Telluride Science Research Center (TSRC) convenes the world’s best molecular scientists for workshops, conferences, and summer schools. TSRC scientists meet to discuss unpublished research, explore blue-sky ideas, and build new collaborations. They define the new frontiers in molecular science. Their research expands our fundamental knowledge and fosters applications in the fields of energy science, biomedical science, materials science, computer science, nanotechnology, and atmospheric science.
Molecular science is an approach to solving science and engineering challenges. The ability to see molecules and materials at increasingly finer scales, to control how they are arranged, and to create new molecules and materials—all are changing how we innovate technological solutions.

Peter Rossky
Dean, Natural Sciences
Rice University
Member of the National Academy of Sciences

In 2015, Telluride Science Research Center (TSRC) provided 1,389 scientists with a venue to discuss scientific ideas in an environment that facilitates the exchange of ideas and creates research collaborations.

This past year saw many changes. In January, John Straub and Jack Simons, long-known to the TSRC community, joined me as officers of the Board of Directors. In April, Mark Kozak, who in 2014 was Development Director, became Executive Director. In July, we held a tribute workshop in honor of Steve Berry, a TSRC founder and still an active contributor and participant. Peter Salamon, a co-founder, and Bill Reinhardt, an early president, attended TSRC this summer; they along with Steve led TSRC in its early days (now 31 years ago).

For the fourth time, TSRC hosted the Telluride School on Theoretical Chemistry, led this year by Phil Geissler and Troy Van Voorhis. In the upcoming years, TSRC plans not only to expand the size and focus of this program but also to be a resource for the Telluride School District and the region as they develop new programs in STEM education.

Through its programs, TSRC continues to be an economic and intellectual resource for local communities. The 1,389 scientists who participated in workshops last summer rented lodging and purchased food in the community. The Telluride Tourism Board has estimated TSRC’s contribution to the local economy to be approximately $5 million. About 80 percent of participants fly into the Montrose airport—this provides a significant resource for a regional airport. Additionally in 2015, TSRC donated $15,500 to the Telluride School District (TSD) and installed the fastest, state-of-the-art Wi-Fi system in the region in the elementary school, which benefits both our scientists and the TSD students and teachers.

Championed by Board member Audrey Marnoy, a Mountain Village resident, the TSRC Town Talk program brings scientists together with members of the Telluride and Mountain Village communities. These talks, given by scientists who conduct basic research in molecular science, show how their work may someday benefit humanity and the environment.

As an example, last July, Rohit Pappu, a professor of biomedical engineering at Washington University in St. Louis, spoke to the audience about the disordered proteins associated with Alzheimer’s and Huntington’s diseases. Pappu uses state-of-the-art computational methods and experimental techniques to explain the molecular and cellular implications of these degenerative diseases.

In January 2016, Jack Simons and I will be stepping down as officers. For continuity, we will remain ex-officio members of the Board. John Straub (Boston University) will be taking over as President and Eran Rabani (UC Berkeley) as Treasurer, and Michael Fajg (Michigan State University) as Secretary. I am confident that they, working with Mark and Managing Director, Kristen Redd, will successfully preserve and enhance TSRC’s unique small-group approach to collaborative meetings.

In closing I wish to thank, for their aid and support, Mark, his staff, and all the other past and present members of the board. I know that I am leaving TSRC renewed and in excellent health.

Millard Alexander
TSRC President
Distinguished University Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
University of Maryland
TSRC is committed to its core focus—exploring ideas that expand the frontiers of molecular science in an environment that is friendly, informal, supportive, and community oriented. We aim to generate new ideas, advance collective scientific understanding, and build international collaborations. Our determination to preserve the unique qualities of TSRC workshops, schools, and conferences will guide any carefully managed growth.

While the Telluride schools have been extremely hospitable to the Telluride Science Research Center (TSRC) from its inception in 1984, our organization has grown and matured to a stage where it is now very important that it have space of its own. TSRC needs to have a single site that it can use throughout the year, where it can have meetings of widely differing sizes, where it can host scientists who in 2015 hailed from 575 different institutions and 80 countries of birth, repeatedly tell us that their time spent at TSRC is the most productive time they spend outside of their own institutions. Because of this, TSRC is poised to be the center of major scientific and technological advancements in molecular sciences—advancements that will impact medicine, energy, computing, materials, nanotechnology, and our planet.

By hosting meetings of widely differing sizes, TSRC can maintain a library, and where it can keep and maintain equipment of its own. TSRC has become a much-liked institution in Telluride, a year-round presence that interacts closely and often with local residents. It is time for the TSRC to create a home for itself, to be a permanent, visible, and accessible part of the Telluride community.

