



**Global Genes®**

Allies in Rare Disease

## **Global Genes Medical & Scientific Advisory Board Policy Statement The Need for Undirected Research**

The Global Genes Medical and Scientific Advisory Board advocates for continued and strong funding for undirected research, or research that is focused on expanding our knowledge but does not have immediate applications. It is estimated that there are 5,000 to 8,000 rare diseases, and 95 percent have no treatment. For many of these rare diseases, we lack even a basic understanding of the underlying mechanism of the disease. Many times, our critical understanding of both the causes of and potential treatments for rare diseases has come from research on topics far removed from human disease. Basic, discovery-generating research across biological fields sustains the translational research and advances in research methods that enable the development of new treatments. We encourage basic scientists to closely collaborate with patient advocacy groups and other stakeholders to act strategically to influence public and private funding, advocating for a balance of basic, translational, and clinical research.