



**Birth Defect Research for Children  
Annual Report 2015-16**

A hand is shown holding a white puzzle piece. The puzzle piece has binary code (0s and 1s) on it. The background is a blue gradient with white clouds and faint circuit patterns. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

## National Birth Defect Registry

The National Birth Defect Registry  
founded and operated by Birth Defect  
Research for Children now has over  
5000 case reports. These data are used  
for studies, advocacy and prevention re-  
search.

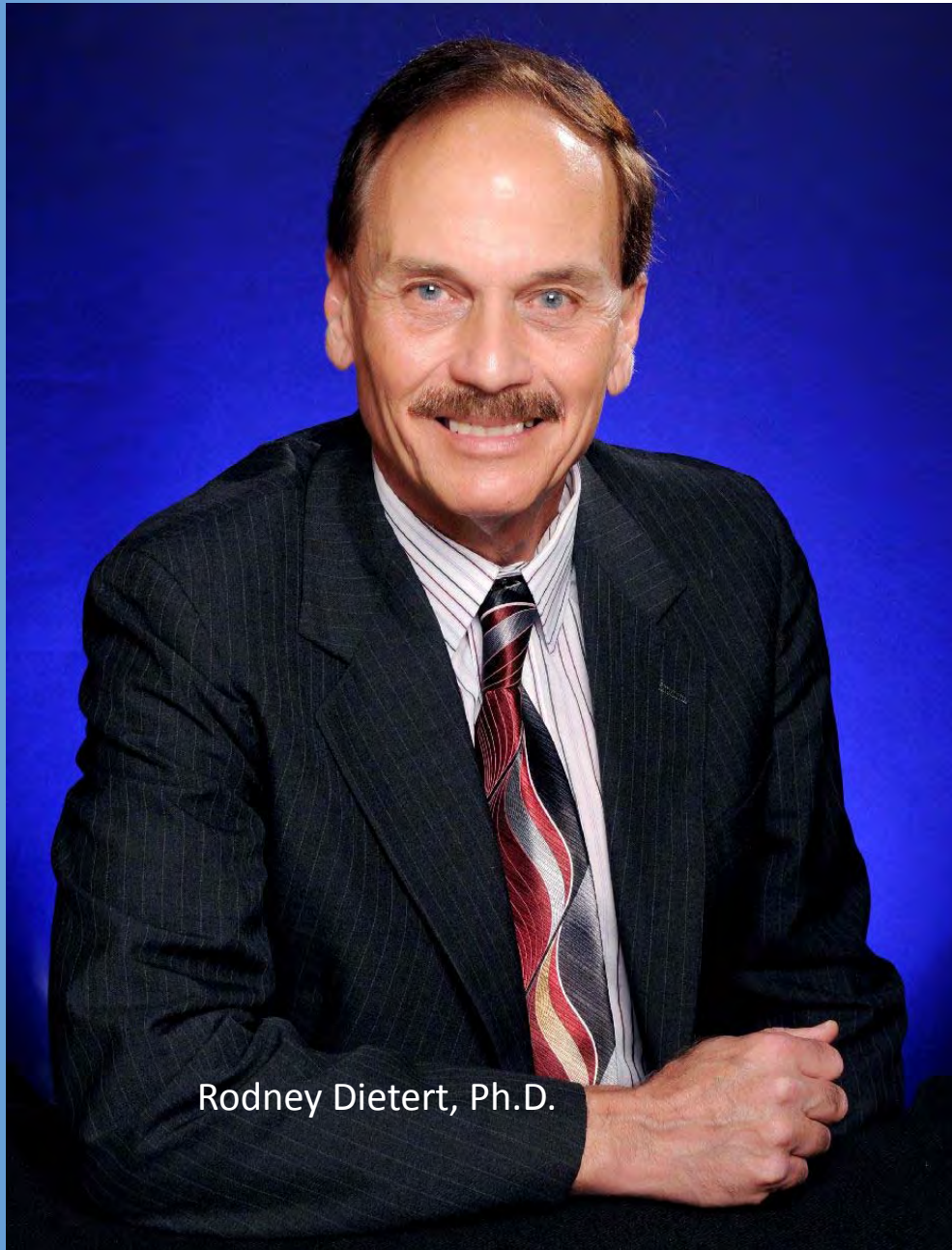




### **NIESH Partners**

BDRC's Associate Director, David Mekdeci attended the annual National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Partners meeting with Institute Director, Dr. Linda Birnbaum. Partners is a group of nonprofits and health advocates concerned about environmental exposures and adverse health effects. BDRC's Director is co-chair of the Partners who participate in monthly calls featuring the research of NIESH scientists.





Rodney Dietert, Ph.D.



Carol Kwiatkowski, Ph.D.

**New Additions to BDRC Scientific Advisory Board**

Dr. Carol Kwiatkowski is the Executive Director of TEDX, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, and an Assistant Professor Adjunct at the University of Colorado Boulder .


Dr. Rodney Dietert is Professor of Immunotoxicology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He received his PhD in immunogenetics from the University of Texas at Austin.



## **Environmental Birth Defects**

BDRC monitors research linking medications, metals, radiation, chemicals and other environmental toxins to birth defects. Through the National Birth Defect registry, data on these exposures are collected to look for patterns of birth defects that may be associated with these toxins. These data are used for studies, community advocacy and as an early warning system for birth defect prevention.



A photograph of a soldier in a camouflage uniform and a black beret, smiling and holding a baby. The soldier is on the left, and the baby is on the right. They are positioned in front of a large American flag. The soldier's uniform has a small American flag patch on the shoulder. The baby is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background is a large American flag with stars and stripes.