R. Stephen Berry
TSRC Co-founder
James Franck Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus
University of Chicago

TSRC is committed to maintaining the affordability of workshops and conferences for US and international scientists. This includes the most distinguished members of our fields to the up-and-coming scientists and graduate students who represent the future of our organization. With growing constraints on scientific funding, both nationally and internationally, and with increasing travel and lodging costs, TSRC is exploring solutions that will ensure participation from diverse members of the scientific community. It is our goal to develop a variety of endowment funds to support registration costs, international travel, graduate summer schools, and scholarships.

TSRC has a deep commitment to its graduate-level summer schools, the only summer schools for graduate education devoted to molecular science in the US. Telluride School on Theoretical Chemistry meets for one week every other year, most recently in 2015. This school is complemented by TSRC’s newer summer school, the Fundamental Science for Alternative Energy, which was founded in 2014 and will be held again in 2016. A goal for TSRC is to expand the number, length, and scientific focus of summer schools.

In addition to enhancing STEM education at the university level, TSRC is committed to supporting K-12 STEM programs, both locally and regionally. TSRC scientists participate in STEM education through TSRC’s local partner, Pinhead Institute, a Smithsonian Affiliate. Currently, TSRC is exploring ways to support the efforts of the Telluride School District (TSD) and the Telluride Foundation in the professional development of secondary science teachers and the development of STEM education throughout southwest Colorado.

While TSRC is committed to a continuing partnership with TSD, which provides the principal venue for our meetings, the Board remains committed to pursuing the possibility of establishing a permanent facility in Telluride. TSRC is currently exploring a range of business models that would allow TSRC to form meaningful partnerships that could make the development and management of a permanent facility financially viable and sustainable.

TSRC’s value to the scientific community is its ability to provide meaningful forums for the generation of new ideas and the development of domestic and international collaborations in fields of molecular science—theoretical and experimental, traditional and interdisciplinary. Our scientists, who in 2015 hailed from 575 different institutions and 80 countries of birth, repeatedly tell us that their time spent at TSRC is the most productive time they spend outside of their own institutions. Because of this, TSRC is poised to be the center of major scientific and technological advancements in molecular sciences—advancements that will impact medicine, energy, computing, materials, nanotechnology, and our planet.

The small, personal nature of the meetings at TSRC fosters an atmosphere for free scientific dialogue that is usually absent from large commercial conferences. The focus of my research is the development of quantum computing technology that we hope will one day be used to discover new materials such as solar cells and green catalysts entirely via computation. While at TSRC, I began several extremely productive collaborations in this area.

Ryan Babbush
Google Scientist
Google Inc.

Through critical, yet open-minded and supportive, feedback from fellow scientists, our TSRC meetings have led to a multitude of new collaborations. On every occasion I have been to TSRC, scientists have presented results from collaborative research which was initiated from discussions at previous workshops. TSRC meetings foster new research companionships that bridge borders and continents. TSRC meetings have fostered new research partnerships for me, from Boulder to Japan, to understand how proteins can turn light into information.

Frans Mulder
Associate Professor
iNANO & Chemistry
Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark
Unlike larger professional scientific conferences, what makes the Telluride Science Research Center (TSRC) special is its unique format of small, informal workshops that explore the very latest developments in molecular science.

Telluride workshops are not formatted like a typical professional meeting, where we present our own work and respond to a few questions at the end of the talk. The workshops are much more oriented to discussion, often facilitating collaboration between participants on new topics. In my own experience, those collaborations have led to several articles as well as a book on energy dynamics in proteins, the molecular machines of the cell. co-edited with TSRC’s incoming president John Straub. Sometimes during discussions, topics emerge for altogether new workshops. Several years ago, Ken Jordan and I (at a workshop attended mainly by theoretical chemists) considered the possibility of a TSRC workshop on thermal transport at the nanoscale, a developing area of interest to physical and engineers to address problems of heat management in nanotechnology.

