



CENTER FOR
TRUTH IN SCIENCE

Annual Report

2020

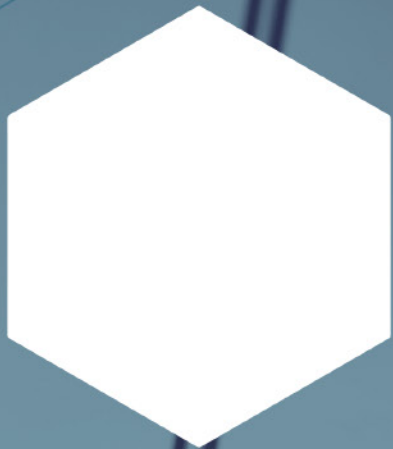


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The Center fills a necessary role at the “Intersection,” a unique—and previously unoccupied—space where the integrity of three pillars of society intersect and sometimes collide: science, justice, and the economy.

The Beginning

IN TODAY'S choose-your-own-facts society, nothing is more crucial for our future than the truth. It is particularly imperative for issues at the nexus of science, justice, and the economy. Which is why, early last year, I ended my short-lived experiment with retirement for the opportunity to spearhead the formation of a new organization seeking to find that truth.

Having spent the bulk of my career representing property and casualty insurers, I am very familiar with how fragments of scientific information or “agenda-driven” research are used to craft compelling and emotional narratives that peddle fears, not facts. These campaigns of misinformation often result in unnecessary regulations and multi-billion-dollar legal settlements—the costs of which are ultimately paid for by consumers in the form of higher prices and curtailed innovation.

So, I came aboard with big goals and strategic plans. Shortly after, the world shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A pessimist would look at such a development as a bad omen. Thank goodness I and the others associated with the Center are optimists, and that optimism paid off as the pandemic raised historic levels of public awareness surrounding the importance of scientific research and fact-based scientific evidence. The term “follow the science” became part of our daily vernacular and cemented the need for the Center’s mission.

We assembled a high caliber Board of Directors, connected with an amazing cadre of partners and allies, built a brand, developed a strategic plan, identified our initial set of core issues, conducted a nationwide poll to assess

the public’s views on our issues, produced blog posts and op-eds to raise our profile, and launched four scientific research grant opportunities currently seeking proposals.

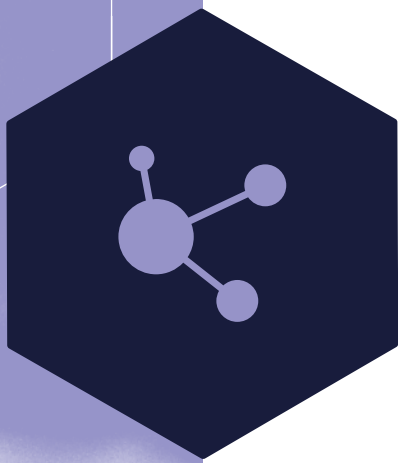
And this is just the beginning. I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

ABOUT THE INTERSECTION

The Center fills a necessary role at the “Intersection,” a unique—and previously unoccupied—space where the integrity of three pillars of society intersect and sometimes collide: science, justice, and the economy.

In some cases, of course, the law properly assigns a judgment that a product is unsafe. However, when liability and damage awards are made based on poor science—and often in spite of decades of research concluding a product is safe—it leaves consumers unable to discern between fact and fiction. It calls into question the integrity of our judicial system.

These decisions and settlement awards have far-reaching economic consequences, including the removal of a lifesaving drug or necessary product from the market, and the shuttering of factories and loss of jobs impacting local economies. In some cases, they intimidate industries that wish to avoid similar judgments to fold or settle before science even has a chance. For these reasons, it is vitally important a balanced and objective presentation of the science is provided for judges and juries, particularly as they often have little or no expertise on these matters.



Science

In 2021, the Center will begin in-depth studies of other emerging issues and necessary topics including causation, risk analysis, and the science surrounding potential side-effects of alcohol consumption.

FOR TOO LONG, fact-based scientific evidence has been overlooked, dismissed, and exploited by political partisans and a small group of mass tort attorneys. Sound science has been manipulated to generate consumer fear, facilitate economic coercion, stifle innovation, and increase prices for everything from medicine to fertilizer to household cleaners.

