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Today's Topic: **Scientific Research**

The American Heart Association has been accelerating science for extraordinary impact by funding research since 1949. The AHA supports investigators whose work is vital to fighting heart disease and stroke. This 75-year commitment has brought incredible results, including the AHA-funded discoveries of the first implantable pacemakers, drug-coated stents and the first artificial heart valve, just to name a few.

The Resource Center has developed the [Accelerating Science Tree infographic](#) so you can easily share our biggest scientific initiatives with our supporters. Let's walk through the **three core pillars** of our scientific research funding:

1

Foundational Research Awards are the AHA's fundamental support for researchers at every career stage. This category includes awards that train early-career investigators, emphasize bold and innovative ideas and provide research experiences for college students – all with the goal of saving and improving lives. These awards are consistent year-to-year, ensuring investigators of all levels can contribute to our mission.

2

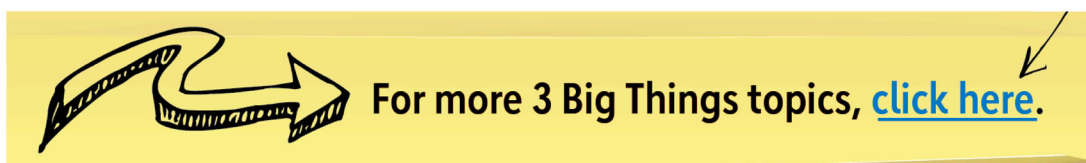
Special Initiatives include timely research projects that address and discover solutions to prevalent health issues. These include grants for research such as ending tobacco and vaping among youth, hemorrhagic stroke, initiatives around brain health and cognitive impairment, drug discovery, the Health Care by Food initiative and Second Century of Science Awards.

3

Initiatives in Health Equity and dismantling Structural Racism sit at the forefront of our research. Health equity is a part of everything we do. The AHA funds **targeted research initiatives** that support underserved populations. We also focus on research that encourages a **diversity of investigators** to ensure women, people from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, people with physical and mental impairments and more are key

contributors to our scientific discoveries. We do this to advance health and hope for everyone, everywhere.

[Head here](#) for more information about our scientific research.



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