Mission

Translating research into products

The Center for Rare and Neglected Diseases at the University of Notre Dame is charged with the mission of supporting translational research of Notre Dame faculty. The aim is to link researchers with the finances and scientific resources needed to translate their research into technologies - drugs, vaccines, diagnostics - that will ultimately improve patient outcomes.

Building partnerships

CRND is forging new alliances with many organizations. Current partnerships include those with Eli Lilly, Medicines for Malaria Venture, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. We are engaged in developing Public-Private Partnerships with pharma partners and national and international agencies. The overall goal is to harness the power of public-private partnerships to move therapies forward and strengthen research in rare and neglected diseases.

Programs

Center for Rare and Neglected Diseases
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One mission for the Center for Rare and Neglected Diseases is to develop scientific collaborations. We fund proposals that reach across disciplines—clinical medicine, engineering, physical sciences, life sciences, social sciences and the humanities—with the goal of improving patient therapies. CRND supports programs in drug discovery and development in infectious diseases (malaria and TB) and in rare diseases (NPC and MPS-3A) and health analytics for rare and neglected, tropical diseases. CRND also supports Incubator Awards. The aim of the Research Incubator Program is to seed interdepartmental and interdisciplinary research that promises to lead to external funding and development of intellectual property. By supporting early discovery and translational projects, CRND hopes to stimulate development of therapeutics and diagnostics in rare and neglected diseases.

Since 2009, CRND has made awards to 21 faculty. We link Notre Dame to regional universities, pharmaceutical companies, foundations and governmental agencies.