When trust in science is undermined, people make decisions on matters of consequence absent of truth, resulting in confusion, sensationalism, regulatory overreach, and extreme judicial action. The more science becomes ideologically motivated, the more likely Americans are to lose faith in institutions, policymakers, and scientists themselves. Scientific research should not be used to foment political polarization. Americans must be able to trust in the objectivity and fairness of the scientific method so they can more easily evaluate the

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE:

When Scientific Research
Got It Right



JAN. 5, 2021



INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC PANELS

and Mass Tort Litigation



JAN. 15, 2021



information presented by scientists and public officials.

That's why the Center for Truth in Science is returning to the basics of science, examining the accuracy and objectivity of existing scientific evidence on issues at the intersection of science, justice and the economy. This means relying on the fundamental building blocks of the scientific method and conducting its work in the most transparent, objective, and unbiased way possible.

By critically analyzing the existing research surrounding scientific issues, the Center will provide clarity on whether the results are sound or whether more research must be done before making major regulatory or judicial decisions. And, by amplifying its results far and

wide, the Center will ensure that consumers and businesses are treated fairly, and that judicial decisions related to science are made using a commonsense application of facts, rather than sensationalism or individual bias. In 2020, the Center laid the foundation for this work by publishing requests for proposals for scientific research grants to conduct systemic analyses of the existing research on four key issues—ethylene oxide, glyphosate, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and talc—to be published later this year.

In 2021, the Center will begin in-depth studies of other emerging issues and necessary topics including causation, risk analysis, and the science surrounding potential side-effects of alcohol consumption.



Justice

Flawed science leads to poor public policy decisions that have an enormous and long-lasting impact on individuals, businesses, litigation, and public health

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS frequently at the heart of legal and regulatory disputes, and skilled advocates on both sides use fragments of scientific evidence to convince judges, juries, and regulators that a particular substance is either perfectly safe or wildly hazardous.

The legal and regulatory decisions resulting from these disputes impact everything from the food people eat and the household chemicals families use, to the strength of the economy and fairness of the judicial system.

Too often, these major—and majorly expensive—legal decisions are rooted in assumption and fear, not fact. The “jackpot justice system” of mass tort

lawsuits clogs courtrooms, forces companies to pay billions of dollars in settlements for claims unsupported by scientific evidence (most of which goes to a handful of large law firms), and increases the cost of household products for consumers. We cannot leave major decisions up to emotion or assumptions. The Center is committed to employing common sense in science, examining objective evidence, and communicating the results transparently and broadly so that judges, juries, regulators, and the American public can understand them, their implications, and make informed choices.

Economy



From the courtroom to everyday consumer choices, the confusion surrounding what is truth versus what is sensationalism—and who gets to make that call—is making it harder to make smart decisions based on facts.

REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT IS often left to litigation and overzealous regulations that ban or unfairly restrict the use of chemicals and compounds based on limited, incomplete, or agenda-driven data. This comes with a high price tag, including cleanup costs, job losses, higher consumer prices, and unjustified public panic.

Americans understandably question the motives of paid advocates who make claims about health and safety issues. From the courtroom to everyday consumer choices, the confusion surrounding what is truth versus what is sensationalism—and who gets to make that call—is making it harder to make smart decisions based on facts.

It can be easy to dismiss these legal decisions as single events that only affect the

companies or parties involved. But their ripple effects impact real individuals and entire industries worldwide. Everyone pays the high cost of frivolous lawsuits and enormous settlements, both in the form of price increases and the chasing away of those once willing to innovate and invest in new technologies, therapies, and research that could improve, extend, and save lives.

The Center is pairing its in-depth scientific research with a close examination of the economic impacts of legal and regulatory decisions related to those same issues. Do effective alternatives exist? What costs are passed on to consumers and the market as a whole? How will these decisions impact the bottom lines of millions of Americans trying to make ends meet?