I have been returning to Telluride many summers as participant and organizer in a wide range of TSRC workshops, all of which were wonderful and special in their own way. I believe that most scientists are overwhelmed these days by the volume of articles and conferences around the world, making it difficult to catch up with the scientific literature. At Telluride, we have learned that what your colleagues are doing and thinking. TSRC workshops allow us to discuss—in an intimate, relaxed, and supportive environment—recent scientific findings, hypotheses, challenges, and approaches. My interactions at TSRC workshops have led to new collaborations, ideas, federal grant proposals and funding, and other follow-up workshops, including those supported by other prestigious organizations. Needless to say, the beautiful area and the people of Telluride are a big part of the success and superb atmosphere surrounding the meetings. I have also enjoyed interacting with Telluride residents, be it on the gondola ride, a hike, or a yoga class; impressively, they seem very interested in science. Finally, the TSRC staff are phenomenal, and Mark Kozak has done a superb job recently in reshaping the already excellent program.
Telluride workshops have had a tremendous impact on my career. I remember my first one vividly. It was a workshop on “Non-Adiabatic Dynamics,” which I attended in 2000 as a beginning assistant professor. It was nothing like anything I had ever experienced. The lectures were one hour long, followed by a 30-minute discussion. That led to much deeper discussions compared to the rushed, often-superficial reports common at mainstream conferences. More discussions followed during morning and afternoon hikes. Unstructured time encouraged my mind to delve into fundamental aspects of what we are doing and to contemplate topics outside of my main research subject. I came back to LA with new insights, ideas, and, most importantly, I was full of excitement about the field.

Anna Krylov
Professor, Department of Chemistry
University of Southern California

As a theoretical physicist, I work on topics of nano- and quantum thermodynamics. Nano-thermodynamics focuses on the description and optimization of small devices such as those found in nanotechnology. This field of research is still very young, but as a community we are on a steady rise. Overseas, the European Union has founded a network of researchers in quantum thermodynamics, and the Australian government is currently preparing a large funding package. Here in the US, however, quantum or nano-thermodynamics is still lagging behind when it comes not only to academic and public attention but also to funding. This is why the Telluride Science Research Center has become so important.

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Educational outreach with the Telluride community is an important component of TSRC’s mission. TSRC’s workshops are inherently educational and the graduate-level summer schools are specific educational programs within TSRC’s core offering. TSRC scientists value education and want to share their curiosity and excitement for new knowledge with anyone who is interested in learning. The following programs are important ways for us to give back to the Telluride community.

K-12 STEM EDUCATION

TSRC is involved with STEM K-12 education through its local partner, Pinhead Institute, a Smithsonian Affiliate. TSRC scientists have participated in popular Pinhead programs including Scholars in the Schools and Punk Science. These programs are designed to open young students’ eyes to science and inspire the next generation of scientists. TSRC scientists have also hosted numerous Pinhead interns in six-week internship programs at their home institutions. It is a program that not only changes many of these students’ lives, but also creates a springboard for further academic development. All three of these Pinhead Institute programs impact kids throughout rural southwestern Colorado.

Zachary Nunn
2015 Pinhead Internship Recipient
Stanford University, Undergraduate

Telluride’s non-profit Pinhead Institute brings exceptional science programming to students in rural southwestern Colorado, and we couldn’t do it without close collaboration and contributions from TSRC’s board, staff, and scientists.

Sarah Holbrooke
Executive Director
Pinhead Institute

Recently, I had the privilege of studying cystic fibrosis as a Pinhead intern with TSRC scientists, Forest Rohwer and Yan Wei Lim. I started with the basics—what is a pipette? While my work in the lab began with a simple hypothesis and simple experiments, it became more complex over time. My final experiment sought to answer: “Does hyperbaric oxygen treatment in conjunction with certain antibiotics more successfully kill the bacteria common to cystic fibrosis disease?” Under Yan Wei’s and Forest’s guidance and mentorship, I learned firsthand the scientific method and what it means to try and try again. I observed the hard-working, constant questioning, and curiosity that characterize the academic community. When Forest and Yan Wei returned this past summer, they invited my sister and me to sit-in and even participate in their weeklong TSRC workshop on cystic fibrosis. I still don’t know what I want to do in college, let alone life, but this adventure in Forest’s lab exposed me to a new world, and it awaits exploration.

Zachary Nunn
2015 Pinhead Internship Recipient
Stanford University, Undergraduate

TSRC TOWN TALKS

Each summer, we host the TSRC Town Talks, a series of public lectures presented by world-renowned scientists on topics of great current importance in science, technology, education, and public policy. These seminars, which include an engaging lecture and informal Q&A “discussion” between audience and speaker, provide the Telluride community with an opportunity to hear about a stunning variety of topics related to molecular science, nanotechnology, biomedical research, energy, materials, and the environment. In 2015 alone, TSRC Town Talks explored topics that included understanding Alzheimer’s disease, developing nanotechnology for sustainable energy, using nanodevices to map changes in biological processes, and applying fundamental ideas in molecular science to protect the oceans and people. Please visit www.telluridescience.org to learn about past talks and future topics.

