

# Boston University Foundation Relations

## Impact Report

Foundations provide invaluable support to Boston University faculty members, generating an annual average of \$70 million in funding over the last three years. In research, educational innovation, public health, and programs in Boston and around the world, foundation support can make a critical difference.

Over the past decade, nonprofit funding for BU initiatives from foundations, organizations, associations, and societies tripled. At the same time, foundation funding in the US doubled, to \$90 billion, and the assets of US foundations grew to more than \$1 trillion. Institutional philanthropy is alive and well, and, for universities, an engine of progress.

The Boston University Foundation Relations team of eight professionals on the Charles River and Medical Campuses works closely with senior leaders and faculty to build relationships with well-aligned private institutional funders and to develop compelling requests for support, generally at levels of \$100,000 and above.

This report, the first in an occasional series, showcases the partnerships between Foundation Relations and BU faculty—and how greatly the impact of a single supported project can grow, leading to far-reaching progress over time.

**"I think Foundation Relations is one of the best things that BU does to support the faculty."**

**Mohsan Saeed, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor, Biochemistry**



# Boston University Foundation Relations

## By the numbers

Foundation grants at Boston University have catalyzed a multitude of activities. For example, they have made it possible for faculty members to:

- Convene and inform scores of global policymakers
- Train 800 clinicians in safer opioid prescribing
- Expose more than 12,000 local students and teachers to the arts
- Develop new curricular materials for hundreds of worldwide learners
- Serve thousands of reintegrating veterans
- Forge numerous new research collaborations.

In addition, thanks to 63 selected grants—totaling \$20 million—that Foundation Relations assisted over the last few years:



**\$30 million**

in follow-on funding was secured by BU faculty through 45 federal and private grants.



**130**

publications were generated by faculty.

## FY21 Foundation Relations highlights



**\$21 million**

secured in partnership with BU faculty members



**400**

proposals and pre-proposals submitted



**780**

funding opportunities summarized and disseminated to hundreds of faculty members



**95**

meetings convened by Foundation Relations between University leaders, faculty members, and foundation leaders



**561**

faculty members attended 27 presentations by Foundation Relations and 6 “Meet the Funder” workshops



**450**

meetings between Foundation Relations staff and deans, faculty members, and center directors

## High-impact grants

### CONVENING INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS TO ADVANCE INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH



#### Program Directors:

**Ronald Corley, PhD**  
Director, National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

**Gerald Keusch, MD**  
Associate Director, NEIDL

Foundation Relations worked closely with NEIDL leaders to secure \$190,000 in funding from the Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, the Skoll Global Threats Fund, and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund for a symposium keynoted by Anthony Fauci and attended by more than 100 scientists from around the world. Hosted at Boston University in 2016, the symposium focused on policy issues related to emerging infectious diseases research. The event elevated NEIDL locally and internationally, leading to its recognition as a premier laboratory and to routine requests for public guidance on the pandemic.

"Foundation Relations was instrumental in submitting requests for support."

**Ronald Corley, PhD**  
Professor, Microbiology



### STUDYING THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND HUMAN WELL-BEING



"Foundation Relations was extremely helpful! The grant support and review process was really great."

#### Program Director: Mahesh Karra, ScD

Assistant Professor of Global Development Policy, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies

Between 2018 and 2020, with support from Foundation Relations and \$600,000 in grants from the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, Karra investigated the causes and consequences of women's empowerment. His project focused on health and education, mobility and access, and sustainable economic independence. Building on this work, Karra has published four articles and received three subsequent grants from the World Bank, the Max Planck Society, and the Boston University Foundation-India. His work has led to policy briefs, technical reports, outreach materials, engagement with global policymakers, and new research collaborations.

