

## NEWS

### For Immediate Release

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## ACR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$5.5 MILLION COMMITMENT FROM AMGEN INC. AND WYETH PHARMACEUTICALS TO CONTINUE VITAL AWARDS PROGRAM

ATLANTA, THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. and COLLEGEVILLE, Pa. – The American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation (REF) today announced that Amgen Inc. and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals have committed more than \$5.5 million to support programs designed by the REF to ensure that a highly trained workforce is available to provide clinical care to patients with rheumatic diseases.

The incredible support demonstrated by Amgen and Wyeth comes at a pivotal time when the rheumatology community is asking: “Who will treat rheumatic diseases in 2025?” According to the 2006 ACR Rheumatology Workforce Study, the demand for rheumatologists to treat patients between 2005 and 2025 will rise 46 percent while the number of rheumatologists in adult practice will increase only 1.2 percent. To meet the increasing demand, one of the workforce study’s recommendations is to increase the number of fellowship positions, a core goal of the Foundation and an objective Amgen and Wyeth are highly committed to.

The majority of the \$5.5 million will enable the REF to expand the ACR REF/Amgen/Wyeth Rheumatology Fellowship Training Award, part of the Foundation's extensive awards and grants program. This vital award ensures that a highly trained workforce is available by providing funds to help pay for one year of rheumatology training for a fellow. “There's no doubt that this award is a vital component of the REF awards and grants program,” says REF President James R. O'Dell, MD. “One of the REF's core goals is to provide support to rheumatology fellows and this award really speaks to that. We are so appreciative that Amgen and Wyeth have decided to continue support for this worthwhile program.”

Originally launched in 2002 with financial support from Amgen, this award has provided rheumatology training for more than 100 fellows to date. “We’re thrilled to be a part of the evolution in treatment of rheumatic diseases,” said Ellen McCroskery, executive director of medical affairs at Amgen. “Amgen continues to support clinical research and education with the goal of meeting the needs of people with rheumatic diseases.”

The expansion of the award will increase the number of recipients per year from 20 to 30. “We’re proud to be a part of the rheumatology community and to be able to offer more rheumatology fellows the opportunity to learn about the progress being made in understanding the causes of rheumatic diseases and new advances in treatment,” said Dr. Bruce Freundlich, assistant vice president, global medical affairs at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

The mission of the ACR Research and Education Foundation is to improve patients' lives through support of research and training that advances the prevention, treatment and cure of rheumatic diseases.

**About Amgen**

Amgen discovers, develops and delivers innovative human therapeutics. A biotechnology pioneer since 1980, Amgen was one of the first companies to realize the new science's promise by bringing safe and effective medicines from lab, to manufacturing plant, to patient. Amgen therapeutics have changed the practice of medicine, helping millions of people around the world in the fight against cancer, kidney disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and other serious illnesses. With a broad and deep pipeline of potential new medicines, Amgen remains committed to advancing science to dramatically improve people's lives. To learn more about our pioneering science and our vital medicines, visit [www.amgen.com](http://www.amgen.com).

**About Wyeth**

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, a division of Wyeth, has leading products in the areas of women's health care, cardiovascular disease, central nervous system, inflammation, transplantation, hemophilia, oncology, vaccines and nutritional products. Wyeth is one of the world's largest research-driven pharmaceutical and health care products companies. It is a leader in the discovery, development, manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, biotechnology products and non-prescription medicines that improve the quality of life for people worldwide. The Company's major divisions include Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Wyeth Consumer Healthcare and Fort Dodge Animal Health.

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