

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



ARBOR RESEARCH
COLLABORATIVE
FOR HEALTH

Arbor Research Collaborative for Health is committed to improving patient care through research that shapes medical policies and practice. In particular, Arbor Research conducts health outcomes research on chronic disease and end-stage organ failure, with expertise in biostatistical analysis, clinical practice, health economics, public policy, database management and integration, and project coordination. Through research projects that are national and global in scope, Arbor Research's scientific collaborations provide valuable and timely information to the worldwide health care community.



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From the President and CEO and the Chair, Board of Directors

At Arbor Research, people are at the center of everything we do.

Our mission to improve patient lives through our research and analysis manifests in many forms throughout our work. It may mean developing a new mobile application that empowers patients to be active participants in their own care, or evaluating health policy changes to assess how new payment models affect the care patients receive. It includes collecting a rich source of patient data in the Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study Program, and examining efforts to reduce the financial burden on people who wish to become living organ donors.

We have an increasingly diverse portfolio, but our dedication to improving patient care remains constant. Our commitment to our talented, engaged, and dedicated staff is another touchstone that guides our work every day. We pride ourselves on a culture that values credibility, creativity, dedication, and collaboration to create an environment where people are excited to come to work.

We are honored to work alongside such a fantastic group of staff members, and are proud to share our work with you.

Yours sincerely,



Robert M. Merion, MD, FACS,
President and CEO



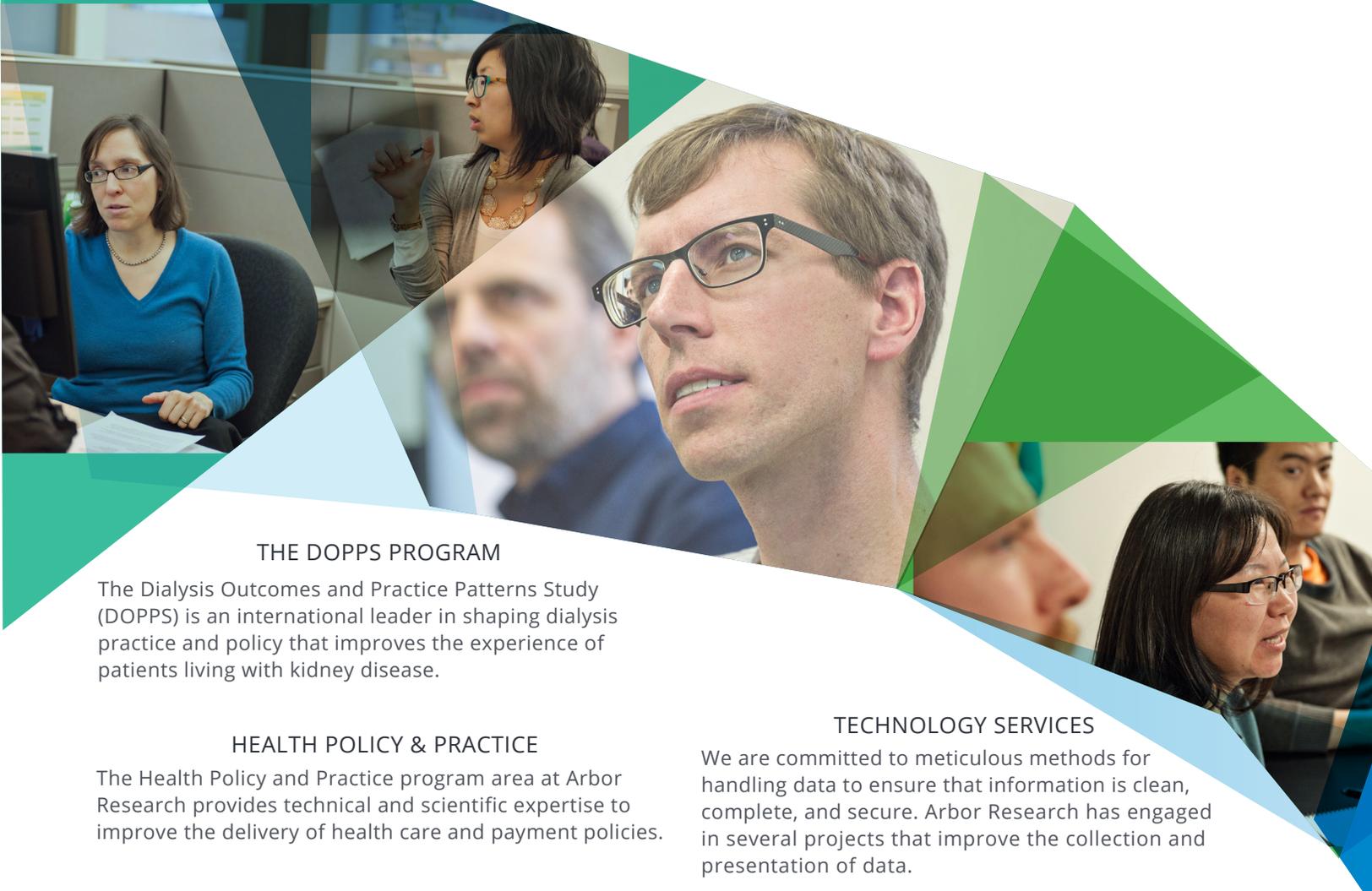
Mark L. Barr, MD
Chair, Board of Directors

