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James B. Milliken
President

Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

December 3, 2025

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Wiener:

Pursuant to Section 104500 of the Health and Safety Code, enclosed is the University of California's report to the Legislature on *The Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, 2020-2025*.

If you have any questions, Associate Vice President Cain Diaz would be pleased to speak with you. Cain can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9530, or by email at Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,

James B. Milliken
President

Enclosure

cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
The Honorable John Laird, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
(Attn: Mr. Diego Lopez)
(Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)
The Honorable David A. Alvarez, Chair
Assembly Education Finance Subcommittee #3
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)
(Attn: Mr. Tobias Wolken)
Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Ms. Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate
Ms. Sue Parker, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Ms. Jessica Holmes, Department of Finance
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Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst's Office
Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst's Office

Mr. Ian Klein, Legislative Analyst's Office
Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
Vice President Theresa Maldonado
Senior Vice President Meredith Turner
Associate Vice President Cain Diaz
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton

Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program Report to the Legislature 2025

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Executive Summary

In 1988 the voters of California passed Proposition 99, the California Tobacco Health Protection Act. The Act instituted a 25¢ per pack cigarette surtax and designated 5% of revenues ($0.0125 per pack) be dedicated to research on tobacco-related disease. Thus, the statewide Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) was created, and the state of California entrusted the UC Office of the President with its administration. In the years since, as the commercial tobacco industry has shifted its business from glorifying combustible cigarettes to marketing addictive nicotine in the form of vape pens and oral nicotine pouches, TRDRP has also evolved to fund research into these new products and to counter new industry tactics.

The past five years brought a series of challenges including a pandemic that paralyzed California's research enterprise, new chemical formulations of addictive nicotine, as well as a continuous barrage of addictive nicotine products designed to attract and addict a new generation of users. In the same five years, a series of new legal policies supporting tobacco control in California invigorated California's Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program and their partners (Fig. 2, p. 6) to work toward ending the commercial tobacco use epidemic in California.

This report has been prepared pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Section 104500(c). It describes how TRDRP created new research funding initiatives and worked strategically with partners — at both the state and university levels — to address challenges and advance public health through research and partnership.

At a Glance

- Read on to learn more about the adaptability of TRDRP during the COVID-19 pandemic and the creative work of TRDRP grantees to understand the health effects of tobacco product use on COVID-19 symptoms and severity.
- Find out about the California Endgame Initiative, a bold project to end the commercial tobacco epidemic in California, and TRDRP grantees' role in informing this initiative.
- See how TRDRP researchers are tackling the environmental hazards of new and emerging nicotine and tobacco products through policy research and public participation in scientific research.
- Review the innovative funding strategies TRDRP has advanced to drive policy and systems change.
- Discover how TRDRP has used collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to implement effective dissemination strategies to inform state and local tobacco control policymaking.
- Explore how TRDRP supports and enables research within communities most vulnerable to tobacco-related health disparities as well as training the next generation of tobacco control researchers.
- See how TRDRP continuously strives for excellence in grantmaking in order to be good stewards of the revenue from tobacco excise taxes.

Note: The term "tobacco" used in this document refers to all forms of commercial nicotine and tobacco products. Commercial tobacco is mass-produced and sold for profit by companies for recreational and habitual use in cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, cigars, hookahs, and other products (Source: https://keepitsacred.itcmi.org). TRDRP does not intend to impinge upon the sacred use of traditional or ceremonial tobacco in American Indian communities.

Required Reporting Elements

This report has been prepared by the University of California, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Section 104500(c). One required reporting element, "the number and total dollar amounts of funded and pending research grants including the amount allocated to indirect costs," is addressed in this section (Tables 1-3).

Table 1: TRDRP Income 2020-2025

Fiscal Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	5-year summary
Allocation Prop 99	$8,235,000	$10,402,000	$6,856,000	$10,463,000	$10,314,000	$46,270,000
Allocation Prop 56	$53,020,642	$48,548,803	$40,830,901	$34,932,788	$29,566,000	$206,899,134
Allocation TYCF*				$986,077	$986,077	$1,972,154
Revenue Total	**$61,255,642**	**$58,950,803**	**$47,686,901**	**$46,381,865**	**$40,866,077**	**$255,141,288**

**The Tobacco Youth Cessation Fund (TYCF) is part of a settlement the California Attorney General reached with JUUL Labs in 2023, to be paid through 2030.*

Table 2: TRDRP Research Awards Committed to Fund from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025 by Priority Area

Priority Area	Number of Projects	Amount Committed	Percent of Dollars Funded
Social and behavioral prevention and treatment	125	$126,960,990	38.2%
Environmental exposure and toxicology	45	$48,166,565	14.5%
Cancer-prevention, treatment and biology	75	$39,775,201	12.0%
State and local tobacco control policy research	30	$34,627,786	10.4%
Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases	45	$28,092,847	8.5%
Neuroscience of nicotine addiction and treatment	30	$23,370,857	7.0%
Pulmonary biology and lung diseases	28	$18,183,636	5.5%
Oral diseases and dental health	10	$5,555,502	1.7%
Other tobacco-related health effects	6	$5,057,590	1.5%
COVID Seed and Continuation	40	$2,208,960	0.7%
Total	**434**	**$331,999,934**	**100.0%**

For details on specific grants awarded, please see Appendix C.

Table 3: Project Awards 2020-2025, by Fiscal Year

FISCAL YEAR	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	PENDING GRANTS	GRAND TOTAL
GRANT CYCLE	**31**	**COVID**	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**	
INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR-INITATED AWARDS	62	0	81	25	27	17	212
Direct Costs	*$31,764,459*		*$50,886,743*	*$17,379,524*	*$19,009,469*	*$12,108,086*	*$131,148,281*
Indirect Costs	*$13,003,448*		*$19,707,686*	*$8,468,708*	*$8,456,134*	*$5,927,694*	*$55,563,670*
Total Grant Costs	*$44,767,907*	*$0*	*$70,594,429*	*$25,848,232*	*$27,465,603*	*$18,035,780*	*$186,711,951*
TRAINEE INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED AWARDS	32	0	28	15	13	14	102
Direct Costs	*$4,280,960*		*$4,164,976*	*$3,581,406*	*$3,392,967*	*$3,138,044*	*$18,558,353*
Indirect Costs	*$0*		*$0*	*$0*	*$0*	*$0*	*$0*
Total Grant Costs	*$4,280,960*	*$0*	*$4,164,976*	*$3,581,406*	*$3,392,967*	*$3,138,044*	*$18,558,353*
SPECIAL INITIATIVE AWARDS	8	40	37	12	11	12	120
Direct Costs	*$1,248,245*	*$1,703,140*	*$19,388,269*	*$9,343,450*	*$9,682,704*	*$5,445,326*	*$46,811,134*
Indirect Costs	*$493,074*	*$362,411*	*$6,707,395*	*$3,176,956*	*$3,125,682*	*$1,981,331*	*$15,846,849*
Total Grant Costs	*$1,741,319*	*$2,065,551*	*$26,095,664*	*$12,520,406*	*$12,808,386*	*$7,426,657*	*$62,657,983*
TOTAL PROJECTS FUNDED	102	40	146	52	51	43	434
Total Direct Costs	*$37,293,664*	*$1,703,140*	*$74,439,988*	*$30,304,380*	*$32,085,140*	*$20,691,456*	*$196,517,768*
Total Indirect Costs	*$13,496,522*	*$362,411*	*$26,415,081*	*$11,645,664*	*$11,581,816*	*$7,909,025*	*$71,410,519*
Total Funds Disbursed	**$50,790,186**	**$2,065,551**	**$100,855,069**	**$41,950,044**	**$43,666,956**	**$28,600,481**	**$267,928,287**

Notes: Special Initiative awards include tobacco policy research centers, thirdhand smoke consortium, community-partnered participatory research grants, smoke- and vape-free scholars initiative, and in 2020, the COVID Emergency Seed Funding and Continuation Funding initiatives. Grants for Cycle 35 have been committed, though not yet paid as of June 30, 2025. Total funds disbursed (Table 3) do not equal funds committed (Table 2) due to payment schedules and budget modifications that occur throughout the life of a grant.

Origin and Evolution of TRDRP

Since its inception in 1988, California's Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program has led the nation and the world in tobacco prevention, cessation and research into evidence-based approaches to each.

Origin

The Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) funds research grants – spanning social, behavioral, and biomedical sciences – that have the common goal of achieving positive health equity for all Californians. TRDRP, part of the Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) administered by the University of California Office of the President (UCOP), was established after passage of Proposition 99, which levied a 25¢ excise tax on cigarette sales. Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Section 104500(c), TRDRP was established "to support research efforts related to the prevention, causes, and treatment of tobacco-related diseases." In 2016, as e-cigarettes flooded the market and youth nicotine use began to rise, the passage of Proposition 56 raised the tax on tobacco products by $2, significantly increasing funding for TRDRP (Fig. 1).

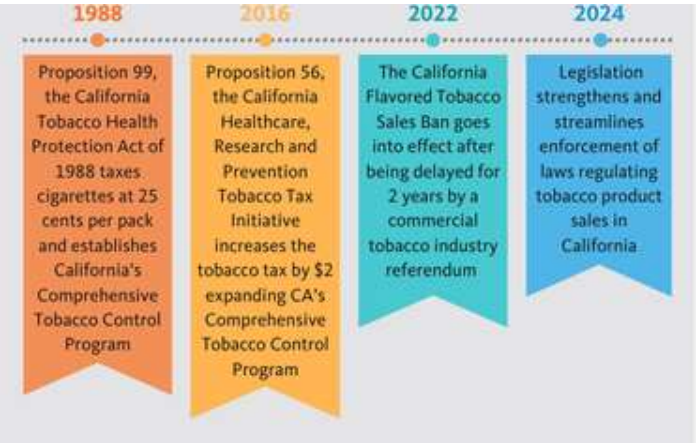

Figure 1: A brief history of California's comprehensive tobacco control program.

California's Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program, as established by Proposition 99, is composed of three state-run agencies: TRDRP, the California Tobacco Prevention Program (CTPP) of the Department of Public Health, and the Tobacco-Use Prevention Program (TUPE) of the Department of Education (Fig. 2). Overseeing these agencies is the Tobacco Education and Research Oversight Committee (TEROC), a legislatively mandated advisory committee charged with overseeing the use of Proposition 99 and Proposition 56 tobacco tax revenues for tobacco control and prevention education and for tobacco-related research.

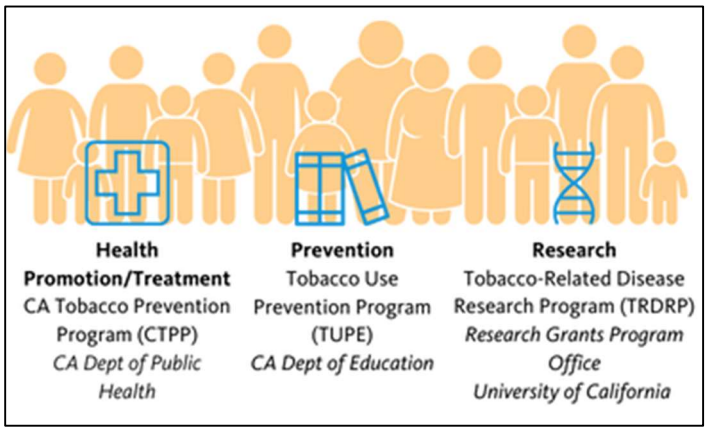

Figure 2: California's comprehensive tobacco control program includes three agencies overseen by TEROC and is anchored in communities affected by commercial tobacco product use.

As a result of over thirty years of work by California's Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program, commercial tobacco product use is declining in California and is projected to continue to decline in future years. Yet, despite having one of the lowest smoking rates in the country, smoking prevalence remains high among California populations that are also plagued by other negative effects of structural and social determinants of health. These "tobacco priority populations" (Fig. 3) continue to experience poor health outcomes while generating the revenue for TRDRP through the taxes they pay for commercial tobacco products. The challenge going forward is to eliminate the disparities in commercial tobacco product use and related diseases despite the reduction in tax-based revenue used by TRDRP to fund research.

Figure 3: Characteristics of tobacco priority populations.

Agencies that make up California's Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program have strengthened their collaboration over the past five years through the "Law and Policy Partnership to End the Commercial Tobacco Epidemic," or Endgame, led by the Public Health Law Center and American Lung Association in California and funded by CTPP. This initiative has convened and supported California state and local professionals as well as tobacco control advocates. The Endgame Policy Platform, developed through this initiative, lays out a series of policy approaches available to communities seeking to change the structural dynamics that sustain the commercial tobacco epidemic. TRDRP-funded research has informed and evaluated the Endgame Initiative as discussed later in this report.

Over the past five years, TRDRP-funded research has also informed a series of legal policies aimed at enhanced protection for vulnerable communities. First SB 793, the Flavored Tobacco Sales Ban ended the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol, and helped turn the tide in the youth vaping epidemic. This law was enacted in 2020, but due to the introduction of a voter referendum, supported by the commercial tobacco industry, the law was not implemented until 2022. A policy brief prepared by the TRDRP-funded Nicotine and Cannabis Policy Center (NCPC) at UC Merced outlined the evidence that flavored tobacco sales bans are critical for tobacco control. This publication helped inform the California public and policy makers in advance of the referendum.

In 2024, AB 3218 and SB 1230 were passed, further strengthening and streamlining enforcement of laws regulating tobacco product sales in California (Fig. 1). Together they established an "Unflavored Tobacco List" (UTL), administered by the State Attorney General, that provides clarity to retailers on which tobacco and nicotine products are legal to sell. In addition, these laws authorize the seizure of prohibited flavored products and increase penalties for retailers and distributors who sell them. Yet, despite these legislative successes, access to addictive nicotine-containing products persists.

For instance, in a study[i] funded by TRDRP, researchers at the UC San Diego Tobacco E-Commerce Lab demonstrated that San Diego-based consumers could easily purchase banned flavored products online without an age-identifying ID swipe verification. TRDRP funds research to document such policy loopholes and disseminates the research results to state and local policy makers to help inform public policy development.

