



FACT SHEET

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The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust's Initiative in Personalized Medical Science and Technology

DESCRIPTION: The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust will invest up to \$50 million over the next five years to attract 10 of the world's most distinguished scientists, engineers and clinicians who are leaders in the development of personalized medicine. The funding will establish 10 Piper Chairs at recognized research institutions in Maricopa County.

PURPOSE: The Piper Trust wants residents of Maricopa County to be the beneficiaries of a new level of medical care that utilizes diagnostic methods and treatment based on a person's genes. The mapping of the human genome has opened up extraordinary possibilities to use biological and genetic information to provide health treatment specifically tailored to each individual. Research breakthroughs in personalized medicine will permit doctors to prescribe lifestyle changes, targeted drugs and other therapies with unprecedented precision.

FUNDING: *The Piper Trust will provide a \$5 million grant for each Piper Chair, including:*

- \$4 million for enhanced research
- \$500,000 for research by undergraduate and graduate students engaged in the chair's research team
- \$500,000 for a Piper Prize in Personalized Medicine to recognize the Piper Chair's stellar achievements, to be used however the recipient deems appropriate

The recipient institutions recruiting the Piper Chairs will provide:

- Funds for salaries and benefits for the Piper Chair and research team
- Laboratory facilities
- Transitional funding for the chair's research group

NEW DOLLARS INVESTED: The amount of new dollars invested into Maricopa County's economy will be upward of \$100 million between the grants and the investments by the recipient institutions.

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PARTNERS: Nonprofit research organizations in Maricopa County, including universities, research institutes and hospitals.

The Trust is looking to the Valley's research institutions that would potentially be eligible for Piper Chairs to identify the key areas of expertise most critical for Arizona to "leapfrog" ahead in the field of personalized medical science and technology. Institutions will collectively determine how the finest talent can be identified, which institutions are prepared to forge partnerships and provide matching funds, and how appointments may be sequenced.

An independent scientific advisory committee of national experts will review the recommended appointments and advise the Piper trustees.

PIPER CHAIRS: Piper Chairs may include scientists, engineers and clinicians in fields such as bioscience, nanotechnology and advanced information technology who are working to advance personalized medicine.

They will hold joint appointments at more than one university, research institute or hospital operating in Maricopa County, and they will support the collaborative efforts under way to build the Valley's bioscience capabilities.

WHAT IS PERSONALIZED MEDICINE? According to Francis S. Collins, M.D., director of the National Human Genome Research Institute and leader of the international effort to sequence the human genome, personalized medicine "refers to using information about a person's genetic makeup to tailor strategies for the detection, treatment or prevention of disease."

BIOSCIENCE IN ARIZONA: Proposition 301, a sales tax increase passed in 2000, earmarked \$44 million per year to support research at the state's public universities; this led both Arizona State University and the University of Arizona to invest in bioscience research with the Biodesign Institute at ASU and the BIO5 Institute at the University of Arizona. In addition, a \$100 million partnership of the city of Phoenix, state of Arizona, Native American communities, foundations and the private sector created TGEN and IGC and attracted Dr. Jeffrey Trent, Scientific Director of the Human Genome Project at NIH, to head the effort.

From the beginning, the Flinn Foundation has been central in bringing together various constituencies to advance the bioscience industry in Arizona. The foundation in 2002 publicly launched Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, a comprehensive study it commissioned that outlines a 10-year roadmap for Arizona to achieve national bioscience stature and a diversified economy.

The Piper Trust's investment in Personalized Medical Science and Technology supports Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap and will bring more internationally recognized leaders and renowned research teams to support the existing bioscience strengths.

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PIPER TRUST GRANTMAKING STRATEGIES: The Piper Trust's personalized medicine initiative is the refinement of an investment focus established in its first five years of grantmaking. To date, grants totaling nearly \$25 million have been made in the fields of cancer and bioscience research by the Piper Trust. Past giving in this area and the new personalized medicine initiative reflect Virginia Piper's longstanding interest in supporting cutting-edge medical research and state-of-the-art clinical care.

Strategic Initiatives: The investment in personalized medical science and technology represents only one of a number of strategic initiatives the Trust is undertaking over the next five years. Other investments include an educational support program for new parents, innovative centers to engage older adults, a reading remediation program for failing elementary school readers and a regional arts and culture program.

Grants to Nonprofits: The Trust will continue to award individual grants to local nonprofits within each of the six areas in which it funds: healthcare and medical research, children, older adults, arts and culture, education and religious organizations.

Based on past annual grantmaking, the Trust anticipates continuing to award more than \$26 million each year to nonprofits throughout Maricopa County.