

ENABLING PATIENT ADVOCATE GROUPS

MARGARET ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FASTERCURES

About *FasterCures*

FasterCures, a center of the Milken Institute, is an “action tank” that works to improve the medical research system - so that we can speed up the time it takes to get important new medicines from discovery to patients. We want the system to move faster.

What do we do? We focus on four objectives that we believe must be addressed to create a more effective and efficient system: engaging patients throughout the research process, facilitating collaboration across all sectors of the cure enterprise, encouraging strategic allocation of capital, and ensuring federal policies support science and innovation.

How do we do this? We convene and connect innovators, ideas, and promising initiatives to spur broad learning, collaboration, and adoption of best practices. We ensure national policies support research and innovation. We identify what works and what doesn't, and share it broadly. We focus on solutions and getting things done.

About The Research Acceleration and Innovation Network (TRAIN)

FasterCures has had a longstanding interest in philanthropy as a source of funding for innovation in medical research. Though small in size – approximately two percent of the funding pie annually – it can be unique in its role. Over the years, *FasterCures* has observed and supported more and more patient-driven foundations that are taking new, more entrepreneurial and outcomes-driven approaches to the funding and conduct of research in their disease areas.

We created our [TRAIN](#) (The Research Acceleration and Innovation Network) program as a “platform for venture philanthropy” in medical research, an open-source social network and online knowledge base to help these groups have greater impact by sharing best practices and networking with other stakeholder groups. More than fifty groups form the core of the network, with scores more partaking of the resources available via the Web site.



Project C)

Venture philanthropies in medical research are funding novel, high-risk research; have strong scientific expertise; bridge disciplines, institutions, and ideas; and are trusted by and have access to patients. They are creating preclinical tools and resources that benefit the entire field and de-risking early stage academic research for follow-on investment by industry. Patient-driven organizations are moving beyond creating patient registries or serving as a conduit to participants for clinical trials and are marshalling their forces and their data in new and more comprehensive ways.

How can the Sage community and the resources it is creating help empower entrepreneurial patient-driven research foundations to accelerate the pace of change for all diseases?

Over to You

C- Enabling Patient Advocate Groups

G	Organization	Last name	First
C-Lead	FasterCures	Anderson	Margaret
C	Ingenuity	Bassett	Doug
C	University of British Columbia	Edwin	Jonathan
C	Heritage Provide Network	Gluck	Jonathan
C	Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Kennedy Krieger Institute	Jamal	Leila
C	Al Jazeera	Khanfar	Wadah
C	Nature	Kiermer	Veronique
C	Ingenuity	Leschly	Jake
C	Broad Institute	Mesirov	Jill
C-Anchor	Sage Bionetworks	Norman	Thea
C	Kauffman Foundation	Pahud	Dominique
C	Traitwise	Simpson	Michael
C	The Hartwell Foundation	Smith	Richard
C	National Breast Cancer Coalition	Visco	Fran