California's Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program has also evolved to leverage new opportunities to protect tobacco-priority populations. In April 2023, a $175.8 million settlement was reached with JUUL Labs, to be paid through 2030. The state has pledged to use these settlement funds for education, research, and enforcement efforts to help lessen and prevent harm caused by addiction to e-cigarettes and nicotine.

Along with CTPP and TUPE, TRDRP has received a portion of the JUUL Labs settlement funds. The TRDRP Youth Cessation Fund (TYCF) was established with these monies to support research on nicotine cessation strategies for tobacco priority populations, in particular, youth and young adults. Between 2023 and 2030, TRDRP will fund a total of $14 million in research grants to address this important issue.

The next section of the report will highlight how TRDRP, in partnership with the other two agencies comprising California's Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program has responded to the challenges of the past five years, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, new and emerging tobacco products and marketing tactics.

Evolution: Meeting the Challenge of the COVID-19 Pandemic

In March 2020, the world came to a screeching halt as the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began. Within the halls of California's research institutions, laboratories went dark, clinical trial participants were told to stay home, and health care workers donned whatever personal protective equipment they could find and treated the thousands of patients whose bodies were racked with symptoms of SARS-CoV. Led by the Research Grants Program Office (RGPO), and TRDRP's sister grant making programs, a plan emerged to fund urgent, short-term projects led by California researchers resulting in actionable research into COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment, or public policy. By mid-April 2020, 33 grants funded by TRDRP totaling $825,000 began to roll out to 16 California institutions (See Appendix C for list of funded grants). Receipt of these funds allowed investigators to resume essential research that would benefit vulnerable populations who were at high-risk for COVID-19 infection through rapid detection and understanding how the disease affected those with tobacco-related diseases.

Researchers at the UC Merced Nicotine and Cannabis Policy Center (NCPC), after finding that post-lockdown cigarette users had higher consumption rates than users who were surveyed before the lockdown went into effect, produced materials in both English and Spanish aimed at reducing secondhand smoke, pointing out its link to increased risk of COVID-19 (Fig. 4). To meet the challenge of increased smoking during the lockdown, Dr. Elisa Tong of UC Davis tested whether the distribution of free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) patches increased enrollment in cessation services. Her team found that free patches generated more than six times the enrollment compared to those without free NRT[ii].

Meanwhile, other TRDRP Grantees whose projects did not involve SARS-CoV busily applied to their institutions for exceptions to allow their labs to remain open, albeit socially distanced, with lab personnel working round-the-clock shifts.

This "research shutdown" impacted nearly 200 of TRDRP's active awards. Principal Investigators were directed by their institutions to continue to pay staff during the shutdown, but very little research was accomplished. To offset this lull in productivity, TRDRP offered a one-time administrative supplement at the end of the grant period to any grant active from March to December 2020 that had research remaining to be completed. This infusion of the equivalent of six months of funding to each project allowed 193 grants to finish their work in spite of the shutdown they endured.

The TRDRP response to the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates innovative stewardship of precious resources and nimbleness that are key to impactful grantmaking. By supporting funded investigators who experienced a research shutdown, TRDRP was able to ensure that the projects were completed leading to new discoveries and countless lives impacted.

Figure 4: Graphics produced by NCPC warning of the harm of secondhand smoke during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Evolution: The Commercial Tobacco Endgame in California

The endgame in chess begins when a few pieces are left on the board and marks a change in strategy on the part of the players. In California, the Commercial Tobacco Product Endgame marks a similar change in strategy by focusing the efforts of California's Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program on ending the epidemic of commercial tobacco use in the state.

TRDRP plays a key role in the Commercial Tobacco Endgame by funding research into prevention, cessation, and policy making interventions to counter the commercial tobacco industry's attempts to addict a new generation to nicotine. TRDRP's sister agencies (Fig. 2) then utilize the results of grantees' research to inform prevention, cessation, and policy making.

Since 2020, the CTPP-funded "Law and Policy Partnership to End the Commercial Tobacco Epidemic," has convened state and local professionals and advocates and supported them in their work in California. The Endgame Policy Platform lays out a series of policy approaches available to communities seeking to change the structural dynamics that sustain the commercial tobacco epidemic. Key to the success of this effort is ensuring that retailers as well as nicotine users are supported while nicotine products are removed from the market.

Beginning in 2022, TRDRP began calling for research to support the Endgame. One project, led by Dr. Sabrina Smiley of San Diego State University, examined the perceptions among Black, adult menthol smokers of menthol cigarette sales restrictions in Los Angeles county. The published results[iii] of this study revealed that while participants were aware of the ban on the sale of menthol in California, they expressed ambivalence toward the ban.

Study participants shared perceptions that the ban specifically targets Black communities and raised concerns that the ban may perpetuate criminalization and over-policing of Black neighborhoods. These results demonstrate that community concerns must be taken into account when making policies impacting a community.

Figure 5: Project SUN Logo Designed by Korby L Skoglund.

Other projects have focused on culturally-tailored cessation strategies, one of the key ways to reduce the use of tobacco among groups that are targeted by the commercial tobacco industry and have higher usage rates than the general population. Project Sun (Fig. 5), the first evidence-based commercial tobacco cessation curriculum adapted for American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) youth, led to a 32% cessation rate among participants at 3 months post-intervention. For reference, quit rates without intervention are typically between 1% and 7% at 3-month follow-ups[iv]. The partnership with members of American Indian tribes was crucial to the success of this intervention.

By funding research to evaluate existing policies as well as to test new policies and interventions, TRDRP has advanced the California Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program's shared goal to end the commercial tobacco epidemic in the state.

Evolution: New Nicotine and Tobacco Products

Since 2020, the commercial tobacco product landscape has shifted significantly. JUUL Labs, maker of the most popular vaping product, has been joined by single-use products such as Bliss Bar and Elf Bar, as well as vapes that allow consumers to vary the amount of nicotine consumed. Geek Bars, featuring digital displays and gamification of their use through social media partnerships, were reported by the NIH-funded Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco (CRST) to be poised to overtake JUUL Labs as the second best-selling vape in convenience stores.

In addition, the oral nicotine pouch maker Zyn received premarket authorization from the FDA in 2024 despite evidence that its products are being used by youth (Fig. 6). These products offer a discrete way to obtain a nicotine fix without alerting adults to nicotine use. In the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey, nicotine pouches were the fourth most used tobacco products among youth, after e-cigarettes, combustible cigarettes, and cigars[v], suggesting that their use has skyrocketed in a short period of time.

Figure 6: (Left) Zyn oral nicotine pouches are offered in several flavors including those that are illegal to sell in California. Source: TECC (Right) Geek Bar confiscated from a student at a California school in 2024. Note that the product is flavored; and was illegal to sell in California in 2024. Source: CRST.

Understanding the communities who use nicotine and tobacco products is a first step to developing targeted prevention and cessation resources. In rural northern California, the prevalence of smoking among adults 18 years of age and older is double that of the state. To understand the underlying social and structural processes that explain these use patterns in rural communities, Dr. Tamar Antin led a study[vi] with rural young adults in California's north central and northeastern counties, often referred to as the North State. Her team surveyed and interviewed 90 young adults throughout the North State. Study participants were disadvantaged socioeconomically and around 80% of participants reported using nicotine and tobacco products in the past month. Understanding the lived experiences of rural residents is critical to developing public health interventions that are compassionate and responsive to the needs of this population.

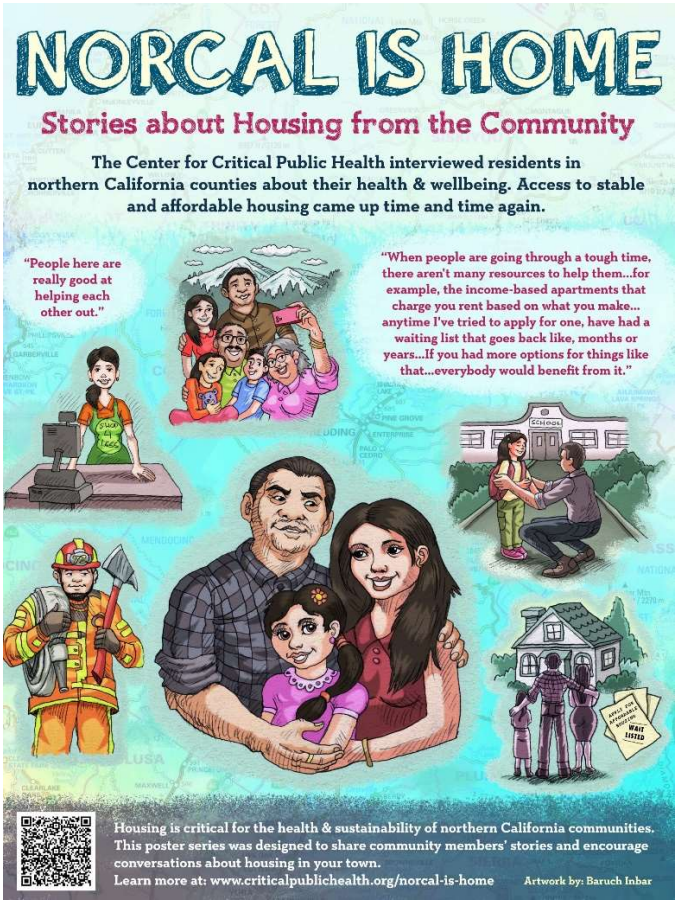

Figure 7: A North State artist, Baruch Inbar, designed a series of posters depicting "personas" of rural housing insecurity based on Dr. Antin's study.

Already Dr. Antin's research has informed a translational science campaign entitled "NorCal is Home" which raises awareness about rural housing insecurity in California's North State. The goal is to address the social and structural conditions of rural communities that may reduce inequities, including preventing addiction (Fig. 7).

Given the proliferation of nicotine products available for sale, TRDRP has funded research focused on understanding the impact of the waste produced by new nicotine and tobacco products (Fig. 8). Building on the previously demonstrated toxicity of nicotine and electronic waste, the TRDRP-funded San Diego State University Center for Tobacco and the Environment, led by Dr. Georg Matt, analyzed the presence of commercial tobacco product waste in 60 census blocks in the eight largest cities in San Diego County. Based on their analysis, increased removal efforts are financially untenable and impractical and, on their own, will not solve the problem. Dr. Matt's team suggests that community-wide policies (e.g., filter bans, outdoor smoking restrictions) and individual behavior changes (e.g., reduced smoking rates, proper disposal of cigarette butts) are also needed to effectively mitigate the environmental impact of tobacco and e-cigarette waste in urban settings[vii].

Figure 8: Tobacco Product Waste found in California's natural environment near water. Source: Tobacco Education Clearinghouse of California (TECC).

TRDRP Impact: outcomes in support of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

In 2020 TRDRP developed a new strategic plan to guide impactful research grant making over the next five years (Fig. 9). Developed through close consultation between TRDRP stakeholders and program staff, the plan has provided a framework for TRDRP's work.

Figure 9: TRDRP 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Goals.

Outcomes in support of Goal 1

Goal 1: Serve as the leader in cutting-edge tobacco research by identifying and advancing innovative funding strategies that will drive policy and systems change.

Endgame Research Focus

Beginning in 2022, TRDRP explicitly called for research into new commercial tobacco products and research to support the state's Endgame goals in the TRDRP Calls for Applications.

Funding Implementation Research

Community Practice-Based Implementation Research (CPBIR) projects, detailed in the 2020 report to the legislature, were awarded and completed. These projects utilized implementation research strategies to improve access to and quality of cessation care for Medi-Cal patients in community healthcare facilities.

Maternal Smoking Cessation

In 2024, TRDRP developed the Maternal Smoking Cessation Initiative (MSCI). This initiative prioritizes research to develop, implement, and evaluate culturally-tailored commercial tobacco cessation interventions specifically designed to improve health outcomes for pregnant individuals residing in communities disproportionately impacted by tobacco-related illness and adverse maternal outcomes.

Funded MSCI projects will cultivate sustainable interventions that effectively address the unique needs and challenges faced by pregnant people in communities characterized by high rates of poverty, limited healthcare access, and structural and social factors.

Research to Inform Policy

Finally, as a funding strategy designed to inform policy and drive systems change, TRDRP re-launched a Call for Applications for Tobacco Policy Research Centers (TPRC), which are multi-disciplinary collaborative centers working in partnership with advocates, community members, policymakers, and other key stakeholders. Funded TPRCs identify commercial tobacco policy research needs and their potential bi-directional impact on national policy, evaluate the policy impacts and disseminate the findings. They also contribute to new policy formulation as well as implementation of existing policies. The three TPRCs currently supported by TRDRP focus on nicotine and cannabis policy research, cessation policy research, and tobacco and environmental policies.

- ★ Tobacco Cessation Policy Research Center (UC Davis)
- ★ Nicotine and Cannabis Policy Center (UC Merced)
- ★ Policy Research Center for Tobacco and the Environment (San Diego State University)

Figure 10: Tobacco Policy Research Centers are located throughout California.

Outcomes in support of Goal 2

Goal 2: Utilize collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to identify key research needs and to implement effective dissemination strategies for impactful tobacco control policymaking.

To better leverage the increased research output resulting from the Proposition 56 funding, TRDRP formed a dissemination team to address gaps in communication with TRDRP's partners in California tobacco control (i.e., the California Tobacco Prevention Program (CTPP) and Tobacco Use Prevention and Education (TUPE); See Fig. 2). Beginning in 2022, the team generated a series of articles and fact sheets focused on disseminating the results of TRDRP research. Launched in 2023, the TRDRP quarterly newsletter is emailed to more than 2,000 users with an email open rate of over 50% - higher than the average. In addition, the team regularly connects TRDRP's partners with TRDRP-funded researchers to provide data and expertise for crafting prevention and cessation messages. These efforts have also forged collaborations between TRDRP-funded researchers and those working at the front lines of tobacco control.