Reliable Scientific Research

Patients are always on our minds at Arbor Research. Our expert researchers work to share data and knowledge with clinicians and policy makers to make informed decisions. We collaborate with patient advocacy groups and academic organizations internationally to design complex projects to improve health outcomes.

As international leaders in statistical analysis and data management, our work is reliable and trusted. The staff at Arbor Research is scientifically inquisitive and passionate about learning.

Patients facing complex health challenges can rely on our interdisciplinary staff for thoughtful analysis to provide their caregivers with impartial and timely information about policy and health outcomes. Though our research partnerships span the globe, we are united under the mission to improve health care.



THE DOPPS PROGRAM

The Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS) is an international leader in shaping dialysis practice and policy that improves the experience of patients living with kidney disease.

HEALTH POLICY & PRACTICE

The Health Policy and Practice program area at Arbor Research provides technical and scientific expertise to improve the delivery of health care and payment policies.

SCIENTIFIC & DATA COORDINATING CENTERS

Arbor Research is the nexus of multi-research consortiums, with teams of clinicians, biostatisticians, project managers, analysts, clinical monitors, project support personnel, and medical editors all collaborating on international projects.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

We are committed to meticulous methods for handling data to ensure that information is clean, complete, and secure. Arbor Research has engaged in several projects that improve the collection and presentation of data.

PATIENT-CENTERED RESEARCH

Patient input is one of Arbor Research's highest priorities. We collaborate with academic institutions and patient advocacy organizations to ensure patients are represented in research projects that directly impact their lives.

Patients as Partners

Mobile App for Kidney Patients

People with kidney disease have a lot to manage, from medications and laboratory results to other health and life events. Working with a patient-majority steering committee, the NephCure Kidney Network developed a mobile application to help patients track and manage their symptoms, medications, and care. The app, called Kidney Health Tracker, is designed to support patients and to improve communication with clinicians that could lead to improvements in management of their care. It is currently available in the Google Play store.



Remote Management in Peritoneal Dialysis

Emerging technologies are opening up the option of remote management for people on peritoneal dialysis, allowing clinicians to monitor care from a separate location. In the Remote Management for Peritoneal Dialysis (RM4PD) study, our researchers are engaging with patients, caregivers, and health care providers to evaluate the benefits of remote management and better understand different perspectives on the effects of this new technology.

