, healthier lives for all and this research can make a significant impact for generations to come for our youngest, most vulnerable population," said Svati Shah, M.D. M.H.S., Chair of the American Heart Association Research Committee and Associate Dean of Genomics and Director of Precision Genomics Collaboratory in the Duke University School of Medicine. "This is an exciting collaboration with such a visionary national non-profit like Enduring Hearts in support of this emerging research field, and we look forward to the scientific discoveries to come."

For more information on the Translational Research Awards, visit <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/aha-funding-opportunities/aha-enduring-hearts-research-awards-in-pediatric-heart-transplantation>.

About Enduring Hearts:

Enduring Hearts is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to funding innovative research aimed at improving the lives of children living with transplanted hearts. Enduring Hearts works with a team of leading doctors and scientists in the field of transplantation, pediatric cardiology, and immunology to drive leading-edge research that will make a transplant last a lifetime.

About the American Heart Association:

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public's health and share lifesaving resources. The Dallas-based organization has been a leading source of health information for nearly a century. Connect with us on heart.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1

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