

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate Release

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Grant Funding Awarded to PSBR in Support of its Student Education Program

Tuesday, July 5, 2022 – The Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research (PSBR) was awarded a \$50,000 grant to support its growing Science Program and Research Coach (SPARC) education outreach program. The grant funding comes from global pharmaceutical company GSK.

The SPARC mobile science program provides students with engaging, hands-on, and career-infused STEM education with real world science equipment directly at their schools and within local communities. SPARC is designed to bring biomedical knowledge and concepts, and career pathway guidance directly to underserved students to create awareness and connections to the biomedical science field. “

To help further its commitment to increase the number of diverse Philadelphians entering STEM careers by 2030, global pharmaceutical company GSK awarded PSBR over \$51,000 through the corporation’s STEM Equity charitable grants program, which will allow PSBR to utilize SPARC to bring curriculum-enhancing biomedical science lessons directly to over 2,000 Philadelphia students in both in-school and out-of-school time settings, as well as provide professional development to participating teachers and instructors. GSK committed to support the [Philadelphia STEM Equity Collective](#) with \$1 million in grant funds each year over 10 years to nonprofit organizations working to address inequity in STEM education and career pathways in Philadelphia. The latest award follows an initial \$25,000 grant from GSK to PSBR in late 2020.

“By providing engaging, career-connected science education programs to populations of students currently underrepresented in the biomedical field, we are helping create a more diverse regional talent pipeline,” said PSBR Director of Outreach & Education Dr. David Garbe. “Putting equipment, supplies, and tools directly in the hands of students promotes academic growth and equity of access to hands-on science instruction to help students excel now and develop skills for the future.”

"We are grateful for the continued recognition and the expansion of support from GSK this year," said PSBR Executive Director Tom Leach. "Beyond economic security for individuals entering the field, research has found that a more diverse biomedical workforce expands the areas and topics of research to be more inclusive of health issues faced by underrepresented demographic groups and contributes to greater innovation in the field in general."

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The Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research (PSBR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit science education organization formed in 1990. PSBR's mission is to promote a better public understanding of the importance of biomedical research and its contributions to human and animal health, with the goal of offering any person, regardless of age, gender, or income level, the opportunity to engage in scientific exploration and career-connected learning. PSBR carries out this mission by providing in-person activities, presentations and experiences, that support science and healthcare education, career awareness, and professional development opportunities.