TRDRP has deepened its relationships with partner agencies (CTPP and TUPE) to inform TRDRP's grantmaking by surfacing research gaps and understanding the needs of stakeholders working on the front lines of tobacco control in California. Tri-agency presentations to TEROC on tobacco-related health equity and rural tobacco prevention and cessation were made in 2023 and 2024. In addition, dissemination of research results to public health and education stakeholders have increased. Most recently, TRDRP has partnered with Rover, the private CTPP tobacco control library, to ensure that research from TRDRP grantees is accessible to public health stakeholders.

This connection between TRDRP researchers and TUPE also has led to a statewide program that trains youth on Thirdhand Smoke (THS) detection and measurement through a collaboration between California's "Friday Night Live" Partnership and the Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center (THSRC, Fig. 11). The collaboration began in 2023 during a presentation to TUPE Coordinators about student-led THS research with the Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center's Dr. Lydia Greiner. The presentation caught the attention of TUPE's state leadership and California Friday Night Live Partnership (FNL), an innovative youth leadership development program focusing on substance use prevention.

The two organizations began a collaboration by selecting 20 FNL chapters from across the state to participate in THS research projects measuring nicotine levels in school bathrooms. Students will receive training in how to collect samples using DIY kits and each selected school will collect samples over several months, send them back to THSRC for analysis, and then ultimately present the findings at their FNL chapters.

Figure 11: The Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center provides a wealth of information about its potential health effects. Through a partnership with Friday Night Live, the center has state-wide program to train youth to detect and measure thirdhand smoke.

Outcomes in support of Goal 3

Goal 3: Support communities most vulnerable to tobacco-related health disparities by providing real time, relevant, and actionable research findings to promote health equity and reduce negative impacts of tobacco in all California communities.

Community-Partnered Participatory Research

As described in the 2020 report to the legislature, TRDRP has a long history of supporting community-partnered research. These efforts have continued resulting in funding of 21 Community-Partnered Participatory Research Awards (CPPRA) and an investment of over $30 million (see Appendix C for additional information on the topics of these projects).

Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars

TRDRP provides training opportunities that diversify the research pipeline and expand the tobacco control workforce (see Fig. 13). The Smoke- and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative (SVFSI), launched in 2021, trains a new generation of tobacco researchers from tobacco priority populations as defined as those who use tobacco at higher rates, experience greater secondhand smoke exposure, are disproportionately targeted by the industry, and/or have higher rates of tobacco-related disease (Fig. 3). California Community Colleges and California State Universities are uniquely positioned to lead SVFSI grants given their role in training undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and master's degree students. In partnership with a California doctorate-granting institution, they direct programs for cohorts of scholars to conduct mentored tobacco-related research, while also participating in local tobacco control projects and other educational activities.

TRDRP funded six SVFSI grantee teams in the first round in 2022 and another two in the 2023 cycle. Each team received four years of funding and supported up to 15 scholars. The goal of this initiative is to stimulate student enthusiasm for tobacco related research and foster engagement and persistence of the next generation of researchers that represent different tobacco priority populations.

Research Grants and Supplements

TRDRP further supports trainees with research grants for predoctoral and postdoctoral scholars as well as grant supplements to support students and community members in their initial entry into the field of tobacco-related research. One such supplement recipient, Dr. Alec Calac, earned his PhD through the UCSD-SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health and is currently finishing medical school at the University of California, San Diego. He is a member of the Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians, and he used his funding to compare and contrast social media representations of commercial tobacco use with traditional American Indian tobacco use. Mentored by TRDRP grantee Dr. Timothy Mackey, Dr. Calac found that commercial tobacco advertising often misrepresents or misappropriates traditional indigenous uses of tobacco[viii]. His work may help inform stronger regulation of online tobacco advertising targeted to communities that experience tobacco-related health disparities. Dr. Calac noted that often investigators approach tribal communities for research partnership at the last minute. He stressed the need to co-create research projects with impacted communities. He encourages researchers to listen to the community to understand long-term problems they want to solve. The support he received from a TRDRP Cornelius Hopper Diversity Supplement Award allowed him to present his research to tribal leaders, public health researchers, and state and local agencies.

Figure 12: Dr. Alec Calac identified how retail advertisers misuse cultural iconography and traditions specific to Indigenous Peoples to market commercial tobacco.

Trainee Career and Professional Development Webinar Series and In-Person Research Symposium

In 2024, TRDRP launched a two-part trainee career and professional development initiative. It consisted of an online four-part webinar series, and a day-and-a-half in-person research symposium.

In addition to TRDRP, the workshops were co-developed by RepresentED Leadership and Activate to Captive, both women-owned professional development-focused companies based in California. The workshops were split across the following 4 sessions:

- Session 1: "What is Your North Star?" included a series of exercises and discussions aimed at uncovering the true passions of participants and aligning their passions with actionable steps.
- Session 2: "Scientific Storytelling" focused on how to improve communication skills for researchers including crafting a personal pitch, distilling complex information to an engaging narrative, and connecting and engaging audiences.
- Session 3: "From Passion to Profession: Tobacco Control Career Panel" gathered professionals working in tobacco control in fields of research, public health, policy advocacy, and community outreach.
- Session 4: "Navigating the Hybrid Workforce" equipped participants to navigate hybrid work models that combine remote and in-person work as well as to effectively use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to gather, analyze, and interpret information more efficiently.

In September 2024, TRDRP hosted a two-day in-person trainee research symposium in Oakland, CA. Attendees learned about the history of commercial tobacco industry marketing from Keynote Speaker, Dr. Lucy Popova, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Behavioral Sciences at Georgia State University. trainees also had the opportunity to present their research in a research poster session where they received feedback from peers and more established researchers. The event was informative and energizing for future leaders of tobacco control in California.

Figure 13 describes how TRDRP supports trainees at different stages of their careers thereby strengthening the pipeline of tobacco control researchers in California.

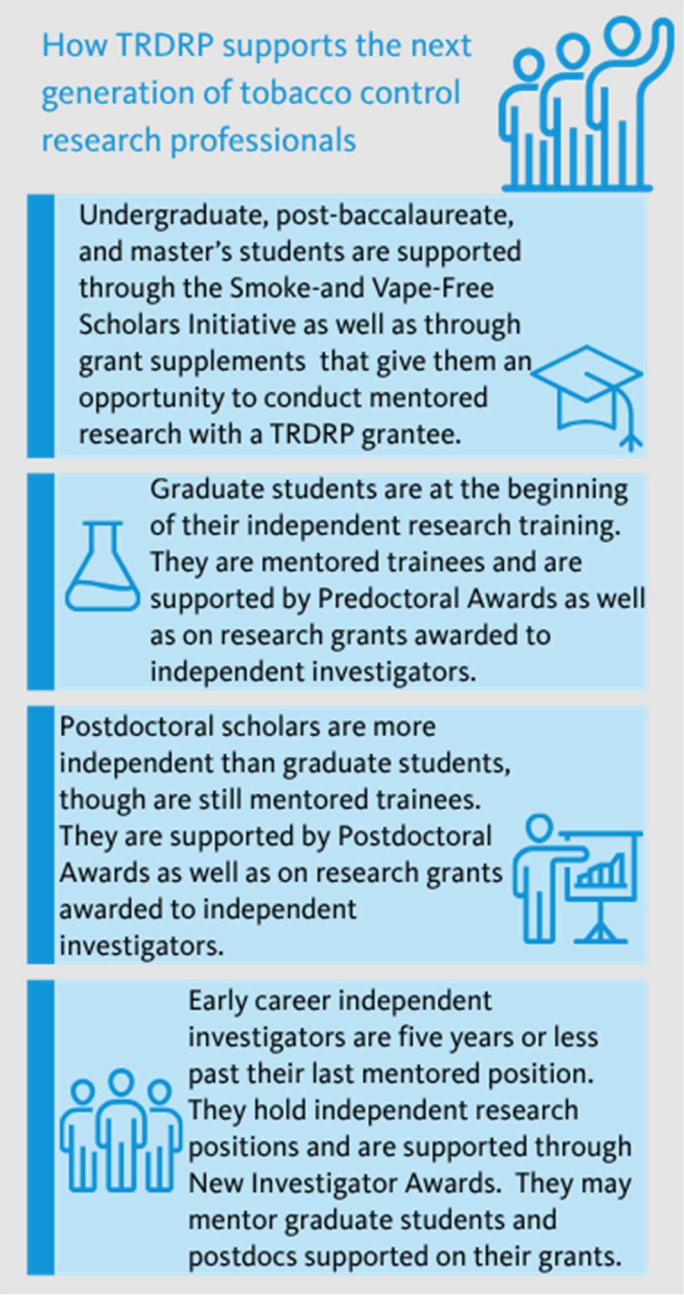

Figure 13: TRDRP supports trainees at all career stages with the goal of creating a workforce that reflects California's population.

Outcomes in support of Goal 4

Goal 4: Strive for excellence in the stewardship of grants and grantmaking operations by leveraging key partnerships, evaluating and improving processes and procedures, and enabling staff development.

Stewardship

TRDRP has maintained its commitment to excellence in the stewardship of grants and grantmaking operations over the past five years. Since Proposition 56 raised the tax of tobacco products by two dollars in 2017, tobacco sales have dropped leading to a decline in TRDRP funding that is expected to continue in the years ahead. Despite the decline in revenue, grant applications remain robust leading to a decrease in funding rates since 2018 (Fig. 14). To meet this challenge, in 2024 TRDRP undertook an effort to focus limited resources on research with the highest likelihood of impacting current and former commercial tobacco product users. Going forward, studies are required to have outcomes that will inform prevention of commercial tobacco product use and/or be informative or beneficial for current and prior commercial tobacco product users. TRDRP will prioritize funding studies that will provide an immediate impact on the California Commercial Tobacco Endgame.

Process Improvement

In 2020, the Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) instituted a new grants database, SmartSimple, offering an opportunity for improved efficiency and alignment of business practices. In collaboration with sister grantmaking programs in RGPO, TRDRP has begun instituting more equitable grantmaking practices, particularly in the peer review process. Going forward, TRDRP business practices will continue to be reviewed by TRDRP and RGPO staff to determine processes that should be retained, modified, or ended.

Staff Development

To further TRDRP staff's knowledge and understanding of the many groups impacted by tobacco product use and to facilitate bi-directional communication with stakeholders, the TRDRP dissemination team has invited guest presenters to share and discuss novel research findings and recent publications during monthly staff meetings. Topics include best practices for community-partnered research and grantmaking, tobacco use in LGBTQIA+ communities, rurality and tobacco, tobacco policy at a state and national level, and tobacco use and exposure in Black/African American communities throughout California. TRDRP will continue to invite guests who can speak to best practices in tobacco-related research, equitable grantmaking practices, and partnering with communities most vulnerable to tobacco-related health disparities.

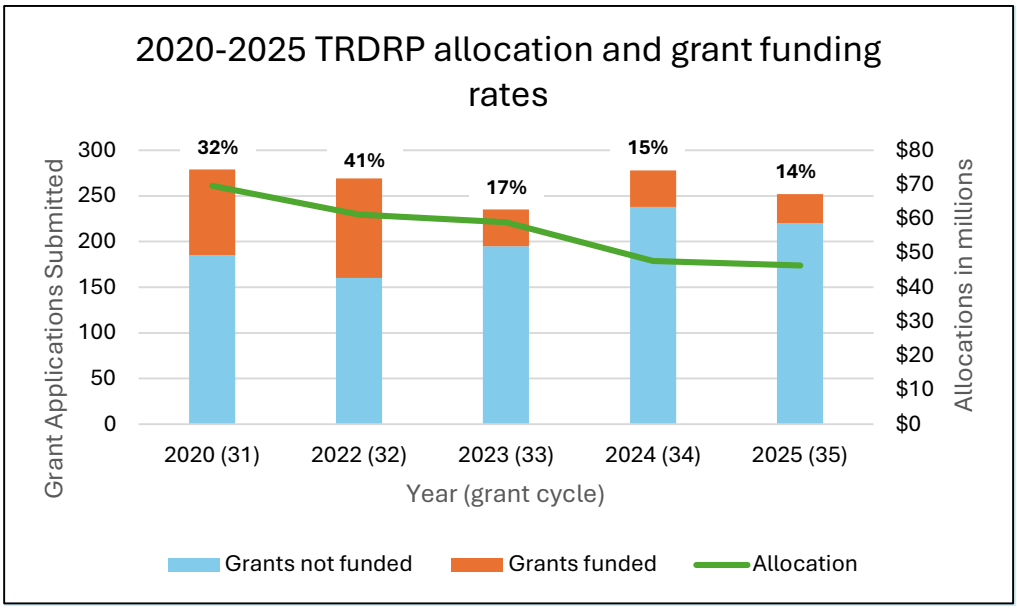

Figure 14: As commercial tobacco product sales have decreased in California, allocations to TRDRP from Proposition 99 and Proposition 56 have also decreased. Since 2020, TRDRP allocations (green line) have decreased by 30% while grant applications held steady (bars). Thus, funding rates are less than half what they were in 2020 (14% vs. 32%). Note: no competitive grant cycle was held in 2021 because of COVID; details on TRDRP's activities during the pandemic may be found earlier in this report.

Future Directions

Looking forward, TRDRP will continue to focus the limited available resources on research with the highest likelihood of impacting current and former commercial tobacco product users. TRDRP will continue to focus funding on studies with outcomes that will inform prevention of initiation of commercial tobacco product use and/or be informative or beneficial for current and prior commercial tobacco product users.

In addition, TRDRP will continue to invest funds from the Tobacco Youth Cessation Fund to better understand trends in youth nicotine use, the health impacts of nicotine, as well as effective cessations strategies for youth and young adults.

Finally, TRDRP plans to continue to invest in research grants that will further understanding of the societal impacts of tobacco product use. Example topics that are ripe for exploration are:

- The impact that recreational cannabis laws have on hard-won anti-smoking ordinances and the prevalence and health impacts of nicotine and THC co-use.
- The economic impact of tobacco product use in California. Building on the 2009 report, "The Cost of Smoking in California," an investigation in to the impacts of new tobacco products and new tobacco control legislation will be pursued.
- The environmental impact of tobacco and e-cigarette product waste. The waste from these products has become dangerously pervasive and demands upstream approaches to limiting its impact on the environment.