The ability to engage with the TSRC scientists and to attend the TSRC Town Talks was one of the many reasons we decided to make this place our home. Not only is it an extraordinary complement to my son’s project-based home schooling, but my family and I feel we have a front row seat to scientific history! ordinarily, one would need to live in a university town to engage with thought leaders from so many important fields of study. Some of the greatest minds in science, working in the most nascent areas of research from around the globe, come and share their exciting ideas and, somehow, manage to make them accessible. My fellow curious-minded neighbors and I will sometimes talk about what we learn in those talks for years after—making connections to real world problems that we see. When you are lucky enough to visit with some of them outside of the conference, you can sense the radically inspired collaborations they share, and it is practically contagious, awakening us all with that same sense of possibility and wonder.

Janet Warwick
Telluride Resident

2015 TSRC ANNUAL REPORT
TSRC’s budget is developed and approved annually by the Board of Directors. TSRC’s finances are managed by Shugars & Company Certified Public Accountants and Consultants, and audited by Green & Associates LLC. TSRC’s financial calendar ends annually on December 31st. The 2015 TSRC Annual Report includes financial statements for the 2014 and 2015 calendar years.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2015 (with comparative financial data as of December 31, 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Equipment, Net of Depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<td>$944,373</td>
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</table>

| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | | |
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities | $5,943 | $20,700 |
| Deferred Revenue | $24,760 | $26,115 |
| Long Term Debt | - | 12,407 |
| Total Liabilities | $30,683 | $129,077 |
| Net Assets | | |
| Temporarily Restricted | $308,763 | $355,007 |
| Unrestricted | $442,260 | $460,054 |
| Total Net Assets | $751,023 | $815,061 |
| Total Assets & Assets | $781,706 | $944,373 |

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
December 31, 2015 (with comparative financial data as of December 31, 2014)

Revenues, Gains, and Other Support
Registration Fee, 28%  Registration Fee, 28%  
Workshop Support, 2%  Workshop Support, 2%  
Admin Fees, 0%  Admin Fees, 0%  
Lodging Revenue, 62%  Lodging Revenue, 62%  
Food Revenue, 2%  Food Revenue, 2%  
Contributions, 2%  Contributions, 2%  
Investment Income, 1%  Investment Income, 1%  
Other Revenue & Unrealized Returns on Investments (19,627) (19,627)  
Net Assets Released from Restriction 51,170 (51,170)  
Total Revenue, Gains, and Other Support $1,424,875 (46,244) $1,378,631 $1,609,052

Expenses
Program Expenses 1,173,152 - $1,173,152 1,225,643
Supporting Services Expenses 265,917 - 265,917 265,917
Total Expenses 1,442,669 - 1,442,669 1,491,560
Change in Net Assets (17,794) (46,244) (64,038) 117,891
Net Assets, Beginning of Year 460,054 815,061 897,170
Net Assets, End of Year $442,260 $308,763 $751,023 $815,061
TSRC FUNDs: ADVANCED SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, AND STEM EDUCATION

TSRC has benefited from generous past donations that have supported a number of key programs, including the Peter Salamon Award and the Paul Barbara Scholarships for young scientists, TSRC Town Talks, and the Telluride School on Theoretical Chemistry. The Board of Directors is exploring several funding options to further enhance and expand the scope of our mission.

**TSRC FACILITY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The goal of this capital campaign is to fund a dedicated year-round TSRC facility in the Telluride region. TSRC’s Board of Directors believes that a permanent year-round home will help to accelerate the new ideas and future collaborations that will expand the frontiers of science and technology. TSRC has secured a 100-year land lease with the Town of Telluride to build the center on the corner of Pacific and Willow Streets. The organization is currently engaged in planning for the facility’s design and fundraising.

**TSRC GLOBAL IMPACT FUND**

TSRC is the global hub for the world’s best molecular scientists to ask “What if?” and create productive exchange with their peers. The Center’s ability to catalyze creative thought to advance new discoveries with innovative outcomes is unique in the world of science. And this expansion of molecular science ultimately enables society to create technology that benefits humanity and the planet.

The diversity of scientists participating in this productive exchange is also one of TSRC’s special strengths. On a yearly basis, TSRC scientists represent roughly 676 international and domestic institutions and more than 80 countries of birth. The diversity also extends to age, gender, and problem-solving approach—including theorists, experimentalists, and engineers. Additionally, the Center also hosts a broad distribution of researchers, ranging from students to the most distinguished and awarded scientists. The remarkable diversification of TSRC workshop participants not only benefits TSRC and the local community but also the greater science community as a whole.

The goals of this fund are to cover the registration costs for all TSRC scientists, support lodging and travel expenses for scientists who have extra travel costs and/or smaller budgets, and create a mechanism to credit TSRC for research efforts that benefit society. The TSRC scientists represent roughly 575 international and domestic institutions and more than 80 countries of birth. TSRC scientists represent roughly 575 international and domestic institutions and more than 80 countries of birth.