## Toxic Exposure Research Act

Since 2009, BDRC has worked with the Vietnam Veterans of America for the creation of a special research center to study the effects of toxic exposures on the children of military veterans. This year, a bill for the center was incorporated into the Veterans First Act.



## Parent Support Services

Birth Defect Research for Children has over 100 fact sheets on structural and functional birth defects that parents can download from BDRC's web site. Parents can also find connections to other families who have children with the same conditions by visiting BDRC's Support Center or by participating in BDRC's Parent Matching Program when they fill out the questionnaire for the National Birth Defect Registry.

A close-up photograph of a young child with long, wavy blonde hair, blowing a dandelion seed head. The child's face is in profile, looking towards the right. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage. The entire image is set against a blue gradient background.

## Outreach and Education

Each month BDRC sends out Birth Defect news to over 6,000 subscribers on our Constant Contact newsletter list.

Every day, we post timely news items on Face Book to over 8,000 friends. These news articles report on the latest research on birth defects and their causes, especially preventable causes.

BDRC also does outreach for the National Birth Defect Registry, this year, through four half page ads in the national magazine Healthy Mom & Baby .



**Hopkins**  
Since 1945 Medical Products<sup>®</sup>

Hopkins Medical Products has generously donated a percentage of the sales of their featherweight baby scales to BDRC.



The Agent Orange Riders is a group of patriotic citizens who are working together to promote awareness about Agent Orange related birth defects. This year the Riders donated over \$2000 to help fund to fund BDRC's research.



Jan Mahoney, past-president of the American Legion Auxiliary of New York selected BDRC as one of her fundraising projects during her year as president.

Thanks to her untiring efforts the Auxiliary donated over \$33,000 to Birth Defect Research for Children.