Appendix A: Section 104500 of the Health and Safety Code

“It is further the intent of the Legislature that on or before December 31, 2010, and every five years thereafter, the University of California transmit programmatic, as well as financial, reports to the state, including a report on the grants made, pending grants, program accomplishments, and the future direction of the program.”

Appendix B: TRDRP Staff and Scientific Advisory Committee Members

The Legislature, Proposition 99, and Health and Safety Code Sections 104500-104545 mandate the structure of the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program. During the period covered by this report, TRDRP staff has included a program director, four to five program officers, and a project policy analyst. The TRDRP program director and program officers all hold doctoral degrees and deep knowledge of research and grantmaking.

Proposition 99 also mandated the development of a Scientific Advisory Committee that would serve as the primary program advisory board for TRDRP. Members of the Scientific Advisory Committee advise the University of California on the direction and priorities of TRDRP. They also make funding recommendations for each cycle of peer-reviewed funded grants. Scientific Advisory Committee members represent research institutions, community resources, and scientific fields involved in tobacco-related disease research and major California organizations involved in tobacco control efforts.

Current Staff

Tracy Richmond McKnight, Ph.D.
Director

Marjannie Akintunde, Ph.D.
Program Officer for Biomedical Sciences and Health Equity

Danyetta Anderson, Ph.D.
Program Officer for Biomedical Sciences and Health Equity

Ginny Delaney, Ph.D.
Senior Program Officer for Biomedical Sciences

Joanne D'Silva, Ph.D., MPH
Program Officer for Social Behavioral Sciences

Maggie Kulik, Ph.D.
Senior Program Officer for State and Local Policy

Becky Theilmann, Ph.D.
Program Officer for Biomedical Sciences

Rebecca Williams, Ph.D.
Program Officer for Social Behavioral Sciences

Tashelle Wright, Ph.D.
Associate Program Officer

Jen Jackson, B.S.
Project Policy Analyst

Current Scientific Advisory Committee Members

Hala Madanat, Ph.D.
Co-Chair
Interim Vice President of Research and Innovation
Distinguished Professor, School of Public Health
Core Investigator, Institute for Behavioral and Community Health
San Diego State University
Representing: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Institution

Enid Neptune, M.D.
Co-Chair
Associate Professor
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
Institute of Genetic Medicine
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Representing: Professional Medical Organization

Tara Aghaloo, D.D.S, M.D, Ph.D.
Professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
UCLA School of Dentistry
Representing: Professional Medical Organization

Benjamin Bowser, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Department of Sociology and Social Services
California State University East Bay
Representing: Social Behavioral Research

I. Jean Davis, Ph.D., D.C., P.A., F.A.I.H.M.
Associate Professor, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Board Member, Academy of Integrative Health and Medical (AIHM)
BIPOC Committee Co-Chair, AIHM
Board Member, Beyond AIDS
Representing: Community-Based Provider

Naomi Hamburg, M.D., M.Sc.
Associate Professor
Boston University School of Medicine
Representing: Biomedical Research

Jerold A. Last, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
University of California, Davis
Representing: Environmental Sciences

John Maa, M.D.
Ex-Officio Member
Marin General Hospital
President, Northern California Chapter of the American College of Surgeons
Board of Directors, American Heart Association, San Francisco Division
Representing: TEROC Representative

Tanya Payyappilly, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Executive Officer
Breathe California
Representing: Voluntary Health Organization

Chunxia Wang, Ph.D.
Education Research and Evaluation Consultant
Tobacco Use Prevention Education Office
California Department of Education
Representing: California Department of Education

Rebecca Williams, Dr.P.H., M.P.H.
Chief, Evaluation and Surveillance Section
California Tobacco Control Program
California Department of Public Health
Representing: California Department of Public Health

Past Scientific Advisory Committee Members

Susan Bradshaw, M.D., M.P.H.
Physician Specialist
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Representing: Community-Based Provider

Jim Knox, M.P.P.
Managing Director, Government Relations
American Cancer Society
Representing: Voluntary Health Organization

David Lee, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director, Cardiac Catheterization and Intervention Laboratories
Director, Interventional Cardiology Fellowship Program
Stanford University School of Medicine
Representing: Voluntary Health Organization

Erica Costa, M.P.P.A.
Advocacy Director
American Lung Association
Representing: Voluntary Health Organization

Karina Camacho
Policy Manager
Tobacco Control
American Lung Association in California
Representing: Voluntary Health Organization

John Crockett, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President Research Advancement
San Diego State University
Representing: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Institution

Robert J. MacCoun, Ph.D.
Professor
Stanford Law School
Representing: Independent Research University of CA

Appendix C: Tables of TRDRP Grants Awarded July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025, by Research Priority Area.

Note: 2025 grants have been committed but not yet awarded as of June 30, 2025. Links to the RGPO Public Research Grant Database for 2025 grants were not yet available at the time of this report.

COVID Seed and Continuation

Call Name	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	A graphene-based multiplexed sensor for ultra-fast and low-cost COVID-19 diagnosis and monitoring	Wei Gao	California Institute of Technology	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Deep learning radiographic early detection of COVID-19 pneumonia	Albert Hsiao	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Enabling rapid point-of-care diagnostics through genotype screening of Covid-19 virus	Prabhakar Bandaru	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	PPE for All: Simple Strategies to Protect Vulnerable Populations	Jesse Jokerst	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Rapid Examination of Collateral Threats to Population Behavioral Health during the COVID19 Pandemic	Alicia Nobles	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	AI-guided rapid repurposing of therapeutics for COVID-19	Pradipta Ghosh	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Determining the effects of smoking/vaping on COVID-19 lung disease severity	Brigitte Gomperts	University of California, Los Angeles	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Developing Natural Language Processing Tools for Mining the Rapidly Evolving COVID-19 Literature	Huolin Xin	University of California, Irvine	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Forecasting hospital bed resources needed to address the COVID-19 outbreak in California counties	Natasha Martin	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Intelligent design of antibodies targeting SARS-CoV-2	Wei Wang	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Supporting LGBTQ+ Individuals during COVID-19	Katherine Soule	University of California, ANR	$20,645
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	AI-based Platform to Predict COVID-19 Progress and Outcome based on Patients' Chest X-ray	Arash Kheradvar	University of California, Irvine	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Impact of Cigarette Smoking and e-Cigarette Vaping on COVID-19	Soumita Das	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Service Utilization and Survival Strategies of Unsheltered Homeless During the COVID-19 Pandemic	Megan Welsh	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$13,280
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Stratifying COVID-19 patients for predisposition and treatment of heart disease	Kelly Frazer	University of California, San Diego	$25,000

COVID Seed and Continuation

Call Name	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Interleukin Receptor Antagonist Immunosuppression of COVID-19 Hyperinflammation in COPD mice	Ellen Breen	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Novel Mechanisms of Smoking-Related Severe COVID-19 Lung Injury: Insights and Applications to Vaping	Holly Middlekauff	University of California, Los Angeles	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Relationship Between Smoking, Vaping, and Covid Infection	Prue Talbot	University of California, Riverside	$24,268
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	SARS-CoV-2 proteome interaction with host transcriptome	Gene Yeo	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Understanding the social determinants of the COVID-19/tobacco link: survey of Central Valley Latinx	Anna Song	University of California, Merced	$21,727
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Cardiovascular Risk Factors, Antihypertensives and Covid-19 Infection Severity and Progression.	Nisha Parikh	University of California, San Francisco	$24,747
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Considering COVID-19 in an Urban Environmental Justice Community: Impacts, Resilience, and Stressors	Jill Johnston	University of Southern California	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Culturally Tailored COVID-19 Risk Awareness for CA Middle Eastern/North African Waterpipe Users	Juliet Lee	PIRE California, Inc.	$22,613
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Does marijuana or e-cigarette use upregulate the SARS-CoV-2 receptor ACE2 in airway epithelium?	Matthew Springer	University of California, San Francisco	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Effect of tobacco and e-cigarettes on the immune status and ACE2 levels in COVID-19 infection	Rutherford (Weg) Ongkeko	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Non-contact Home Monitoring of COVID-19 Infections in Patients with Cardiopulmonary Diseases	Kevin King	University of California, San Diego	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Protection of diabetic macaques against SARS-CoV-2 using self-adjuvanting immunogens	Dennis Hartigan-O'Connor	University of California, Davis	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Role of ACE2 Receptors in Morbidity, Mortality, and Therapy for COVID-19 Acute Respiratory Distress	Art Wallace	Northern California Institute for Research & Education	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Smoking as a risk factor for COVID-19 onset and severity	Kelly Young-Wolff	Kaiser Foundation Research Institute	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	The Impact of Smoking, Comorbidities, and Race/Ethnicity on COVID-19 Infection and Disease Severity	Jiang Li	Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Using biomarkers to identify at-risk patients for severe complications from COVID-19	Kevin Grimes	Stanford University	$25,000
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Novel assays for characterizing SARS-CoV-2 transcription	Sushama Telwatte	University of California, San Francisco	$25,000

COVID Seed and Continuation

Call Name	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding	2020	Teen Vaping Patterns During and After COVID Pandemic Shelter-in-Place Orders	Valerie Gribben	University of California, San Francisco	$25,000
COVID-19 Continuation Funding	2020	A Graphene-based Multiplexed Sensor for Ultra-fast and Low-cost COVID-19 Diagnosis and Monitoring	Wei Gao	California Institute of Technology	$257,075
COVID-19 Continuation Funding	2020	Artificial Intelligence Guided Rapid Repurposing of Therapeutics for COVID-19	Pradipta Ghosh	University of California, San Diego	$195,000
COVID-19 Continuation Funding	2020	Innate immune responses against COVID-19 in the elderly and those with underlying conditions	Anshu Agrawal	University of California, Irvine	$195,000
COVID-19 Continuation Funding	2020	Real-Time Population Mental Health Tracking During the COVID-19 Pandemic	Alicia Nobles	University of California, San Diego	$175,902
COVID-19 Continuation Funding	2020	Sewage Surveillance to monitor COVID19 outbreak	Katrine Whiteson	University of California, Irvine	$191,496
COVID-19 Continuation Funding	2020	Smoking and COVID-19 onset and severity in a US integrated healthcare delivery system	Kelly Young-Wolff	Kaiser Foundation Research Institute	$242,210
COVID-19 Continuation Funding	2020	The UCSC SARS-CoV-2 Genome Browser	Maximilian Haeussler	University of California, Santa Cruz	$149,997

Cancer-prevention, treatment and biology

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
New Investigator Award	2020	Determining the carcinogenic potential of tobacco in pancreatic cancer	Dannielle Engle	Salk Institute for Biological Studies	$1,344,400
Pilot Award	2020	Evaluation of the effects of tobacco smoking on clinical outcomes in children treated for leukemia	Catherine Metayer	University of California, Berkeley	$563,862
Pilot Award	2020	Relationship between Galectin-1 and Radiation in Mobilizing MDSC in Head and Neck Cancer	Quynh-Thu Le	Stanford University	$297,026
Pilot Award	2020	Preclinical development of a first-in-class PCNA inhibitor for treating small cell lung cancer	Linda Malkas	Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope	$704,000
Pilot Award	2020	Repurposing GPCR-targeted drugs for the treatment of pancreatic cancer	Paul Insel	University of California, San Diego	$650,000
Pilot Award	2020	Exploring the Role of LINE-1 Retrotransposon Silencing in Cigarette-Related Lung Cancer Recurrence	Charles Spruck	Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute	$975,000
Pilot Award	2020	Exploring DNA Polymerase Eta as a Target to Overcome the Resistance to Platinum-based Drugs in NSCLC	Jin Zhang	University of California, Davis	$595,864
Pilot Award	2020	Developing a blood-based assay for early lung cancer detection	Maximilian Diehn	Stanford University	$630,800
Pilot Award	2020	Understanding the Role of FOXP3 in Regulating Expression of PD-L1 and Anti-tumor Immunity	Arnold Chin	University of California, Los Angeles	$620,000
Pilot Award	2020	Elucidating the mechanism by which cg05575921 predicts lung cancer risk	Ite Offringa	University of Southern California	$789,763
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Investigating the cell of origin for hepatocellular carcinoma	Eunsun Kim	Stanford University	$44,957
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Investigating the cell of origin for hepatocellular carcinoma	Eunsun Kim	University of California, San Francisco	$76,004
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Uncovering synthetic lethal interactors with TP53 mutations for therapeutic targeting	Mengxiong Wang	Stanford University	$207,300
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Genetic determinants of immune evasion by metastatic lung cancer	Jess Hebert	Stanford University	$103,936
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Chemical Proteomics Manipulation of RNA Binding Proteins in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer	Jian Cao	University of California, Los Angeles	$204,336
Postdoctoral Award	2020	A New Target for Lung Cancer Immunotherapy: RNA Editing	Shibin Hu	Stanford University	$207,300
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Clonal dynamics in lung adenocarcinoma	Gabor Zoltan Boross	Stanford University	$233,200
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Multiplexed genetic analysis of KRAS hypermutations in Lung Cancer of smokers in mice model	Yi Ding	University of California, Berkeley	$65,152
Predoctoral Award	2020	Non-invasive detection of cell-free RNA expression signatures in lung cancer	Monica Nesselbush	Stanford University	$157,011
Predoctoral Award	2020	Elucidating the role of PEA3 transcription factors in progression of small cell lung cancer	David Shia	David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA	$82,307

