



## Inspiring the Next Generation of Investigators to Drive the Therapies of Tomorrow Campaign

Establishment of a new grant  
Named in honor of Dr. George Blackburn  
Focused on nutrition in metabolism

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**WHO WE ARE.** Named in honor of Dr. Jonathan Rhoads for his pivotal role in nutrition support therapy, the ASPEN Rhoads Research Foundation was established in 1994 to support the personal and professional development of nutrition researchers throughout their careers. This research is vital for physicians, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, clinicians, and researchers as they care for thousands of patients each year.

**THE WORK WE DO.** Malnutrition remains a common healthcare issue despite significant advances in medical research and improvements in healthcare delivery systems. At the same time, funding has failed to meet the need for nutrition science.

The ASPEN Rhoads Research Foundation awards grants for both basic science-oriented investigations aimed at improving our understanding of the science of nutrient regulation in different disease states, and clinical and translational research to determine how the practice of nutrition can be refined and individualized to optimize clinical outcomes. ASPEN's research priorities focus on the following: Malnutrition Assessment, Diagnosis, and Intervention in the context of nutrition support therapy; Diagnostics and Techniques in Nutrition Support; Clinical Trials and Outcomes Research; Translational Research; and Safety.

The ASPEN Rhoads Research Foundation has awarded more than \$1.6 million in grant funding to investigators for promising new research in nutrition and metabolic support; published more than 115 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles based upon the recipients' initial work; and provided grants to more than 93 investigators, clinicians, trainees, and graduate students.



**HONORING GEORGE L. BLACKBURN, MD, PhD.** In the 1970s, together with his collaborator Bruce Bistrian, MD, PhD, Chief of Clinical Nutrition at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Dr. Blackburn was among the very first to recognize that up to 50 percent of hospitalized surgical patients suffered from moderate to severe malnutrition. To address these challenges, Dr. Blackburn pioneered the development of intravenous hyperalimentation formulations, introduced novel formulations containing branch chain amino acids, and established the first multidisciplinary Nutrition Support Service in the United States for the safe delivery of total parenteral nutrition.



Dr. Blackburn and colleagues also recognized that poor nutrition contributed to a growing epidemic of obesity in the United States. He was among the first to perform a Roux-en-Y gastric bypass in New England for treatment of morbidly obese patients and would later develop the first evidence-based guidelines for weight loss surgery, catalyzing the formation of accreditation bodies and standards for certification of weight loss surgery centers and providers across the United States. More recently, Dr. Blackburn highlighted a novel link between diet and cancer, demonstrating that reducing dietary fat intake improves disease-free survival among breast cancer patients.

Dr. Blackburn served in 1978 as the second ASPEN president. He was a member of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Department of Surgery for 45 years, beginning his career at the New England Deaconess Hospital. Since 1998, he held the S. Daniel Abraham Professorship in Nutrition at Harvard Medical School, served as the Director of the Center for the Study of Nutrition Medicine at BIDMC, and as the Director of the Feihe Nutrition Laboratory in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Blackburn authored more than 400 original peer reviewed research publications, including 44 publications as part of the Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes) study, a multi-center, randomized controlled trial designed to determine whether intentional weight loss reduces cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in overweight individuals with type 2 diabetes. He edited nine books and wrote numerous professional educational materials, guidelines and reports. A true visionary and innovator, he made many seminal contributions



to the fields of surgery, metabolism, nutrition, and obesity that have positively affected the lives, health, and well-being of thousands of patients.

Recognized and honored by numerous medical societies and universities, he also held editorial board positions on prestigious journals, and led many societies and organizations. Dr. Blackburn was unparalleled as a mentor, training and advising more than 100 fellows who now hold important positions through the United States and abroad.

**WE RELY ON GIFTS OF SUPPORT.** The ASPEN Rhoads Research Foundation relies on the generosity of members of the parenteral and enteral nutrition community and friends through their gifts of support. There are many opportunities to aid in the tremendous work of nutrition science. With your help, the establishment of a new grant named in honor of George Blackburn will focus on nutrition in metabolism.

Funding costs for an annual grant for top applications focused on research in nutrition in metabolism:

- \$25,000 grant
  - \$30,000 annually, or
  - \$650,000 to endow
- \$50,000 grant
  - \$57,500 annually, or
  - \$1,250,000 to endow

Contributions of all amounts and from multiple donors accepted.

A grant will be awarded once the fund reaches \$30,000 in order to support scientific research while working to fund an endowment.

The above includes administrative fees.

Your gift is dedicated to supporting the ASPEN Rhoads Research Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Tax Identification 65-1226034.

For more information about our initiatives, programs, and research grants, please contact [www.nutritioncare.org/foundation](http://www.nutritioncare.org/foundation)