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Tinnitus:

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While tinnitus is one of the most common disorders of the auditory system, there is little consensus as to the mechanisms by which it is created or maintained. This gap in our understanding motivated Mr. Robert W. Wilson to offer philanthropic support for research into the fundamental mechanisms underlying tinnitus. To realize this goal, Dr. James B. Snow was recruited to assemble a group of auditory research scientists, most of whom did not work in the field of tinnitus, to develop requests for research proposals in the field, to make decisions regarding funding, and to offer advice to grantees. From 1998 to the present, the Tinnitus Research Consortium (TRC) has supported research by dozens of scientists via this unique, collaborative model. These projects have expanded our understanding of tinnitus mechanisms, provided new paradigms for tinnitus assessment, and rigorously evaluated various forms of tinnitus treatment. Most importantly, support from the TRC has also brought new scientists into tinnitus research, provided critical initial funding that has led to significant federal support, and broadened the scope of tinnitus research.

Upon the death of Mr. Wilson in 2013, as agreed upon at the founding of the TRC, the funding of new grants was suspended. Existing grants will be funded until their three-year duration has expired, at which point the TRC will be dissolved.

For this Special Issue, areas of tinnitus research are included that span the range of scientific topics supported by the TRC. Authors were asked to summarize the most critical results of their TRC-funded research. In addition, Dr. Snow has provided a detailed description of the founding and the overall work of the TRC. We feel that the resulting volume is a fitting

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testimonial to the extraordinary generosity of Mr. Robert W. Wilson as well as to the work of Dr. Snow and the members of the TRC.