Cancer-prevention, treatment and biology

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Predoctoral Award	2020	Understanding Genetic Interactions in the p53 Network in Lung Adenocarcinoma Suppression	Anthony Boutelle	Stanford University School of Medicine	$75,394
Predoctoral Award	2020	Global Profiling of Cell Surface Markers for Lung Cancers	Tianyang Yan	University of California, Los Angeles	$142,203
Predoctoral Award	2020	Generation of engineered innate lymphoid cells for cancer immunotherapy using pluripotent stem cells	Suwen Li	University of California, Los Angeles	$94,306
Predoctoral Award	2020	The serine-threonine kinase LKB1 regulates chromatin state in lung adenocarcinoma	Sarah Pierce	Stanford University	$51,713
Predoctoral Award	2020	Exploring the Periostin-mediated Cooperative Metastasis in Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma	Moe Ishihara	University of California, Los Angeles	$135,381
New Investigator Award	2022	Adverse Events from Tobacco/Nicotine Dependence and Impacts on Cancer Patient Clinical Experiences	Raphael Cuomo	University of California, San Diego	$758,482
Pilot Award	2022	Targeting organelle homeostasis in non-small cell lung cancer	Begona Diaz	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation	$735,503
Pilot Award	2022	Lactate efflux inhibitors plus immunotherapy for the treatment of lung cancer	Dylan Conklin	University of California, Los Angeles	$646,170
Pilot Award	2022	A Novel Murine Single Cell RNA Sequencing Model for Small Cell Lung Cancer Development/Recurrence	Ite Offringa	University of Southern California	$812,310
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Understanding Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Evolution from Different Cells of Origin	Sofia Ferreira	Stanford University	$196,095
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Spatial control of receptor signaling in pancreatic cancer and impact of tobacco use	Yonghoon Kwon	University of California, San Diego	$156,532
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Developing new inhibitors of mutant KRAS to treat tobacco-related lung cancers	Gregory Craven	University of California, San Francisco	$213,480
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Uncovering the molecular basis of nicotine-induced breast cancer recurrence	Aida Mestre Farrera	University of California, San Diego	$200,196
Postdoctoral Award	2022	T cells in SCLC: tilting the balance towards anti-cancer effects	Maya Gershcovich	Stanford University	$207,300
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Tracing the evolution of pancreatic cancers and implementing vaccine therapy for early interception	Michael Hamilton	University of California, San Diego	$25,945
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Imbalanced signaling of Protein Kinase C (PKC) isozymes in Colorectal Cancer	Qi Su	University of California, San Diego	$208,057
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Development of a novel RNA therapeutic to treat lung cancer	Rohini Datta	Stanford University	$57,205
Predoctoral Award	2022	Cell-free DNA methylation as a noninvasive biomarker for residual lung cancer	Diego Almanza	Stanford University	$162,194
Predoctoral Award	2022	Computational Methods for Early Detection of Lung Cancer	Ran Hu	University of California, Los Angeles	$156,618

Cancer-prevention, treatment and biology

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Predoctoral Award	2022	Quantitative functional genomics of cancer drivers in small cell lung cancer	Myung Chang Lee	Stanford University	$36,639
Predoctoral Award	2022	Investigating the determinants of lung tumor growth in malignant pleural effusion lung disease (MPE)	Edgar Perez Reyes	University of California, Los Angeles	$156,048
Predoctoral Award	2022	Identifying RNA isoforms as novel biomarkers of lung cancer	vikas peddu	University of California, Santa Cruz	$161,697
Predoctoral Award	2022	Multimodal precision therapy to prevent tobacco-related head and neck cancer	Thomas Hoang	University of California, San Diego	$156,105
Predoctoral Award	2022	Vitamin A Derivative-Mediated Inhibition of Immune Suppression in Lung Cancer	William Crosson	University of California, Los Angeles	$156,048
Research Award	2022	Therapeutic approach to prevent cancer cell adaptation to tobacco-induced stress and inflammation	David Cheresh	University of California, San Diego	$1,209,994
Research Award	2022	Understanding Racial Disparities in Head and Neck Cancer	Uchechukwu Megwalu	Stanford University	$850,681
Research Award	2022	Tobacco product regulation of breast cancer stemness and progression	Jay Desgrosellier	University of California, San Diego	$1,210,000
Research Award	2022	Therapeutically Targeting Mitochondrial Metabolism in Therapy-Resistant Non Small Cell Lung Cancer	David Shackelford	University of California, Los Angeles	$1,126,842
Research Award	2022	Impact of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Devices on clonal hematopoiesis and hematologic malignancies	Angela Fleischman	University of California, Irvine	$1,170,000
Research Award	2022	Engineered Chimeric Antigen Receptor-Natural Killer Cellular Therapy for Non-small Cell Lung Cancer	Bin Liu	University of California, Los Angeles	$1,170,000
Research Award	2022	Novel nano-immunotherapeutic agent against non-small cell lung cancer	Kit Lam	University of California, Davis	$1,170,000
New Investigator Award	2023	Targeting Pulmonary Oxygen Toxicity During Treatment of COPD and Lung Cancer	Isha Jain	J. David Gladstone Institutes	$1,134,000
Postdoctoral Award	2023	Inferring gene expression from cell-free DNA for predicting response to immunotherapy in lung cancer	Soyeong Jun	Stanford University	$322,988
Postdoctoral Award	2023	Defining the role of APOE secreted from senescent fibroblasts in lung adenocarcinoma	Jinyoung Lee	University of California, San Francisco	$324,750
Predoctoral Award	2023	Immunologic response to CCL21-dendritic cell vaccine in non-small cell lung cancer	Michael Oh	University of California, Los Angeles	$243,380
Predoctoral Award	2023	Characterizing the impact of aging on the effects of PTEN loss in lung adenocarcinoma	Emily Shuldiner	Stanford University	$82,908
Predoctoral Award	2023	Urine liquid biopsy applications for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer	William Shi	Stanford University	$145,212
Research Award	2023	Simultaneously Targeting Tumor and Tumor Microenvironment for Lung Cancer Therapy	Zhaoxia (Julia) Qu	University of Southern California	$1,485,000
Research Award	2023	Vascular control of onco-immune responses in a smoking related cancer	Eugene Butcher	Palo Alto Veterans Institute For Research	$1,278,000

Cancer-prevention, treatment and biology

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Research Award	2023	Role of Honeybadger, a novel allosteric modulator of KRAS signaling in lung cancer	Anindya Bagchi	Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute	$1,755,000
Pilot Award	2024	Targeting a Novel Lung Cancer Membrane Vulnerability through Pulsed Magnetic Fields	Mark Fuster	Veterans Medical Research Foundation	$715,682
Pilot Award	2024	Dissecting Genotype-driven Metastatic Ability	Monte Winslow	Stanford University	$749,620
Postdoctoral Award	2024	Investigate Genetic Drivers and Dependencies in Lung Adenocarcinoma to Combat Tobacco-Related Cancer	Haiqing Xu	Stanford University	$324,750
Postdoctoral Award	2024	LYTAC targeting galectin-1 to enhance radioimmunotherapy of tobacco-related cancers	Yuyan Jiang	Stanford University	$108,750
Postdoctoral Award	2024	Deciphering mechanisms of p53 action in AT1 cell fate determination and lung cancer suppression	Kha Nguyen	Stanford University	$324,750
Research Award	2024	Optimizing small molecule degraders of HELLS helicase to overcome PARP inhibitor resistance in SCLC	Eric Wang	Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute	$1,594,250
Research Award	2024	Novel vulnerabilities of highly aggressive tobacco-associated lung carcinomas	Begona Diaz	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$1,371,268
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2025	Enhancing Primary Care Workflows To Improve Lung Cancer Screening Engagement For Low-Income Patients	David Strong/ Job Godino	University of California, San Diego	$1,349,000
Pilot Award	2025	Dissecting the interplay between tumor genotype and smoking during lung carcinogenesis	Monte Winslow	Stanford University	$750,235
Postdoctoral Award	2025	Investigating the Tumor Immune Microenvironment in KEAP1-Mutated Lung Adenocarcinoma	Anni Zhang	Stanford University	$324,750
Predoctoral Award	2025	Spatiotemporal cGAMP Signaling in Tobacco-induced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Metastasis	Yingqi Zhu	University of California, San Diego	$234,675
Predoctoral Award	2025	Overcoming Resistance to PARP Inhibition in Small-Cell Lung Cancer	Texia Loh	Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute	$199,310
Predoctoral Award	2025	Exploring the role of arrestin domain containing protein 3 in nicotine-driven invasive breast cancer	Oye Bosompra	University of California, San Diego	$233,067
Research Award	2025	Pilot trial of SGLT2 inhibitor dapagliflozin for stage Ia lung adenocarcinoma	Claudio Scafoglio	University of California, Los Angeles	$1,215,000

Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Pilot Award	2020	Developing a luminal coating technology targeting vascular injury to promote reendothelialization	Aijun Wang	University of California, Davis	$519,025
Pilot Award	2020	Protective role of follistatin during electronic cigarette/nicotine (ENDS)-induced atherosclerosis	Rajan Singh	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science	$455,342
Pilot Award	2020	Role of Perm1, a novel mitochondrial regulatory protein in cardiac ischemia	Yoshitake Cho	University of California, San Diego	$650,000
Pilot Award	2020	Wearable Sensors to Monitor Exacerbation Risk In Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	Harry Rossiter	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$801,725
Pilot Award	2020	The role of the NLRP3 inflammasome in e-cigarette-induced cardiac inflammation and remodeling	Shigeki Miyamoto	University of California, San Diego	$650,000
Pilot Award	2020	Gender differences in response to nicotine – role of Akt / Pim-1 signaling axis	Mark Sussman	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$731,338
Pilot Award	2020	Acute Impact of Switching from Tobacco Cigarettes to E-Cigarettes in People Living with HIV	Holly Middlekauff	University of California, Los Angeles	$513,404
Pilot Award	2020	Exosomes and vascular disease risk in new and emerging tobacco products	David Roth	University of California, San Diego	$650,000
Postdoctoral Award	2020	E-cigarette-induced pulmonary endothelial dysfunction in East Asian aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 variant	Xuan Yu	Stanford University	$195,936
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Regulation of endothelial GPCR-ubiquitin driven p38 inflammatory signaling	Anand Patwardhan	University of California, San Diego	$101,948
Postdoctoral Award	2020	The role of systemic mitochondrial dysfunction in COPD and cardiovascular disease risk	Nicholas Tiller	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$237,300
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Elucidating the Mechanism of Tobacco-Related Cardiac Defects using CRISPR Screening	Masataka Nishiga	Stanford University	$167,106
Predoctoral Award	2020	Regulation of PAR1 inflammatory signaling by the alpha-arrestin ARRDC3	Helen Wedegaertner	University of California, San Diego	$132,163
Predoctoral Award	2020	Engineering Extracellular Vesicles for Cardiovascular Repair and Regeneration	Lalithasri Ramasubramanian	University of California, Davis	$96,285
Predoctoral Award	2020	Reprogram nicotine exposed hematopoietic stem cells to inhibit stress induced megakaryopoiesis	Alessandra Rodriguez y Baena	University of California, Santa Cruz	$140,115
Research Award	2020	Prenatal nicotine / tetrahydrocannabinol exposure promotes myocardial damage: a brain-heart parallel	Mark Sussman	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$1,128,750

Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Research Award	2020	Transgenerational Effects of E-cigarette Vapor on Aortic Aneurysm Risk	Joshua Spin	Palo Alto Veterans Institute For Research	$1,046,250
New Investigator Award	2022	Effects of Cigarette Smoke on Inflammation in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation	Padmini Sirish	University of California, Davis	$772,989
Pilot Award	2022	The Impact of Electronic Cigarette and Inhaled Cannabis Co-Use on Cardiovascular Risk in Youth	Holly Middlekauff	University of California, Los Angeles	$641,981
Pilot Award	2022	Investigating neural origins of hypertension by perinatal nicotine exposure	Nicholas Jendzjowsky	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$674,093
Pilot Award	2022	Mechanism underlying perinatal e-cigarette smoke/nicotine-induced cardiac dysfunction in offspring	Virender Rehan	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$708,285
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Influence of the high-risk APOL1 genotypes on tobacco-related heart disease in African Americans	Jelena Mustra Rakic	University of California, San Francisco	$129,990
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Elucidating the Mechanism of Prenatal Nicotine Exposure-Induced Cardiac Defects	Lichao Liu	Stanford University	$206,523
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Elucidating Mechanisms of E-cigarette Mediated Vascular Dysfunction with Human iPSCs	Mao Zhang	Stanford University	$165,047
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Maternal E-cigarette vaping increases risk of ischemic brain injury in newborns	Yong Li	Loma Linda University	$195,705
Research Award	2022	Neural control of heart regenerative potential	Guo Huang	University of California, San Francisco	$1,170,000
Research Award	2022	Dissecting the mechanism of electronic cigarette induced vascular remodeling	Juyong Kim	Stanford University	$1,372,732
Research Award	2022	Identifying the drivers of coronary artery gene-environment interaction in tobacco exposure	Juyong Kim	Stanford University	$1,407,359
Research Award	2022	Dissecting Mechanisms Mediating E-cigarettes Effects on Heart Rate Variability and Atherosclerosis	Jesus Araujo	University of California, Los Angeles	$1,147,519
Research Award	2022	Effect of perinatal nicotine exposure on cerebrovascular network and post-stroke brain repair	Lina Nih	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$193,909
Pilot Award	2023	Mechanisms of the Smoking Paradox in Coronary Artery Vasospasm	Ian Chen	Palo Alto Veterans Institute For Research	$701,754
Pilot Award	2023	Role of Nicotine on Endothelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition in Atherosclerotic Lesions	Ngan Huang	Palo Alto Veterans Institute For Research	$705,800
Pilot Award	2023	Chronic nicotine exposure promotes secretion of dysfunctional mitochondria in EVs from the heart	Asa Gustafsson	University of California, San Diego	$650,000

Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Postdoctoral Award	2023	Smoking-Related PM2.5 Induces Epigenetic Reprogramming of hiPSC-derived Engineered Heart Tissue	Zehra Yildirim	Stanford University	$322,988
Predoctoral Award	2023	Investigating a novel axis regulating repair of vascular barrier function after inflammatory insult	Kyle Jacobs	University of California, San Francisco	$225,785
Predoctoral Award	2023	Macrophages and Cardiovascular Effects Induced by Electronic Cigarettes	Jocelyn Castellanos	University of California, Los Angeles	$247,517
New Investigator Award	2024	Novel therapy to treat nicotine-induced fibrogenesis	hao zhang	Stanford University	$898,428
New Investigator Award	2024	Double trouble: the effects of dual cannabis and tobacco use on vascular function	Leila Mohammadi	University of California, San Francisco	$801,250
Postdoctoral Award	2024	Using a human in vitro platform to study the effects of cannabinoids on the cardiovascular system	Nerea Jimenez Tellez	Stanford University	$324,750
Research Award	2024	Role of Perm1 in cardiac dysfunction - induced by cigarette smoke exposure	Yoshitake Cho	University of California, San Diego	$1,215,000
Research Award	2024	Exposure to e-cigarette in pregnancy programs a cardiac dysfunctional phenotype in offspring	DaLiao Xiao	Loma Linda University	$1,458,000
Pilot Award	2025	The role of PHLPP1 protein in mediating nicotine-induced adolescent brain injury	Nicole Purcell	Huntington Medical Research Institute	$885,000
Predoctoral Award	2025	Determining the Impact of Nicotine Formulations on E-Cigarette Aerosols and Cardiovascular Health	Siri Langmo	University of California, Los Angeles	$257,295
Research Award	2025	Role of follistatin and alpha-7 nicotinic receptor in electronic cigarette induced atherosclerosis	Rajan Singh	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science	$1,192,612
Research Award	2025	Secondhand Exposure to Hookah (Waterpipe) Smoking: Insights into Cardiovascular Disease Risk	Mary Rezk-Hanna	University of California, Los Angeles	$1,214,998

Environmental exposure and toxicology

Call Name	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
New Investigator Award	2020	Eliminating in-home smoking to protect children and other non-smokers	John Bellettiere	University of California, San Diego	$960,738
Pilot Award	2020	Enzyme-Based Antidotal Approach for the Treatment of Acute Nicotine Toxicity	Kim Janda	Scripps Research Institute	$697,116
Pilot Award	2020	Amniotic exosomal extracellular RNA from fetal lung affected by prenatal nicotine exposure	Yong Kim	University of California, Los Angeles	$536,772
Pilot Award	2020	Chemistry of freshly-emitted vaping aerosols: Implications for exposure, uptake and health	Hugo Destaillats	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	$925,237
Pilot Award	2020	Co-Use of Tobacco and Cannabis in Pregnancy	Victoria Cortessis	University of Southern California	$640,268
Research Award	2020	Nicotine Exposure Alters Tissue Glucocorticoid Metabolism and Leads to Hypertension	Yanjun Liu	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science	$1,249,397
Research Award	2020	Identification of affected human metabolites and exogenous compounds in breath of vapers	Cristina Davis	University of California, Davis	$1,084,939
Research Award	2020	Predicting Environmental Waste from Tobacco, Electronic Cigarette, and Marijuana Products	Georg Matt	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$1,128,406
Research Award	2020	Biomarker discovery for prospective studies on new and emerging tobacco products	Ahmad Besaratinia	University of Southern California	$1,237,500
New Investigator Award	2022	Role of maternal preconception exposure to tobacco-related chemicals in multigenerational disease	Raquel Chamorro-Garcia	University of California, Santa Cruz	$766,623
Pilot Award	2022	Perinatal tobacco product exposure on the developing placenta epigenome	Raina Pang	University of Southern California	$818,601
Pilot Award	2022	Engaging Communities in the Tobacco Endgame: Mapping Tobacco Product Litter in the Neighborhood	Georg Matt	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$751,360
Pilot Award	2022	High throughput toxicity assessment of electronic-cigarette and tobacco constituents on reproduction	Jennifer Fung	University of California, San Francisco	$598,990
Pilot Award	2022	Youth co-design of a mobile Personal Exposure Toolkit (PET)	Neil Klepeis	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$664,320
Pilot Award	2022	Differential Characteristics of Active and Passive Vaping Aerosols	Ying-Hsuan Lin	University of California, Riverside	$620,249
Pilot Award	2022	Environmental Toxicity of Electronic Cigarette and Heated Tobacco Product Components and Waste	Jeremiah Mock	University of California, San Francisco	$709,476
Predoctoral Award	2022	Tobacco to Tap: Determination of Tobacco Waste in Groundwater, A Major Drinking Water Resource	Rebecca Reynolds	University of California, Santa Barbara	$164,964
Research Award	2022	Reducing Environmental Exposures to Electronic Cigarettes Aerosols and Associated Health Effects	Yifang Zhu	University of California, Los Angeles	$1,144,666

Environmental exposure and toxicology

Call Name	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Research Award	2022	Toxicity of Recyclable Hookah Tobacco Use Waste and Recycling Behaviors	Nada Kassem	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$1,354,500
Research Award	2022	New biomarkers for tobacco exposure: A focus on secondhand smoke (SHS) and thirdhand smoke (THS)	Peyton Jacob	University of California, San Francisco	$1,169,904
Research Award	2022	Should Pregnant Women Vape? The Effect of Menthol on Human Prenatal Development	Prue Talbot	University of California, Riverside	$1,168,050
Research Award	2022	Measuring Environmental Tobacco and Cannabis: Pollutants and Exposures	Suzaynn Schick	University of California, San Francisco	$1,238,897
Research Award	2022	Chemistry-derived toxicity of electronic-cigarette aerosols	Tran Nguyen	University of California, Davis	$1,157,292
Research Award	2022	Role of pesticides in triggering electronic cigarette associated lung injury	Eric Gross	Stanford University	$1,424,046
Research Award	2022	Role of pulmonary innate lymphoid type II cells in perinatal vaping-induced asthma in offspring	Virender Rehan	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$1,174,059
Research Award	2022	Assessing the disease-causing potential of vaping in youth	Ahmad Besaratinia	University of Southern California	$1,485,000
Research Award	2022	Silicone wristbands to measure secondhand exposure to tobacco, electronic cigarettes and cannabis	Penelope Quintana	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$1,389,342
Research Award	2022	Mechanisms of COPD sustained muscle inflammation impeded myofiber repair and function	Leonardo Nogueira	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$1,302,889
Research Award	2022	Testing electroacupuncture to block maternal nicotine vaping-induced asthma in offspring	Virender Rehan	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$1,313,767
THS Lead Award	2022	California Thirdhand Smoke Consortium	Neal Benowitz	University of California, San Francisco	$3,552,811
THS - Subsidiary Award	2022	Thirdhand Smoke Research Consortium: THS Messaging Among Priority Populations	Rachael Record	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$481,500
THS - Subsidiary Award	2022	THS Chemistry: Exposure assessment, quantification metrics, and remediation	Hugo Destaillats	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	$1,440,000
THS - Subsidiary Award	2022	Melanin and Dermal Uptake of Thirdhand Cigarette Smoke	Suzaynn Schick	University of California, San Francisco	$702,000
THS - Subsidiary Award	2022	Thirdhand Smoke Disparities, Harm and Risk in Children	Penelope Quintana	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$681,998
THS - Subsidiary Award	2022	Genetic Susceptibility to Thirdhand Smoke Effects in Collaborative Cross Mice	Jian-Hua Mao	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	$1,435,274
THS - Subsidiary Award	2022	THS in Homes: Fate, Characterization, and Remediation (Project 5)	Nathan Dodder	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$807,550

Environmental exposure and toxicology

Call Name	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Pilot Award	2023	Disturbance of NAD Metabolism by Nicotine and E-Cigarette Exposure	Charles Brenner	Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope	$880,000
Postdoctoral Award	2023	Characterizing the Lung Deposition of Electronic Cigarette Aerosols Using an Artificial Lung System	Haoxuan Chen	University of California, Los Angeles	$300,822
Research Award	2023	Environmental smoking and inborn genetics: impact on pediatric brain cancers	Joseph Wiemels	University of Southern California	$1,396,313
Research Award	2023	Perinatal nicotine exposure on pancreatic development and adult onset diabetes	Eiji Yoshihara	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$1,453,500
Research Award	2023	Youth vaping: biomarkers of exposure to electronic cigarettes and potential health risks	Ahmad Besaratinia	University of Southern California	$1,485,000
Research Award	2023	Microplastic pollution from cigarette filters: Assessment of fate, transport, and toxicity	Eunha Hoh	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$1,418,162
Research Award	2024	The Role of 11β-HSD1 in E-Cigarette Smoke/Nicotine-induced Insulin Resistance	Yanjun Liu	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science	$1,285,721
Research Award	2024	The Effect of Perinatal Nicotine Exposure on the Lung Circadian Molecular Clock	Virender Rehan	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$1,453,500
Predoctoral Award	2025	Effect of Prenatal Benzo(a)Pyrene Exposure on Chromosome Cohesion and Synapsis During Oocyte Meiosis	Kathleen Leon Parada	University of California, Irvine	$237,686

Neuroscience of nicotine addiction and treatment

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
New Investigator Award	2020	Elucidation of neural circuits underlying nicotine reward and relapse	Kevin Beier	University of California, Irvine	$803,544
New Investigator Award	2020	Effect of CBD on nicotine addiction: evidence from translational models of nicotine intake in rats	Marsida Kallupi	University of California, San Diego	$793,175
Pilot Award	2020	N-Acetylcysteine for Smoking Cessation in Tobacco and Cannabis Co-Use: A Randomized Controlled Trial	Ellen Herbst	University of California, San Francisco	$604,000
Pilot Award	2020	Neural circuit basis of susceptibility to nicotine addiction	Kevin Beier	University of California, Irvine	$608,701
Pilot Award	2020	Functional Role of a Human Polymorphism in the Alpha6 NAChR Subunit in Adolescent Nicotine Seeking	Shahrdad Lotfipour	University of California, Irvine	$635,018
Pilot Award	2020	Consequences of adolescent exposure to nicotine and THC by vapor inhalation in rats	Michael Taffe	University of California, San Diego	$531,368
Predoctoral Award	2020	Investigation of neural ensembles underlying nicotine withdrawal-induced hyperalgesia	May Hui	University of California, Irvine	$120,003
Research Award	2020	Long-term Effects of Adolescent E-Cigarette Vapor on Drug Intake and Therapeutic Response	Christie Fowler	University of California, Irvine	$948,129
Research Award	2020	Role caveolin in tobacco use and nicotine signaling in traumatic brain injury	Brian Head	University of California, San Diego	$1,152,516
Pilot Award	2022	Offspring effect of preconception exposure to nicotine, nicotine cessation and nicotine substitutes	Carlos Diaz-Castillo	University of California, Santa Cruz	$650,000
Pilot Award	2022	Volitional vapor inhalation: a new model of nicotine self-administration	Thomas Hnasko	University of California, San Diego	$635,000
Pilot Award	2022	Identifying a primary motivator of continued tobacco use in the schizophrenia population	Katumi Sumikawa	University of California, Irvine	$649,883
Predoctoral Award	2022	Interaction of Stress and Nicotine Receptors in Preventing Drug Relapse	Malia Bautista	University of California, Irvine	$162,301
Research Award	2022	Cannabidiol as a therapeutic approach for tobacco and nicotine cessation	Christie Fowler	University of California, Irvine	$1,147,477
Research Award	2022	A neural circuit mechanism for the dose dependent effects of nicotine on reward and aversion	Stephan Lammel	University of California, Berkeley	$1,155,600
Research Award	2022	Nicotine use in bipolar disorder: Interplay between neurophysiology, neurocognition and genomics	Julie Patterson	University of California, Irvine	$1,151,377
Research Award	2022	Genome-wide association analyses of nicotine behaviors in over 4 million individuals	Sandra Sanchez-Roige	University of California, San Diego	$1,170,000
Research Award	2022	Socioeconomic and Neurocognitive Mechanisms of Tobacco Uptake in Diverse Adolescent Minority Groups	Shervin Assari	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science	$1,037,809

Neuroscience of nicotine addiction and treatment

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Research Award	2022	Single-cell whole-brain imaging of nicotine dependence	Olivier George	University of California, San Diego	$1,170,000
New Investigator Award	2023	Characterizing genetic pathways for tobacco use by sex and across the lifespan	Natasia Courchesne-Krak	University of California, San Diego	$780,000
Pilot Award	2023	Mechanisms of a human 3' UTR alpha6 nicotinic receptor polymorphism in adolescent nicotine use	Shahrdad Lotfipour	University of California, Irvine	$613,143
Research Award	2023	Lasting Consequences of Adolescent Electronic Cigarette Exposure to Nicotine and THC	Michael Taffe	University of California, San Diego	$1,158,000
Pilot Award	2024	The effects of vaping during pregnancy on placental biology and offspring development	Valeria Lallai	University of California, Irvine	$657,733
Postdoctoral Award	2024	Examining the effects of cytisinicline on neural substrates of cigarette cue-reactivity	Dylan Kirsch	University of California, Los Angeles	$324,092
Predoctoral Award	2024	Habenula Circuitry and Early Use of Tobacco Products	Jalen Grayson	University of California, Los Angeles	$185,339
Research Award	2024	Genetic Mechanisms of Adolescent and Adult Nicotine Use	Shahrdad Lotfipour	University of California, Irvine	$1,191,621
Research Award	2024	Parental Nicotine Use History and Early-Life Markers of Response to Acute Nicotine	Kelly Courtney	University of California, San Diego	$1,089,338
Pilot Award	2025	Identifying tobacco use disorder risk genes by genetic screening and phenotyping in zebrafish	David Prober	California Institute of Technology	$810,940
Postdoctoral Award	2025	Exploring the contribution of rare variants in smoking behaviors	Laura Vilar Ribó	University of California, San Diego	$324,750
Research Award	2025	Identification and reversal of early life adversity-induced changes promoting nicotine consumption	Kevin Beier	University of California, Irvine	$1,110,000