Patients Take Control of Their Electronic Health Records

This year, the NephCure Kidney Network successfully participated in a pilot study from PCORnet, the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network, to test the feasibility of patient-initiated transfer and storage of their own electronic health records safely and securely to the NephCure Kidney Network registry database. The addition of electronic health records to this database will provide researchers with an unprecedented resource in their quest for better care and treatments for those with primary Nephrotic Syndrome, a condition caused by rare kidney diseases that affects both children and adults and has no known cure.



Research Through Cooperation

Financial Assistance for Living Organ Donors

With time off work, medical bills, and travel costs, the financial burden of donating an organ can be severe. Arbor Research has partnered with other research organizations to maximize opportunities that offer the best solutions for patients facing these challenges.

Lost Wages Reimbursement

Partnership with the American Society of Transplant Surgeons

This randomized controlled trial evaluates whether offering reimbursement of lost wages to living kidney donors increases living donation rates. We have five active enrollment sites and over 80 participants enrolled.

Travel Reimbursement

Collaboration with one of the Nation's Largest Insurance Companies

Through this partnership, Arbor Research has created an opportunity for living kidney donors whose recipients are covered by private insurance to apply for reimbursement for travel-related expenses in connection with living organ donation.



Real-World Data, Real Results

Reducing Peritonitis Infection Risk for Peritoneal Dialysis Patients

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality recently awarded a five-year contract to a research team led by Arbor Research and St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto to study peritonitis infection in peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients. PD-associated peritonitis is the leading cause of PD-related treatment failure requiring transition to in-center hemodialysis, and is associated with increased risks of hospitalization and death.

Using the infrastructure of the Peritoneal Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (PDOPPS), this project aims to identify high-risk patients and clinical practices associated with peritonitis risk and to develop best practice guidelines for reducing that risk.

Patient participation yields a rich data source that we, and our collaborators, leverage to produce novel insights that are difficult or not possible to produce from other studies.

Patient Data

THE FOUNDATION OF THE DOPPS PROGRAM



**Collected data on
32,378 study patients**



**Data collected in
24 countries**



**Expanded PDOPPS to include
Columbia and South Korea**



Inside Arbor Research



Our staff-led committees demonstrate the values held by our most important asset – our people

Charitable Giving Committee

Arbor Research believes in giving back. We developed our charitable giving program to establish a level of philanthropy at Arbor Research that reflects both the mission of the organization and the community interests of our staff. This year the committee...



Health & Wellness Committee

The Health & Wellness Committee strives to create opportunities for staff to set and achieve their own health and wellness goals by promoting a holistic approach to health. Committee activities include...



POLICY MADE PERSONAL

Helping Communities Understand the Quality of Health Care

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) added Star Ratings to several of their websites reporting on the quality of health care providers. This consumer-friendly, instantly recognizable format shows quality information about each health care provider, helping patients to make informed choices about their care.

Arbor Research provides strategic support for the CMS Star Ratings and other public reporting efforts. This year, investigators analyzed Star Rating methodologies to assess whether the rating systems for different provider types serve patients effectively.

Evaluating a New Home Health Model

Home health services have the potential to preempt the need for other more intensive and costly forms of care. In 2016, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) implemented the Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model in nine states, with the goal of providing incentives for better quality care with greater efficiency.

Arbor Research's evaluation of the HHVBP Model examines how agencies are responding to the financial incentives, how HHVBP is impacting stakeholders, and what performance and other outcomes may be changing as a result of the new payment model.

This year, Arbor Research presented the first annual evaluation report to CMMI, which will provide valuable early insight into the impact of the HHVBP.