2020 Highlights

IN A MATTER of weeks and during the early stages of a global pandemic, the Center accomplished many great feats in 2020, including:

- **FORMING** a Board of Directors featuring some of the best, brightest, and most qualified individuals in our space.
- **EMBARKING** on and finalizing the development of a strong brand and identity suite that represents integrity, curiosity, and consistency in the pursuit of scientific integrity.
- **PRODUCING** more than 70 pieces of original content for distribution to the public and targeted audiences.
- **REACHING** nearly half-a-million individuals through three opinion editorials in Real Clear Science.
- **PUBLISHING** six original research products to establish a strong foundation for our long-term success with dozens more in the development stages.
- **LAUNCHING** four requests for proposals for the systematic analysis of the methodologies and results of the research studies that have been most frequently cited in the risk assessment, public policymaking, and judicial decision on the toxicity and carcinogenicity of ethylene oxide, glyphosate, per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and talc on humans.
- **CONDUCTING** an in-depth and multi-pronged public opinion polling and message testing effort in partnership with Echelon Insights to discover attitudes towards our work, key stakeholders, and our issue areas.
- **DEVELOPING** strong relationships with more than 80 key individuals in allied organizations.
- **SPEARHEADED** a fascinating social listening research project into the conversations around one of our key issues, PFAS, to determine the best pathway for the Center to enter the marketplace.

A Look Forward



- **ADVANCE** objectivity and integrity in science as it intersects with the economy and judicial system.
- **PRODUCE** and promote at least three influential, transparent, rigorous, and scientifically credible systematic research studies on issues at the intersection of science, justice, and the economy by awarding grants to highly qualified independent scientists and researchers.
- **SUCCESSFULLY** target key influencer audiences with Center-produced content to expand our influence and shift the cultural narrative on our issues.
- **DEVELOP** and initiate strategies to ensure Center-produced research is referenced as sound scientific evidence in at least one hearing, lawsuit, or in the debate over a proposed state or federal regulation or law.
- **ESTABLISH** the Center as a thought leader at the intersection of science, justice, and the economy in the eyes with a key focus on policymakers, the scientific and legal communities, regulatory agencies, and the media.

Support



“It’s more important than ever that we improve expertise in all areas of government, including in the legal and regulatory arenas. The Center for Truth in Science is helping fill a critical void by ensuring that relevant stakeholders better incorporate available knowledge and science into their decision making processes. We need more people tackling these difficult issues, and I look forward to working together on them in the months and years ahead.”

– JONATHAN BYDLAK,

Interim Director, Governance Program, Director of the Fiscal and Budget Policy Project, R Street Institute



“In these times of misinformation and overly zealous advocacy, it is refreshing to learn that the Center for Truth in Science has been established. Given the Center’s commitment to funding research that looks for evidence that will guide a rational, science based approach to existing and potential human harms, I support them enthusiastically. In my dealings with the organization, I have found them to be true to their word in working to achieve transparency and scientific integrity as a matter of course in the development of their research and policy agendas. I look forward to working with them to support good science that benefits human health and well being on multiple levels, including physical health, faith in the scientific method to resolve controversies, and economic security.”

– MARGARET M. MURRAY, PHD,

National Institutes of Health (retired)



“The Center for Truth in Science is a beacon of light in a world darkened by baseless arguments, flawed science, and misinformation. In just its first year, the Center made a difference in important scientific debates about the safety and risks of chemicals, related litigation, and public policy. The Center works tirelessly to develop solutions that promote objective research and science that honestly informs public policy and legal debates too often clouded by politics, inherent biases, and dishonesty. ”

- DR. ANGELA LOGOMASINI,

Senior Fellow, Competitive Enterprise Institute



“As a mom and a writer who focuses on science and consumer habits, I’m thrilled that the Center for Truth in Science is exposing some of the problems within the scientific community today. With the help of the media, activists often use dodgy scientific studies to suggest affordable foods and products are dangerous. Regulators react to this misinformation by putting unnecessary limits (taxes, bans, and other restrictions) on certain products. Ultimately, consumers lose by paying higher prices for common goods, having limited choices, and by feeling constant unease about their choices in the marketplace. Consumers deserve better. I’m glad the Center for Truth in Science is pushing back.”

