The Center for Infection and Immunity (CII)—the world’s most advanced academic center for research in infectious disease surveillance, diagnosis and discovery—is optimally positioned for early response to infectious threats to human health.

The Challenge

Acute infectious diseases are the leading cause of death in the developing world and the third leading cause of death in the United States. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected through travel and trade, the probability of infectious disease pandemics is higher than ever.

There is increasing evidence that infections may also contribute to chronic conditions like asthma, cancer, and mental disorders. The key to addressing this challenge is a rigorous and comprehensive microbiome program in the 21st Century.

Our work

Research at CII is multidisciplinary and integrates the efforts of scientists and physicians specializing in molecular and systems biology, epidemiology, immunology, and neurobiology. CII has established unique partnerships with academic and public health institutions as well as governmental agencies in over 40 countries in an effort to create a global immune system.
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Discovered more than 500 new microbes.
- Created the first international laboratory within the Chinese Centers for Disease Control: Joint Research Laboratory for Pathogen Discovery.
- Invited by the ministry of health in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the only academic institution to assist with identifying the source of the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).
- Established that the use of supplemental folic acid during pregnancy results in a 40% reduced risk of autism in children.
- Selected by the NIH to lead the controversial study to determine that xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus does not cause or contribute to the onset of chronic fatigue syndrome.
- Introduced the first sensitive diagnostic test for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).
- Identified the West Nile virus as the cause of an encephalitis outbreak in New York City in 1999.
- Pioneered genetic methods to rapidly identify infectious agents.

Help Us Grow

The Center is poised to make even greater contributions to science, medicine, and public health. Although we receive research support from federal agencies and foundations, philanthropic partnerships are a key means by which we are able to quickly respond to emerging threats and pursue promising new lines of research with a high-impact global-investment rating. There are several ways for us to meet objectives together, including:

- Naming Opportunities
- Endowments
- Building Funds
- Targeted Project Support
- Fellowships
- Partnerships

For more information about these opportunities, please contact:
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