Innovation at Work

Washington

Local Perspective: Spokane, WA

“Medical research is important to us because our son Samuel lives with epidermolysis bullosa (EB), a rare and potentially fatal skin disorder that currently has no cure. The advanced medical research that is happening right now gives us and others hope for a cure or treatment in the near future.”

Allison and Julio Diaz, parents of Samuel, living with EB

Total Direct and Indirect Economic Output of the Biopharmaceutical Sector

$12 billion

Total Employment Supported by the Biopharmaceutical Sector

51,136

A majority of Americans agree that even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

Total NIH Award Funding (FY17)

$998 million

Washingtonians with a rare disease

1 in 10

Research in the Evergreen State

University of Washington (UW), Seattle, WA

Researchers are testing whether electrical stimulation of the spinal cord can lead to the growth and reorganization of pathways controlling limbs. If effective, this research could improve motor control and functions of the hand and arm via stimulation of the spinal network.

Group Healthcare Cooperative (GHC), Seattle, WA

With funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), GHC is using an innovative team-based care initiative to address the higher prevalence of opioid overdose deaths and admissions in rural counties. The project will focus on identifying ways to reduce accidental opioid overdoses and improve care for patients receiving chronic opioid therapy.

Nortis, Inc., Woodinville, WA

Funded by an NIH grant, Nortis Inc. is reproducing the blood-brain barrier with an organ-on-a-chip technology. This clinical development could allow researchers to ensure that drugs can effectively get to their targets in the brain, speeding the development of drugs that target difficult to treat brain disorders.

SOURCES: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH), PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA (PHRMA), CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), A RESEARCH!AMERICA SURVEY OF U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ZOGBY ANALYTICS IN JANUARY 2017, AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY (AHRQ), CLINICALTRIALS.GOV.