## Thanks for Giving Us A Hand

American Legion Child Welfare Fdn

Bradford Exchange

Carson Family Foundation

Children's Charities of America

National Veterans Service Fund

State employees in:

California, Connecticut, Florida

Illinois, New Jersey, New York,

Texas and Washington

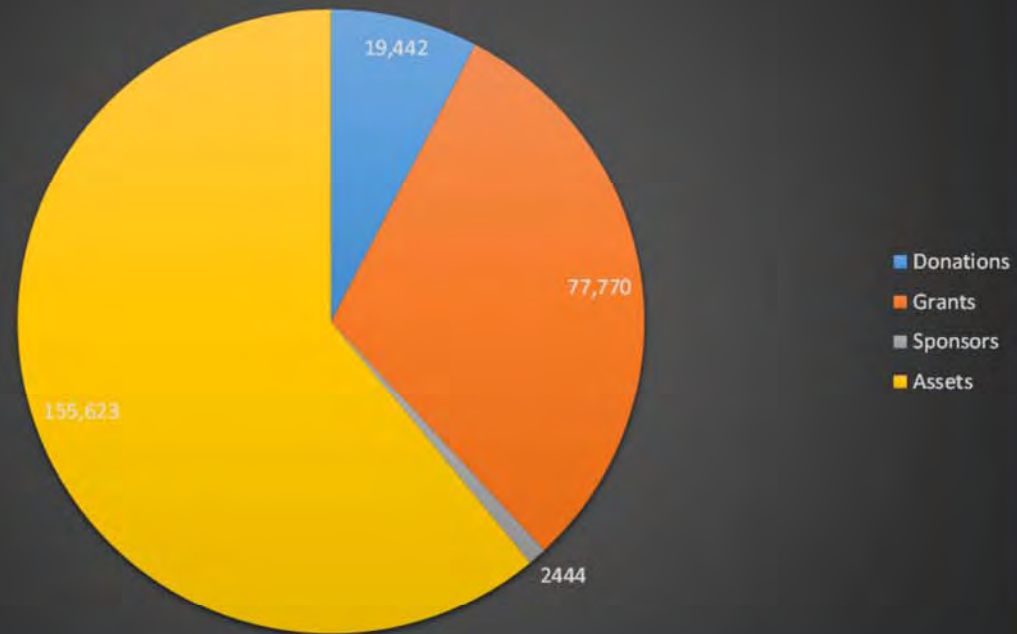
Employees from AT&T ,

Microsoft and

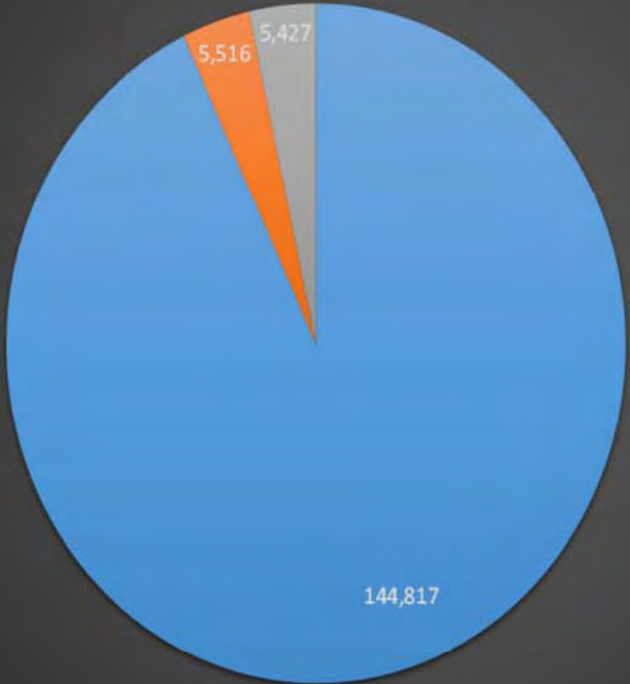
Liberty Mutual.



## Revenue



# Expenses



- Program
- Admin
- Fundraising





Chelsea

Betty

David

Kathleen

Meet Our Staff

- Betty Mekdeci, Executive Director
- David Mekdeci, Associate Director
- Chelsea Assang, Research Assistant
- Kathleen Cumba, Research Assistant