Oral diseases and dental health

Call Name	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Postdoctoral Award	2020	The effect of E-cigarettes on tongue epithelium and taste bud regeneration	Irit Miller Zmora	University of California, San Francisco	$198,036
Research Award	2020	Investigating the effects of E-cigarettes on homeostasis and renewal of the oral epithelial barrier	Ophir Klein	University of California, San Francisco	$1,137,500
Research Award	2020	Smartphone-based Oral Scanner Pen for Non-Specialist Oral Cancer Detection in Tobacco Users	Petra WILDER-SMITH	University of California, Irvine	$1,098,374
Postdoctoral Award	2022	Roles of the ESCRT machinery, a target of tobacco smoke, in orofacial clefting	Viviana Hermosilla	University of California, San Francisco	$207,300
Predoctoral Award	2022	Cellular and Molecular Disruptions of the Cephalic Epithelium as Causes of Orofacial Cleft	Tiange Qu	University of California, San Francisco	$166,583
New Investigator Award	2024	Effects of combustible cigarettes and e-cigarettes on infection and inflammation in oral cells	Cassio Luiz Coutinho Almeida da Silva	University of the Pacific	$810,000
Pilot Award	2024	Effect of aerosolized tobacco products on S. mutans-S. sanguinis-C. albicans caries pathogenicity	Nini Tran	University of California, Los Angeles	$675,000
Predoctoral Award	2024	Understanding how immune cells protect against tobacco-associated head and neck cancer	Yun-Hsuan (Elena) Lin	University of California, San Diego	$230,709
Predoctoral Award	2024	Precision prevention of tobacco-associated oral cancer	Pham Thuy Tien Vo	University of California, San Diego	$222,000
Pilot Award	2025	Periodontal Disease in Adults Using Aerosolized or Combustible Tobacco or Cannabis	Hansel Fletcher	Loma Linda University	$810,000

Other tobacco-related health effects

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Pilot Award	2020	Racial differences in smoking-related glaucoma progression: Effect on neural and vascular tissue	Sasan Moghimi Araghi	University of California, San Diego	$400,000
New Investigator Award	2022	Does the co-use of tobacco and cannabis increase the risk of earlier age at menopause?	Carolyn Gibson	Northern California Institute for Research & Education	$914,236
Predoctoral Award	2022	Shortwave Infrared Probes to Visualize how Macrophages Mediate the Systemic Effects of E-cigarettes	Eric Lin	University of California, Los Angeles	$157,641
Research Award	2022	Human Placental Proteomics: Understanding the Effects of Cigarette Smoking and Cannabinoid Use	Susan Fisher	University of California, San Francisco	$1,165,843
Research Award	2022	Integrating Genetics and Epigenetics to the Study of Smoking's Effect on Children's Vision	Xuejuan Jiang	University of Southern California	$1,204,870
Research Award	2024	Impact of smoking cessation in tobacco-related ocular neurodegenerative diseases using big data	Sasan Moghimi Araghi	University of California, San Diego	$1,215,000

Pulmonary biology and lung diseases

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
New Investigator Award	2020	Effects of Tobacco Smoke and e-Cigarette Vapors on Lung Epithelium Mechanics	Roberto Andresen Eguiluz	University of California, Merced	$297,062
Pilot Award	2020	The deleterious effects of nicotine and e-cigarette flavorants on lung mesenchymal stem cells	Ching-Ling (Ellen) Lien	Children's Hospital, Los Angeles	$666,706
Pilot Award	2020	Vaping effects on adolescent airway mucosa	Christopher Royer	University of California, Davis	$599,549
Pilot Award	2020	Impact of Smoking on the Immune System at Single Cell Resolution	Eugene Butcher	Palo Alto Veterans Institute For Research	$696,738
Pilot Award	2020	Novel Use of Human iPSC Derived Airway Progenitor Cells to Measure E-cigarette Toxicity	Lisa Miller	University of California, Davis	$483,513
Postdoctoral Award	2020	The Impact of E-Cigarettes on Lung Immunity and Repair	Barsha Dash	University of California, San Diego	$78,346
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Impact of cigarette smoking on the vascular endothelium at single cell resolution	Menglan Xiang	Stanford University	$209,396
Predoctoral Award	2020	Understanding of the mechanisms of airway repair after e-cigarette exposure.	Abdo Durra	University of California, Los Angeles	$135,780
Predoctoral Award	2020	Role of Macrophage Polarization in Pulmonary Fibrosis	David Yang	University of California, Davis	$85,876
Research Award	2020	Understanding the effects of e-cigarettes on airway epithelial repair and homeostasis	Brigitte Gomperts	University of California, Los Angeles	$972,000
New Investigator Award	2022	Investigating neural mechanisms of asthma induced by perinatal E-cigarette smoke exposure	Nicholas Jendzjowsky	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$888,848
Pilot Award	2022	The impact of tobacco product usage on induction and exacerbation of pulmonary fibrosis	Wei Shi	Children's Hospital, Los Angeles	$125,142
Pilot Award	2022	Elucidating the role of airway neuroendocrine cells in smoking-related asthmatic disease	David Julius	University of California, San Francisco	$647,060
Pilot Award	2022	Role of Chemerin and Its Receptors in Lung Inflammation and COPD	Brian Zabel	Palo Alto Veterans Institute For Research	$705,052
Predoctoral Award	2022	Creating Explainable, Robust AI Models to Improve Prognostication in Smokers with COPD and COVID-19	Nancy Yuan	University of California, San Diego	$43,940
Research Award	2022	Targeting IL-33 for the treatment of SARS-CoV 2 respiratory disease in smokers	Ellen Breen	University of California, San Diego	$1,210,000
Research Award	2022	Molecular characterization of smoke-driven enzyme deficiency in pulmonary fibrosis	Ching-Hsien Chen	University of California, Davis	$1,170,000
Pilot Award	2023	Novel lung lymphocyte chemoattractant and receptor	Brian Zabel	Palo Alto Veterans Institute For Research	$710,000

Pulmonary biology and lung diseases

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Pilot Award	2023	Investigating the role of the autonomic nervous system in COPD pathogenesis	Pao-Tien Chuang	University of California, San Francisco	$650,000
Postdoctoral Award	2023	Effects of dual use of e-cigarettes and cigarettes on host-bacteria interactions	Jorge Masso-Silva	University of California, San Diego	$321,618
Research Award	2023	Cannabis, vaping, and lung structural abnormalities in asymptomatic users	Chantal Darquenne	University of California, San Diego	$1,148,348
Pilot Award	2024	Cigarette Smoking-induced miR-483 Transversion Aggravates Pulmonary Hypertension	John Shyy	University of California, San Diego	$675,000
Postdoctoral Award	2024	Characterizing neuromuscular and respiratory muscle performance declines limiting exercise in COPD	Michele Girardi	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$324,750
Research Award	2024	The impact of tobacco smoke exposure on alveolar epithelial cells in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis	Beiyun Zhou	University of Southern California	$1,518,262
Research Award	2024	Immunomodulation and Inflammation Caused by 4th-generation E-cigarettes and Dual Use with THC	Laura Crotty Alexander	Veterans Medical Research Foundation	$1,291,500
New Investigator Award	2025	RIP3 activation by aging accelerates cigarette smoking-induced COPD	Dongshi Chen	University of Southern California	$989,400
Postdoctoral Award	2025	Characterization and Treatment of Exercise Limitation in Preserved Ratio Impaired Spirometry Smokers	Chiara Gattoni	Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA	$324,750
Research Award	2025	Genome-wide association and fine-mapping of smoking using tandem repeats and structural variants	Abraham Palmer	University of California, San Diego	$1,215,000

Social and behavioral prevention and treatment

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator(s)	Institution	Approved Amount
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2020	Imperial Youth For A Tobacco-Free Environment	Lydia Greiner/ Luis Olmedo	San Diego State University	$531,754
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2020	¡VAMOS! Vaping among multicultural Orange County students	Sora Tanjasiri/ Mary Foo	University of California, Irvine	$537,713
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2020	Feasibility and Acceptability of a Suite of Tobacco Cessation Services for Low-Income Populations	Jie Liu/ David Strong	Family Health Centers of San Diego	$490,175
New Investigator Award	2020	Youth Vaping in Los Angeles: Youths' Perceptions, Behaviors, and Outlet Density	Roberto Cancio	Loyola Marymount University	$138,124
Pilot Award	2020	Nicotine Cessation: Adapting a Counseling Program for Emerging Adults	Neal Doran	Veterans Medical Research Foundation	$534,468
Pilot Award	2020	Randomized trial of a contingency management smoking cessation intervention for homeless adults	Maya Vijayaraghavan	University of California, San Francisco	$620,000
Pilot Award	2020	Investigating the potential for non-tobacco wraps to displace cigarillos for blunt smoking	David Timberlake	University of California, Irvine	$521,390
Pilot Award	2020	Interactive Mobile Doctor (iMD) to Promote Tobacco Cessation among Cancer Patients	Janice Tsoh	University of California, San Francisco	$667,047
Pilot Award	2020	Racial and Gender Discrimination, Tobacco Use, and Time Perspective among Adolescents	Zena Mello	San Francisco State University	$779,228
Pilot Award	2020	Digital Mixed Methods to Identify and Characterize Vaping Illness in Young Adults in California	Timothy Mackey	University of California, San Diego	$706,262
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Tobacco-related risk and cancer-related illness perceptions among low-income smokers	Arturo Durazo	University of California, San Francisco	$61,982
Postdoctoral Award	2020	Tobacco and cannabis co-use among young adults: A multi-method analytic approach	Nhung Nguyen	University of California, San Francisco	$140,937
Predoctoral Award	2020	Intersectionality of Religion and Immigration with Smoking among Arab Americans in California's SJV	Sarah Alnahari	University of California, Merced	$150,310
Research Award	2020	Hands Off Tobacco and E-Cigarettes!: Tobacco & E-Cigarette Use Prevention for Deaf Youth	Burton Cowgill	University of California, Los Angeles	$973,837
Research Award	2020	Nicotine and Tobacco Use among Rural Young Adults in Northern California: A qualitative study	Tamar Antin	Scientific Analysis Corporation dba Inst. for Scientific Analysis	$1,088,754
Research Award	2020	Dyadic psychosocial mechanisms of smoking relapse in sexual minority couples	Matthew Kirkpatrick	University of Southern California	$1,248,188
Research Award	2020	Social media intervention to stop nicotine and cannabis vaping among adolescents	Pamela Ling	University of California, San Francisco	$975,000
CPPRA - Full Award	2022	Enhanced Multicomponent Proactive Navigator-Assisted Cessation of Tobacco Use in Low-Income Patients	Karim Ghobrial-Sedky/ David Strong	Family Health Centers of San Diego	$2,401,200

Social and behavioral prevention and treatment

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator(s)	Institution	Approved Amount
CPPRA - Full Award	2022	Tribal Community-Involved Commercial Tobacco Reduction: Peer Support Beyond the Clinic	Roland Moore/ Daniel Calac	PIRE California, Inc.	$2,630,561
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2022	Tobacco Treatment Engagement and Implementation in a Community Setting	Timothy Chen/ Michelle Hughes	University of California, San Diego	$1,190,254
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2022	American Indian Community Engagement in the Vaping Endgame	Claradina Soto/ April Go Forth	University of Southern California	$1,375,000
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2022	A Culturally Adapted Tobacco Prevention Curriculum for LGBTQ+ Youth Across California	Geetanjali Datta/ Richard Zaldivar	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	$1,378,455
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2022	Commit to Quit Pilot: Mobilizing Arab American Women to Reduce Tobacco-Related Harms	Juliet Lee/ Gamila Abdelhalim	PIRE California, Inc.	$1,459,367
New Investigator Award	2022	Risk of tobacco product use associated with online racism among Black emerging adults	Brian Keum	University of California, Los Angeles	$179,048
New Investigator Award	2022	Integrating CHWs into Prenatal Care for Maternal Smoking Cessation: A Pilot Feasibility Trial	Anne Berit Petersen	Loma Linda University	$1,073,194
New Investigator Award	2022	Real-time predictors of nicotine and cannabis vaping among young adults	Nhung Nguyen	University of California, San Francisco	$780,000
Pilot Award	2022	Ecological Momentary Assessment of Stress, Socialization, and Smoking among LGBT Adolescents	Jerel Calzo	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$739,982
Pilot Award	2022	Connect Cancer Patients to Tobacco Cessation Care by Automated Interactive Outreach	Janice Tsoh	University of California, San Francisco	$649,900
Pilot Award	2022	Tobacco Use and Perceived Discrimination Based on Socioeconomic Status Among Adolescents	Zena Mello	San Francisco State University	$866,685
Pilot Award	2022	Testing Persuasive Messages for California's Tobacco Endgame Among Diverse & Underserved Communities	Rachael Record	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$473,166
Pilot Award	2022	Identifying barriers to lung cancer screening among Asian Americans	Lori Sakoda	Kaiser Foundation Research Institute	$762,749
Pilot Award	2022	Advancing understanding of tobacco, vaping & cannabis among indigenous Mexican agricultural workers	Alison Herrmann	University of California, Los Angeles	$620,728
Pilot Award	2022	CONNECTing to LungCare	Judith Walsh	University of California, San Francisco	$649,974
Pilot Award	2022	Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Smoking Cessation in High Risk Veterans	Neal Doran	Veterans Medical Research Foundation	$654,353
Pilot Award	2022	Is marijuana the new menthol? Can marijuana use among YBM serve as a hook for nicotine addiction?	Laura D'Anna	California State University, Long Beach Research Foundation	$575,492
Pilot Award	2022	Is marijuana the new menthol? Can marijuana use among YBM serve as a hook for nicotine addiction?	Laura D'Anna	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science	$172,273

