

# emerging science



COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT: Kip Patrick  
202-552-2135 | [kpatrick@pewtrusts.org](mailto:kpatrick@pewtrusts.org)

The Pew Health Group (PHG) seeks to improve the health and well-being of all Americans. Based on research and critical analysis, the program advocates policies that reduce unacceptable health risk, focusing on areas that include consumer, medical and food safety.

Since 1948, Pew has invested more than \$500 million in efforts designed to create meaningful and measurable change in people's lives. PHG has an active portfolio of projects supporting emerging science and technology, including:

## **THE GENETICS & PUBLIC POLICY CENTER**

Science has made astonishing progress in mapping the human genome, and physicians, researchers and health care organizations are rapidly integrating genetic knowledge into medical practice. However, many genetic applications are largely untested and unregulated, and their safety and efficacy have not yet been firmly established. To help policy makers and the public address the safety, ethical, legal and social dilemmas inherent in technologies that manipulate the building blocks of life, Pew established the *Genetics and Public Policy Center* ([www.dnapolicy.org](http://www.dnapolicy.org)) at Johns Hopkins University, with a total investment now approaching \$13 million.

## **THE PROJECT ON EMERGING NANOTECHNOLOGIES**

Momentous change can come in very small packages. Nanotechnologies have been widely hailed as the next industrial revolution, likely to change everything from clothing and medical care to engineering. The National Science Foundation predicts that the global marketplace for goods and services using nanotechnologies will grow to \$1 trillion by 2015 and employ two million workers. In partnership with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Pew developed the *Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies* ([www.nanotechproject.org](http://www.nanotechproject.org)), which works to improve awareness of nanotechnologies' benefits and risks, and ensure that potential problems are properly evaluated and addressed.

## **INVESTING IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH**

Pew also supports programs focused on advancing biomedicine. Our two long-standing, competitive programs are the *Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences* ([www.pewscholars.com](http://www.pewscholars.com)) and the *Pew Latin American Fellows Program in the Biomedical Sciences* ([www.pewlatinfellows.com](http://www.pewlatinfellows.com)). Over the course of two decades, we have invested approximately \$125 million in these projects, providing support to nearly 450 of our nation's leading scientists and more than 100 promising Latin American scientists. The selection process for both programs is rigorously competitive, as all applicants are highly talented researchers in their fields. Scholars must be nominated by an invited institution and Fellows can apply directly, however individuals in both categories must demonstrate excellence and innovation in their research. Awardees are chosen by a distinguished national advisory committee comprised of many of today's most highly-respected biomedical scientists, including Dr. Torsten N. Wiesel, advisory committee chairperson and a 1981 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine.

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2005 MARKET STREET, SUITE 1700 PHILADELPHIA PA 19103-7077 T 215.575.9050 F 215.575.4939  
901 E STREET, NW 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004 T 202.552.2000 F 202.552.2299