- JULIE GUNLOCK

Director of the Center for Progress and Innovation,
Independent Women’s Forum



“The Center is a brilliant concept and the timing of its creation strongly resonates with the needs of society. Equally important is that it has a creative and visionary board. I am very excited to see what the Center will accomplish over the next decade. “

- DR. ED CALABRESE,

Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, specializing in toxicology.

About the Center

STAFF AND BOARD



**DR. RICHARD
WILLIAMS**
Chairman



**KEITH
PAULEY**
Vice Chairman



**DAVID
RANDALL**
Secretary



**ED
KING**
Treasurer



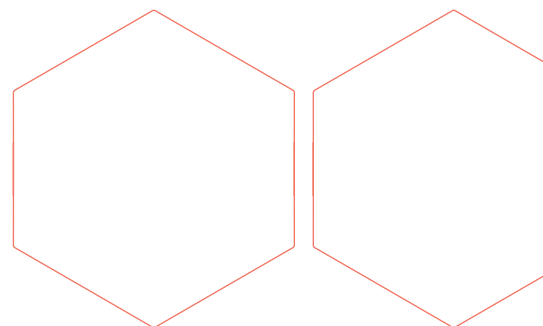
**DR. MARJANA
MARTINIC**



**DR. TONY
COX**



**JOSEPH
ANNOTTI**
President and CEO





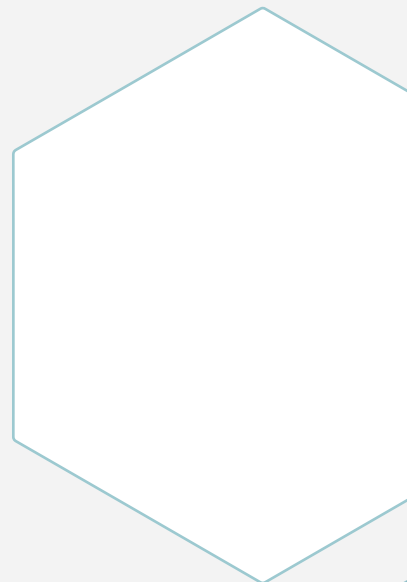
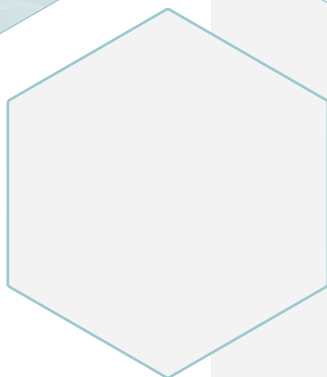
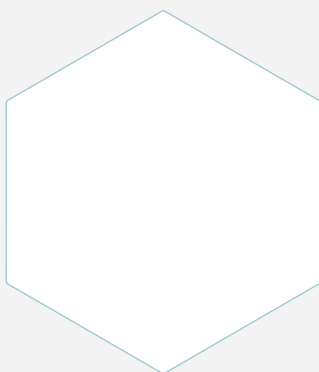
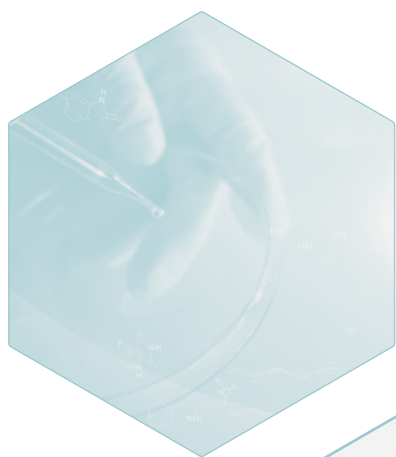
“Americans must be able to trust in the objectivity and fairness of the scientific method so that we can more easily evaluate the information scientists and public officials present to us. And that is what we seek to do by conducting influential, transparent, rigorous, and scientifically credible meta-research studies on our issues. I am so excited to bring you the work—and mission—of the Center, in hopes that you can help share our cause.”

- DR. RICHARD WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN

FINANCIALS

THE CENTER FOR TRUTH IN SCIENCE began its first year with a generous \$1 million in seed funding. As we embark on 2021, we seek to grow our base of support from others who share our passion for seeking integrity in the pursuit of scientific knowledge.





**CENTER FOR
TRUTH IN SCIENCE**

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