**FUTURE-OF-TSRC FELLOWSHIP FUNDS**

For over thirty years, the young scientists that have participated in TSRC workshops have become the future of TSRC. The organization has established two scholarships, the Paul Barbara Fellowship and the Peter Salamon Award, that provide financial support to outstanding graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The 2015 Paul Barbara Fellowship Recipients were Manuela A. Gross from the University of Cambridge and Sebastian Buchenberg from Albert Ludwig-Universität Freiburg. There were seven recipients of the Peter Salamon Award in 2015. These funds are designed to further enhance the participation of young scientists so critical to TSRC’s future.

**TELLURIDE SCHOOL ON THEORETICAL CHEMISTRY ENDOWMENT FUND**

The Telluride School for Theoretical Chemistry (TSTC) is TSRC’s original graduate-level summer school, created to realize the vision of Jack Simons to provide fundamental training for future leaders of theoretical chemistry research and education. The TSTC Endowment Fund, which is now on the order of $350K, with on-going commitments near $75,000, provides tuition and lodging support for its students and covers travel and lodging costs for its faculty. Every two years when the school is held, TSRC funds approximately 42 select students and four instructors through the endowment at a cost of $360,000. In order to provide the maximum benefit to these students, the instructors believe that the school should be extended from a one-week to a two-week program. To fully realize the cost of TSTC, TSRC is seeking to build the TSTC endowment to approximately $1.5M over a six-year period.

**TSRC TOWN TALKS ENDOWMENT FUND**

For over thirty years, TSRC has offered a summer lecture series, now referred to as the TSRC Town Talks. This outreach program inspires our unique and diverse community, creates connectedness, and generates thought stimulation for those in pursuit of “life-long learning.” Designed to make molecular science accessible to the general public, the TSRC Town Talks introduce the audience to a wide variety of exciting topics that represent the frontiers of science, including topics relevant to sustainable energy, biomedicine, material science, nanotechnology, and our environment. TSRC must raise $12,500 annually to support the TSRC Town Talk series. The goal of this endowment fund is to ensure that the TSRC Town Talk series, a valued contribution to the diverse culture of the Telluride region, occurs each year.

**TSRC CONTRIBUTION FUNDS**

For 25 years, TSRC has offered a summer lecture series, now referred to as the TSRC Town Talks. This outreach program inspires our unique and diverse community, creates connectedness, and generates thought stimulation for those in pursuit of “life-long learning.” Designed to make molecular science accessible to the general public, the TSRC Town Talks introduce the audience to a wide variety of exciting topics that represent the frontiers of science, including topics relevant to sustainable energy, biomedicine, material science, nanotechnology, and our environment. TSRC must raise $12,500 annually to support the TSRC Town Talk series. The goal of this endowment fund is to ensure that the TSRC Town Talk series, a valued contribution to the diverse culture of the Telluride region, occurs each year.
IN CLOSING FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I joined the organization in April 2015 as its Executive Director, I was immediately focused on its operational success. As operations stabilized, my focus shifted to identifying those qualities and characteristics that have allowed TSRC to organically grow into one of the world’s premiere centers for research in molecular science.

What is TSRC and how did it become what it is? Simply, TSRC is a community of scientists who have worked together to advance the fields of molecular science. Individual scientists have proposed workshops, organized them, and brought together the world’s scientific thought-leaders to address the challenges in their respective fields of molecular science. The scientists have created TSRC and have perpetuated its recognition as the place where concepts are created, ideas are nurtured, and collaborations are built. This is why the best scientists in the world come to TSRC.

So what makes TSRC special? It is not big conferences and it is not a laboratory. Rather it’s the dynamics created by the small-meeting format that R. Stephen Berry and Peter Salamon established 31 years ago, combined with the friendly atmosphere that Telluride exudes. The supportive interactions that are fostered in TSRC workshops trickle down to advancements that benefit humanity and the planet. And they start here in Telluride, CO—it’s amazing. Our job as stewards of TSRC is to listen to the needs of the scientists, recognize what is special about TSRC, and ‘do more of that.’

As we move forward into 2016, let’s not just preserve TSRC, but strengthen it as the premiere meeting place for molecular science—a place where progress in science happens. We have recently proposed a major new fund—the TSRC Global Impact Fund (see Contribution Funds on page 15) to ensure that TSRC, as a community of scientists, continues to be diverse and draws the best of the best. Today, I made the seed donation to it. Please consider doing the same. The future of TSRC is in our community’s hands.

We have the power to help change the world.