

**FasterCures/The Center for Accelerating Medical Solutions** is a nonprofit think tank and catalyst for action that works across sectors and diseases to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the medical research enterprise. *FasterCures*, a center of the Milken Institute, is nonpartisan and independent of interest groups.

### *Why is FasterCures necessary?*

For all the human and financial capital flowing through our healthcare system, there remains a formidable list of diseases for which there are no cures or even meaningful treatment options. *FasterCures* is working to clear the path between curiosity and cures by analyzing barriers to progress and overcoming them through action.

- ***To save lives, we must save time.*** Time in discovering breakthrough ideas; time in pursuing those ideas and turning them into therapies; time in bringing those therapies to patients. It takes 15 years on average to take a scientific discovery through development, testing, and regulatory approval. Thousands of people diagnosed with a deadly disease today cannot wait 15 years.
- ***Medical research is an investment.*** A robust life sciences infrastructure is necessary to the nation's well-being, economic standing, and global leadership. In fact, economists note that innovative medical research returns as much as \$20 for every dollar invested.
- ***Research must be outcomes-oriented.*** We need to create a medical research enterprise whose central organizing principle is curing disease. Consider that the number of "new molecular entities" approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration fell from 53 in 1996 to 19 in 2009 despite a massive increase in federal, private, and nonprofit spending in biomedical research.

### *Accelerating Medical Solutions*

Be it lack of medical breakthroughs, limited resources, or restrictive policies that are stalling progress, patients are paying the price of delays in life or death consequences. More than 100 million Americans suffer from cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, and others for which there are still no cures – and, in many cases, few meaningful treatment options.

*FasterCures'* mission is to accelerate the process of discovery and development of new medical solutions for deadly and debilitating diseases.

## ***Paving the Way to a More Effective and Efficient Research Enterprise***

*FasterCures* works across all sectors and diseases to transform the way we pursue, fund, and conduct medical research. We are committed to:

### Fostering innovation and accountability across research organizations

- **Accelerating analysis and dissemination of best practices in the funding and conduct of medical research**  
*FasterCures* learned firsthand from medical research foundations that are part of its TRAIN (The Research Acceleration and Innovation Network) initiative that big ideas can come from small spaces. We've seen how new business models are accelerating research; and we seek to maximize the productivity and impact of these groups so best practices are adopted broadly and can become the new standard.
- **Facilitating informed investment in medical philanthropy through analytical tools and resources**  
The *FasterCures* Philanthropy Advisory Service (PAS) is a resource designed to help philanthropists understand and evaluate the research and development landscape and strategically guide their investment in high-impact disease research. *FasterCures* will continue to expand the scope and breadth of PAS to increase its value to the donor community while also cultivating greater accountability, transparency, and efficiency at nonprofits.
- **Promoting innovative collaborations among leading players in the research enterprise**  
*Partnering for Cures*, an annual *FasterCures* conference, facilitates matchmaking and idea sharing among medical philanthropists, patient-driven research foundations, and biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to ignite partnerships needed to turn an idea into an accessible medical solution.

### Improving and continuously modernizing the medical research environment

- **Enhancing capacity at and resources available to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for acceleration of cures**  
Working across sectors, *FasterCures* helps advocate for an FDA fully equipped with the resources and expertise it needs to keep pace with the changing research technology and to apply 21<sup>st</sup> Century scientific principles to regulatory practices and policies.
- **Supporting innovation at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**  
The NIH, the single largest sponsor of biomedical research in the world, continues to guide both publicly and privately funded research. Working with key stakeholders, *FasterCures* has focused on maximizing the effectiveness of NIH's Intramural Research Program, an important national resource. We will continue to identify ways to support innovation and innovators within the Institute and, through its grantmaking, at academic institutions around the country.
- **Improving support for translational research across a variety of settings**  
Translational research is the critical bridge between basic and clinical research, yet remains poorly defined and under-resourced. *FasterCures* will advance efforts that bring a sense of urgency to the medical research community, policymakers, and the general public regarding the need to conduct more and better bench-to-bedside translational research.

### Maximizing the development and use of research resources

- **Developing and enhancing efforts to empower patients to become more engaged in research through biospecimen donation, electronic data sharing, and clinical trials**  
Embedded within each individual is information – medical records, biological material such as tissue, blood, and DNA – that is crucial to understanding and managing disease. But too often that information remains isolated, unknown, and unavailable to researchers. *FasterCures* developed its PHD (Patients Helping Doctors) program to identify ways to engage more patients and healthy volunteers in clinical research. The PHD program seeks to drive greater awareness of the value and need for biospecimens, ensure that research is a consideration in the development of a national health information network, and promote strategies for conducting more efficient and effective clinical trials.