

# HOW ROCKEFELLER HAS ALREADY IMPROVED YOUR LIFE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

To Friends of The Rockefeller University:

We are honored to be co-chairing the Campaign for the Convergence of Science and Medicine. The goals and priorities of this campaign, described in these pages, will revolutionize the relationship between scientific discovery and human health. We are tremendously excited about President Rick Lifton’s vision for the university’s future.

Rockefeller University is widely regarded as the world’s greatest biomedical research institution. Although relatively small in size, Rockefeller has received an outsized number of prestigious prizes:

- 26 Rockefeller scientists have received the Nobel Prize
- 23 have won Lasker Awards
- 5 have won Breakthrough Prizes
- 20 have received the National Medal of Science



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IF ROCKEFELLER WERE A COUNTRY, IT WOULD  
RANK FOURTH—WORLDWIDE—IN NOBEL PRIZES  
RECEIVED IN MEDICINE AND CHEMISTRY

Since 1999, seven Rockefeller scientists have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Chemistry, a number unmatched by any other institution in the world. Another stunning fact: if Rockefeller University were a country, it would rank fourth in the number of Nobel Prizes received in medicine and chemistry, behind only the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany.

When we talk to our friends and family about Rockefeller, we like to tell them that they have already benefited from the university’s research:

- Rockefeller scientists were the first to figure out how to type blood — i.e., A positive, B negative — making **blood transfusions possible**.
- Studies at Rockefeller paved the way for **safe antibiotics**.
- Rockefeller scientists discovered a link between cholesterol and heart disease, helping to make the **cholesterol drugs** now on the market possible.
- Just ten years ago, hepatitis C was killing millions each year. Then Rockefeller’s **Charlie Rice** devised a system to replicate and study the virus, leading to the development of **drugs that cure 95 percent of hepC patients**. For this work, Charlie received the 2020 Nobel Prize.
- Groundbreaking work by **Rick Lifton** determined the **link between salt and high blood pressure**.
- In the institution’s early years, a Rockefeller scientist proved that **cancer can be caused by a viral infection**, a finding that upended scientific dogma and became the wellspring of modern virology and oncology.

And, think about this—**these discoveries were made before today’s convergence revolution in science**. You, your friends, and your family will continue to benefit from Rockefeller in the future, because our scientists are coming up with the answers to the health challenges facing our society.

Here are a few examples of current studies:

- Sensory neuroscientist **Jim Hudspeth** has developed novel molecules that have regenerative effects. He focuses on hearing impairment, but his work suggests possible therapeutic uses in both the retina and the heart.
- Nobel laureate **Mike Young** discovered genes that control our biological clock, work that is shedding light on how to treat insomnia and when to take medications so they will have the greatest effect.
- Assistant professor **Paul Cohen** is conducting research that shows some types of fat in our body are harmful, while other kinds are helpful and might be protective against illness.
- As people live longer, it’s more important than ever to solve neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, and Rockefeller scientists are doing just that.

**So when you make a gift to Rockefeller, in a very real sense you are helping yourself, the people you care about, and the entire world.**

Please join us in supporting great science in service to humanity—it is a philanthropic investment that will pay life-saving dividends for us all.

**Robin Chemers Neustein**                      **John M. Shapiro**

Co-Chairs, Campaign for the  
Convergence of Science and Medicine