Social and behavioral prevention and treatment

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator(s)	Institution	Approved Amount
Predoctoral Award	2022	Tobacco Use Maintenance and Cessation Among African American Light Smokers	Shenita Anderson	University of California, Los Angeles	$105,222
Predoctoral Award	2022	Dual and Poly-Use of Cigarettes, E-Cigarettes, and Marijuana: Implications for Cessation	Deanna Halliday	University of California, Merced	$46,688
Predoctoral Award	2022	Effects of Socio-Demographic And Neighborhood Characteristics on Vaping Trends among Teenagers in CA	Andrew Vu	University of California, Irvine	$162,913
Research Award	2022	The PARQuit Smoking Cessation intervention for adults with serious mental illness	Heather Leutwyler	University of California, San Francisco	$1,142,917
Research Award	2022	Adapting Project Towards No Nicotine for Virtual Delivery in Ethnically-Diverse Afterschool Settings	Burton Cowgill	University of California, Los Angeles	$1,233,121
Research Award	2022	Understanding tobacco and cannabis co-use in young adult priority populations in California	Claradina Soto	University of Southern California	$1,313,066
SVSFI - Planning Award	2022	Ohlone College Smoke and Vape Free Scholars Planning Project	Sang Leng Trieu	Ohlone Community College	$25,159
SVSFI - Planning Award	2022	Building a tobacco control pipeline for Mexican-American first generation college students	Rosa Toro	California State University, Fresno Foundation	$23,637
SVSFI - Planning Award	2022	STAR (Stand against Tobacco through Advocacy and Research) in the Inland Empire (IE)	Monideepa Becerra	University Enterprises Corporation at CSUSB	$36,750
SVSFI - Program Award	2022	Enabling Insider Research with Priority Populations to Achieve Tobacco-Related Health Equity	Rama Kased	San Francisco State University	$1,375,194
SVSFI - Program Award	2022	CSUSB/CDU Smoke and Vape Free Scholars Initiative	Cynthia Crawford	University Enterprises Corporation at CSUSB	$1,395,073
SVSFI - Program Award	2022	CSUSM/UCSD Smoke and Vape Free Scholars Program for Reducing Tobacco Disease in Diverse Communities	Kim Pulvers	California State University San Marcos Corporation	$1,334,028
SVSFI - Program Award	2022	Training the Next Generation of Tobacco Control Advocates in the San Joaquin Valley	Jose Diaz-Garayua	California State University, Stanislaus	$1,407,004
SVSFI - Program Award	2022	NextGen Smoke and Vape Free Latinx Scholars Program	Eyal Oren	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$1,311,520
SVSFI - Program Award	2022	Research and Advocacy Training in Conventional and Electronic Forms of Tobacco	Kristen Emory	California State University, Dominguez Hills Foundation	$1,332,137
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2023	Interrupting tobacco-related disparities among housing insecure youth: A strengths-based approach	Jennifer Felner/ Steven Jella	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$1,390,554
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2023	Interrupting Initiation of Smokeless Tobacco Use among Rural California Firefighters	Carol Cunradi/ Katie Moose	PIRE California, Inc.	$1,424,508

Social and behavioral prevention and treatment

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator(s)	Institution	Approved Amount
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2023	Building Comprehensive Tobacco Control Services in California Community Colleges	Camillia Lui/ Kimberlee Homer Vagadori	Public Health Institute	$1,343,737
Pilot Award	2023	Identifying Promising Strategies to Improve Lung Cancer Screening in Diverse Los Angeles Communities	Beth Glenn	University of California, Los Angeles	$649,987
Postdoctoral Award	2023	Contextualizing stigma among American Indian young adults who use tobacco and cannabis	Sabrina Islam	University of California, San Francisco	$211,186
Postdoctoral Award	2023	Evaluation of a smoking cessation intervention for people experiencing homelessness	Dian Gu	University of California, San Francisco	$197,745
Postdoctoral Award	2023	Toxicological Evaluation of Chemical Mixtures in New and Emerging Electronic Cigarette Liquids	Esther Omaiye	University of California, Riverside	$305,540
Postdoctoral Award	2023	Tobacco-related misinformation and Asian Americans in California: A user-centered approach	Eileen Han	University of California, San Francisco	$213,973
Predoctoral Award	2023	Influencer marketing and harm perceptions and intention to use e-cigarettes among adolescents.	Julia Vassey	University of Southern California	$114,994
Research Award	2023	Race, Smoking, and Prostate Cancer Outcomes in California Veterans	Stephen Freedland	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	$1,502,805
Research Award	2023	Improving pharmacy-based tobacco cessation services in California's Central Valley	Robin Corelli	University of California, San Francisco	$1,149,405
Research Award	2023	Influence of emerging alternative products on transitions in nicotine and cannabis product use	Joshua Yang	CSU Fullerton Auxiliary Services Corporation	$1,231,978
Research Award	2023	Improving Health Equity in Tobacco Treatment with a Population Health Management Strategy	Elisa Tong	University of California, Davis	$1,173,983
SVSFI - Program Award	2023	Smoke and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative	Kyle Livie	Ohlone Community College	$1,135,597
SVSFI - Program Award	2023	Attaining the California Endgame by Building Capacity Among First Generation Latinx College Students	Rosa Toro	California State University, Fresno Foundation	$1,305,822
CPPRA - Full Award	2024	Evaluation: Tobacco Prevention Toolkit Healthy Futures Alternative to Suspension Vaping Intervention	Bonnie Halpern-Felsher/ Sierra Lau	Stanford University	$2,544,372
CPPRA - Full Award	2024	Ending Tobacco Use and Smoke Exposure in Asian American Communities	Janice Tsoh/ Joyce Cheng	University of California, San Francisco	$2,329,403
CPPRA - Full Award	2024	Developing and testing a community-based tobacco cessation intervention for TGNB youth	Ian Holloway/ Alan Montes	University of California, Los Angeles	$2,306,587
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2024	Tobacco use, passive smoke exposure and gastric cancer risk among Korean Americans	Eunjung Lee/ Yong Sin Shin	University of Southern California	$1,448,767
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2024	A community-engaged examination of Black and Latiné youth tobacco use around youth activity spaces	Jason Douglas/ Kevin Orange	University of California, Irvine	$1,316,702
New Investigator Award	2024	Tobacco-focused Care Enhancement of Existing Inpatient Substance Use Treatment Services	Iraklis Erik Tseregounis	University of California, Davis	$810,000

Social and behavioral prevention and treatment

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator(s)	Institution	Approved Amount
Pilot Award	2024	Contingency Management for Veteran Smokers Undergoing Major Elective Surgery	Ellen Herbst	University of California, San Francisco	$625,000
Postdoctoral Award	2024	Investigating Smoking Cessation Behaviors and Tobacco and Cannabis Use in Pancreatitis Patients	Esther Adeniran	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	$324,750
Postdoctoral Award	2024	Supporting Parents' Knowledge and Communication Strategies for Preventing Adolescent E-cigarette Use	Devin McCauley	Stanford University	$324,750
Predoctoral Award	2024	Relationship Between Stress and Tobacco Use at the Intersection of Gender Identity & Race/Ethnicity	Saida Coreas	University of Southern California	$234,342
Predoctoral Award	2024	Evaluation of California Tobacco Control Policies and Their Influence Among Youth in California	Giovanni Appolon	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$139,235
Research Award	2024	Technology-Assisted Motivational Interviewing Coach for Smoking Cessation: The TAMI Coach	Jason Satterfield	University of California, San Francisco	$1,214,936
Research Award	2024	Extended intervention for tobacco use (EXIT) for people experiencing homelessness	Maya Vijayaraghavan	University of California, San Francisco	$1,195,986
Research Award	2024	The effect of social media influencer marketing on e-cigarette perceptions and use by adolescents.	Jennifer Unger	University of Southern California	$1,430,751
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2025	A trauma-informed smoking cessation intervention for gender-diverse people	Judy Tan/ Eddie Martinez	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	$1,342,966
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2025	Life After Tobacco: Pilot Intervention with Black Men Returning to Community	Juliet Lee/ William Palmer	PIRE California, Inc.	$1,403,740
New Investigator Award	2025	TRauma Informed Care in Smoking cEssation for Pregnancy (RISE Pregnancy)	Anita Hargrave	University of California, San Francisco	$809,939
Partnered Maternal Cessation Award	2025	Doula Support for Prenatal Smoking Cessation among Racially Minoritized Birthing People	Jimi Huh/ Nickie Tilsner	University of Southern California	$1,471,500
Partnered Maternal Cessation Award	2025	Saving Our Legacy: An African American Maternal Smoking Cessation Intervention for Sacramento County	Elisa Tong/ Kimberly Bankston-Lee	University of California, Davis	$1,278,596
Pilot Award	2025	An online intervention to reduce e-cigarette use and potential for cigarette smoking in adolescents	Denise Tran	University of Southern California	$841,683
Postdoctoral Award	2025	Smoking cessation and mental health needs among older Vietnamese Americans	Vuong Do	University of California, San Francisco	$216,750
Postdoctoral Award	2025	Emerging Concerns Regarding Consumer Use of Cannabis for Tobacco Cessation	Deanna Halliday	University of California, San Francisco	$216,750
Predoctoral Award	2025	Factors related to tobacco-cannabis co-use among California sexual and gender minority adolescents	Andrew Lim	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$151,352

Social and behavioral prevention and treatment

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator(s)	Institution	Approved Amount
Predoctoral Award	2025	Confronting tobacco-related health disparities among Spanish-preferring Latinos in California	Alana Lopez	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$101,313
Predoctoral Award	2025	Exploring the role of childhood adversity and sexual/gender minority status on youth e-cigarette use	Tahsin Rahman	University of Southern California	$157,798
Research Award	2025	Evaluating the impact of CONNECT, a novel smoking cessation intervention, in a diverse population	Judith Walsh	University of California, San Francisco	$1,201,074
Research Award	2025	The gendered experience of smoking for rural women in the North State of CA: A qualitative study	Tamar Antin	Scientific Analysis Corporation dba Inst. for Scientific Analysis	$1,328,737
Research Award	2025	Trends, Correlates, and Health Impacts of E-Cigarette Use During Pregnancy	Kelly Young-Wolff	Kaiser Foundation Research Institute	$1,478,240
Single Investigator Maternal Cessation Award	2025	Genetic, clinical, behavioral, and environmental determinants of maternal smoking and morbidity	Natasia Courchesne-Krak	University of California, San Diego	$663,760

State and local tobacco control policy research

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
New Investigator Award	2020	Effect of minimum floor price laws on tobacco consumption	Justin White	University of California, San Francisco	$651,599
Pilot Award	2020	Regulating menthol cigarettes: Understanding how restrictions affect retailers and smokers	Sabrina Smiley	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$259,332
Pilot Award	2020	Regulating Menthol Cigarettes: African Americans Attitudes Toward a Flavored Tobacco Ban	Karen Beard	California Black Women's Health Project	$122,640
Predoctoral Award	2020	Tobacco Free Generation Policy in the Philippines: An Endgame Strategy	Kathleen de Leon	University of California, San Francisco	$148,941
Research Award	2020	Trends in disparities in Smoking Behavior with 4 major, successful tobacco control programs	Sara McMenamin	University of California, San Diego	$947,625
Research Award	2020	State and Local Policies on Cigarette Smoking Behaviors and Disparities	Ninez Ponce	University of California, Los Angeles	$1,059,355
CPPRA - Pilot Award	2022	Optimizing Equitable Community Tobacco Policy Promotion for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders	Sora Tanjasiri/ Myron Quon	University of California, Irvine	$1,273,756
New Investigator Award	2022	Policy surveillance and implementation of local flavored tobacco product sales bans in California	Denise Payán	University of California, Irvine	$770,916
New Investigator Award	2022	Reducing Tobacco Use in Substance Use Treatment: Policy and Legislative Approaches	Caravella McCuistian	University of California, San Francisco	$780,000
Pilot Award	2022	Detection and Characterization of Illegal Tobacco, ENDS, and Cannabis Vaping Product Sales Online	Timothy Mackey	University of California, San Diego	$675,949
Pilot Award	2022	Search engine driven e-commerce surveillance of tobacco retailers	Eric Leas	University of California, San Diego	$546,986
Research Award	2022	Legacy of redlining: Policy remedies for disparities in tobacco retail density and lung cancer	Lisa Henriksen	Stanford University	$1,330,502
Research Award	2022	Modifying Tobacco and Cannabis Waste Perceptions and Behaviors: A Randomized Controlled Trial	Kim Pulvers	California State University San Marcos Corporation	$1,313,544
Research Award	2022	Effects of Legalized Recreational Marijuana on Tobacco Use across Racialized Groups	Dennis Trinidad	University of California, San Diego	$1,153,666
Research Award	2022	Assessing barriers to community engagement in applying tobacco control lessons to cannabis policy	Lynn Silver	Public Health Institute	$1,033,662
New Investigator Award	2023	Impact of flavored tobacco sales restrictions on youth e-cigarette use in California	Melanie Dove	University of California, Davis	$749,959
Research Award	2023	The Intersection of Tobacco and Cannabis: Impact on Tobacco Use Behavior and Cessation	Beth Cohen	Northern California Institute for Research & Education	$1,379,675

State and local tobacco control policy research

Mechanism	Year Funded	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Approved Amount
Tobacco Policy Research Centers Award	2023	Tobacco and the Environment	Georg Matt	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$4,096,478
Tobacco Policy Research Centers Award	2023	Tobacco Cessation Policy Research Center	Elisa Tong	University of California, Davis	$3,742,500
New Investigator Award	2024	Examining tobacco regulatory policy spillover effects on consumer preferences for tobacco products	Matthew Stone	University of California, San Diego	$808,973
Research Award	2024	E-commerce surveillance to inform local tobacco policy and enforcement	Eric Leas	University of California, San Diego	$1,190,954
Research Award	2024	Impact of tobacco use, secondhand tobacco exposure, and cannabis use on school system costs	Yingning Wang	University of California, San Francisco	$1,041,581
Tobacco Policy Research Centers Award	2024	UC Merced Nicotine and Cannabis Policy Center	Irene Yen	University of California, Merced	$3,910,585
New Investigator Award	2025	Vapor and Tobacco Retailers' Reactions to Flavor Ban Policies	Artur Galimov	University of Southern California	$989,130
Predoctoral Award	2025	Impact of Local and State Flavored Tobacco Bans on Youth Tobacco Use: Quasi-Experimental Analyses	Danyi Li	University of Southern California	$157,798
Research Award	2025	Digital Mixed Methods to Assess the Impact of Flavored Tobacco Product Prohibitions in California	Timothy Mackey	University of California, San Diego	$1,250,295
Research Award	2025	The Impact of Local Smokefree Outdoor Policies on Tobacco Product Waste	Georg Matt	San Diego State University Research Foundation	$1,353,819

End Notes

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[v] Jan Birdsey et al., Tobacco Product Use Among U.S. Middle and High School Students — National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2023, 72 Morbidity & Mortality Wkly. Rep. 1173 (2023).

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