Financial Key Figures

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Staff Members

Conducting research in

24

Countries

With the cooperation of

22

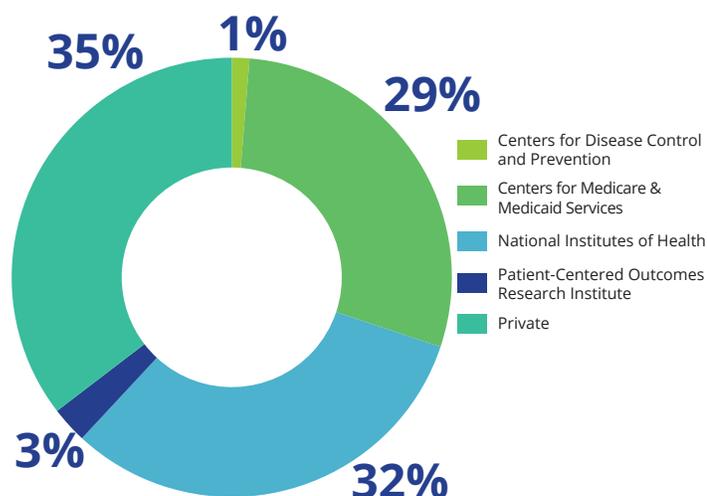
Private Funders

+

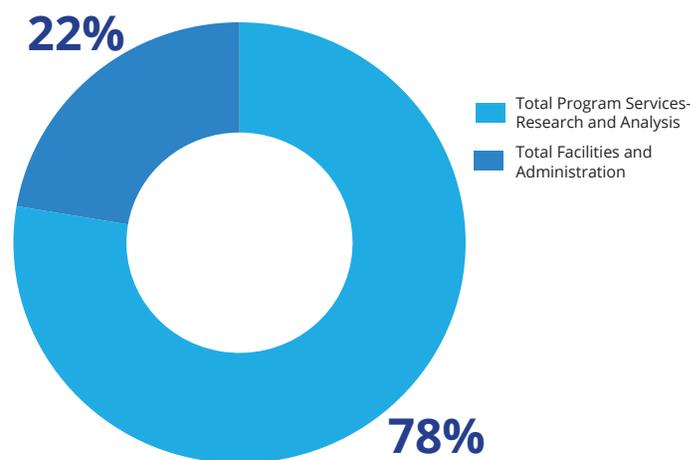
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Foundations & Government Agencies

Funding Sources



Expenses



Statement of Activities

REVENUES	2017	2016
Contributions	\$2,729,055	\$4,109,435
Grants and contracts	16,869,651	13,409,120
Net investment earnings (loss)	1,434,776	1,201,846
Other income	(1,542)	(787)
Total revenues	21,031,940	18,719,614
Expenses		
Total program services-research and analysis	18,044,087	19,581,208
Total facilities and administration	5,192,341	3,046,852
Total expenses	23,236,428	22,628,060
Change in net assets	(2,204,488)	(3,908,446)
Net assets, beginning of year	15,561,077	19,469,523
Net assets, end of year	\$13,356,589	\$15,561,077

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2017	2016
Cash and investments	\$10,798,266	\$11,152,042
Grants and contract receivables	4,927,222	6,459,297
Prepaid expenses and other assets	403,466	423,816
Property & equipment, net	1,166,113	1,141,983
Total assets	\$17,295,067	\$19,177,138
Liabilities and Net Assets		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$3,272,807	\$3,422,061
Deferred revenue	665,671	194,000
Total liabilities	\$3,938,478	\$3,616,061
NET ASSETS		
Total net assets	13,356,589	15,561,077
Total liabilities and net assets	\$17,295,067	\$19,177,138

Comparative financial statement presentations above have been audited.



Board of Directors

Mark L. Barr, MD (Chair)
Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Southern California

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Judith L. Walker, BA
Consultant, Accounting and Finance

Robert A. Wolfe, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Biostatistics, University of Michigan

[www. ArborResearch.org](http://www.ArborResearch.org)

340 East Huron, Suite 300

Ann Arbor, MI 48104 USA

Tel: +1 (734) 665-4108

Fax: +1 (734) 665-2103

Email: Communications@ArborResearch.org

 [@ArborResHealth](https://twitter.com/ArborResHealth)



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