**Mahesh Karra, ScD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Global Development Policy



## High-impact grants

### ADVANCING THE SCIENCE OF NEURODEGENERATION



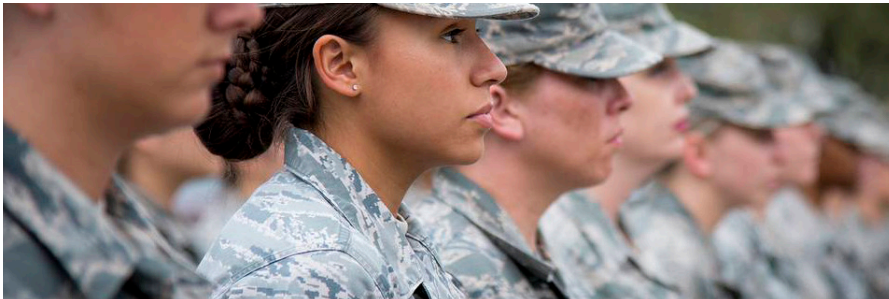
**Principal Investigator:** Ben Wolozin, MD, PhD

Professor, Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, BU School of Medicine

With assistance from Foundation Relations, Wolozin received \$500,000 from the Thome Memorial Foundation in 2016 and \$1,000,000 from the BrightFocus Foundation in 2020 to study the pathophysiology of neurodegenerative diseases.

The Thome grant led to nine follow-on grants, many from NIH, totaling more than \$15 million; 11 publications; valuable experience in drug discovery; and chairmanship of the foundation's scientific review committee.

### IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF WOMEN VETERANS NATIONWIDE



**Principal Investigators:**

**Tara Galovski, PhD**

Associate Professor, Psychiatry,  
BU School of Medicine

**Amy Street, PhD**

Associate Professor, Psychiatry,  
BU School of Medicine

Between 2017 and 2021, Foundation Relations partnered with Galovski and Street to secure nine grants from four funders (Walmart Foundation, Bob Woodruff Foundation, Oak Foundation, May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust) totaling \$1.7 million for the Women Veterans Network (WoVeN), an evidence-based peer support network designed to enhance multiple aspects of well-being for women veterans as they return to civilian life.

WoVeN has served more than 1,500 women, expanded to serve women in their final year of military service, and been featured in Congressional meetings, an NFL Veterans Day promotion, *The New York Times*, and multiple print and broadcast outlets.

"Foundation Relations has been helpful in making personal connections with funders, formulating research plans of interest to foundations, and assisting with the completion of proposals."

**Ben Wolozin, MD, PhD**  
Professor, Pharmacology &  
Experimental Therapeutics



"BU Foundation Relations has been essential in the development and maintenance of the Women Veterans Network."

**Tara Galovski, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Psychiatry



## EARLY-CAREER ROADMAPS



To guide early-career faculty members in their search for external funding, Foundation Relations works with Federal Relations to maintain a list of more than 350 early-career funding opportunities across all fields of study. From this comprehensive list, Foundation Relations develops customized roadmaps for faculty based on research interests and years of eligibility, enabling faculty to see which programs to apply to and when.

**“The roadmap has been an excellent resource. Having the roadmap to clearly indicate what I should be looking into over the next few months has given me a lot of confidence to hit the ground running.”**

## PROPOSAL LIBRARY



With the Office of Research, Federal Relations, and Sponsored Programs, Foundation Relations has created a proposal library available to all BU faculty: a curated, access-restricted repository of successful LOIs, applications/proposals, and related materials recently submitted by BU faculty. The primary goal of the library, located on BU's Research Support website, is to help BU researchers at all levels be more competitive for external funding by leveraging the collective experience of the BU community.

**Heidi Meyer, PhD**

**Assistant Professor, Psychological & Brain Sciences**



## FOUNDATION RELATIONS STAFF

Areas covered by Foundation Relations team members are noted below. For general questions about Foundation Relations, please visit [bu.edu/foundations](http://bu.edu/foundations) or write to [ofr@bu.edu](mailto:ofr@bu.edu).



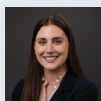
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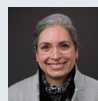
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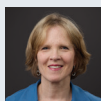
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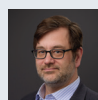
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