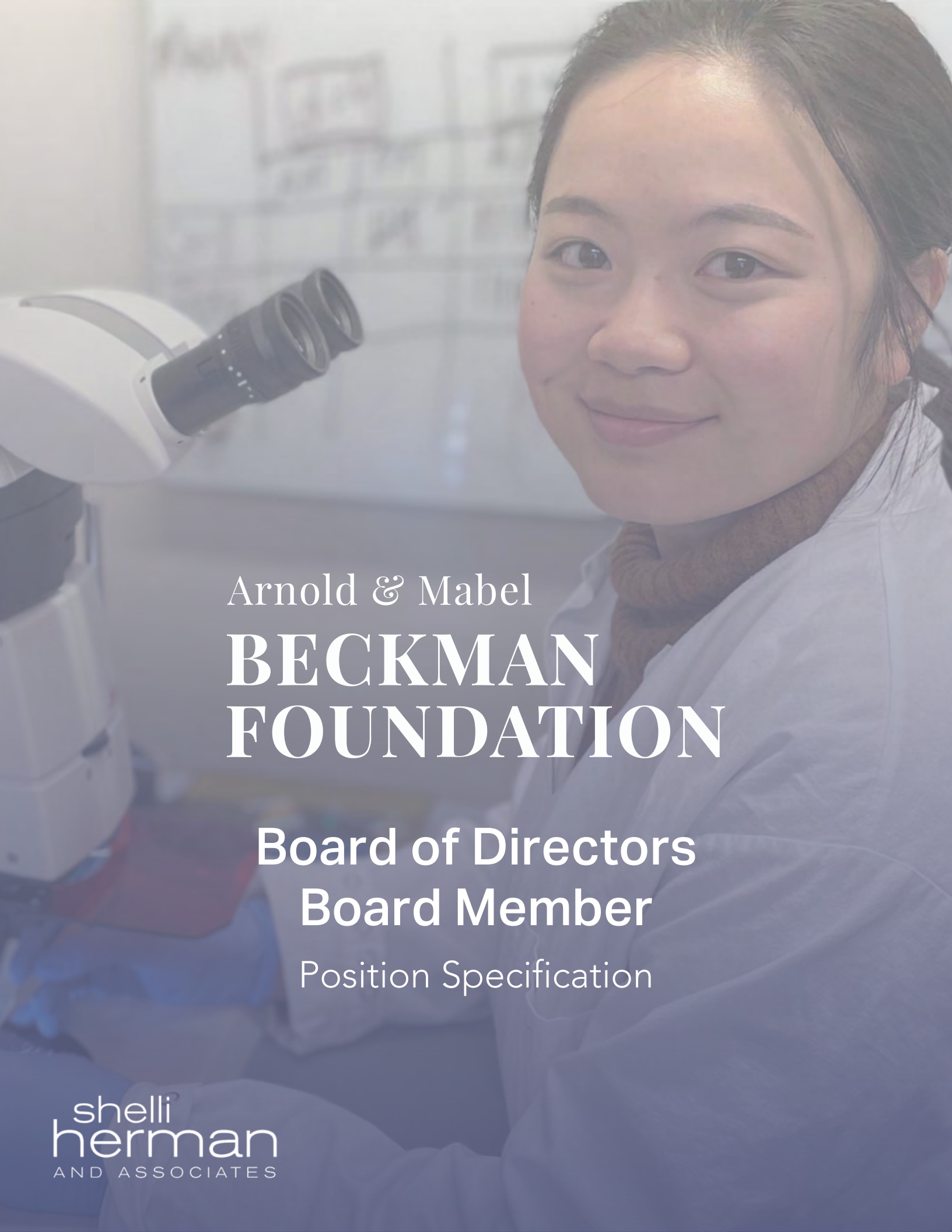


Arnold & Mabel

BECKMAN FOUNDATION

Board of Directors
Board Member

Position Specification

shelli herman
AND ASSOCIATES

The Organization and Its Founder

Arnold O. Beckman was an educator, an accomplished scientist, a bold entrepreneur, a civic leader, and a world-renowned philanthropist and humanitarian. Throughout his life, Dr. Beckman paved the way for myriad scientific breakthroughs and the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation continues this legacy today. Founded in 1977, the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation that makes grants to promote research in chemistry and the life sciences. Dr. Beckman and his wife, Mabel, were partners in every sense of the word and, when he retired, they became increasingly active as philanthropists.

Throughout his long life, Arnold Beckman was as respected as he was admired. Recognized as a brilliant scientist and inventor, he was also known as a devoted family man and friend. Considered one of the top five inventors of scientific instruments in the 20th century, Dr. Beckman created devices that revolutionized the study and understanding of chemistry and human biology. The hallmark of his highly decorated career, though, was always his personal integrity and his love for science. Dr. Beckman received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in physical chemistry from the University of Illinois, and a doctorate in photochemistry from the California Institute of Technology, where he also served as an assistant professor, and later as Chairman of their Board of Trustees.

While he was still teaching, Dr. Beckman founded National Technical Laboratories (which later became Beckman Instruments and ultimately Beckman Coulter) in 1935 with the invention of the acidimeter, a forerunner of the modern pH meter. It quickly became an indispensable tool in analytical chemistry and earned him a place in the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1987. Dr. Beckman continued to develop and manufacture scientific instruments, leading to the release of the Beckman DU Spectrophotometer in 1941, which revolutionized chemical analysis. These extraordinary contributions led President George Herbert Walker Bush to award Dr. Beckman the National Medal of Science in 1989 for his leadership in analytical instrumentation development and for his deep concern for the vitality of the nation's scientific enterprises. He was also nationally recognized during the Reagan administration with the 1989 Presidential Citizens Medal for his exemplary deeds of service and the 1988 National Medal of Technology for outstanding technological contributions to the United States.

Arnold O. Beckman's innovations revolutionized science; his philanthropy continues to do so. The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation invests millions of dollars each year in institutions and people that are performing cutting-edge research. The Foundation actively seeks high-risk, interdisciplinary research projects that would be unlikely to secure funding from federal agencies, and then supports the awarded scientists with flexible funding to pursue their research interests. The Foundation is proud to count two Chemistry Nobel Laureates among its alumni, Dr. Jennifer Doudna (1996 BYI) was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize for gene-editing technology, and Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi (1998 BYI) was awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize for click-chemistry.

The Beckman Foundation currently has in excess of $600 million in assets under management and grants approximately $30 million annually. About 60% of this annual funding is directed to individual scientists/programs and the remaining 40% supports the five named Beckman Institutes. The Beckman Foundation supports scientific achievement through various programs, including:

The Beckman Young Investigators (BYI) Program provides research support to the most promising young faculty members in the first three years of their academic careers in the chemical and life sciences, particularly to foster the invention of methods, instruments, and materials that will open up new avenues of research in science.

The Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chemical Sciences or Chemical Instrumentation Award Program supports advanced research by postdoctoral scholars within the core areas of fundamental chemistry or the development and build of chemical instrumentation. This program is supports first and second year postdoctoral fellows at research institutions who are judged to have the highest potential for success in a career in chemistry and who will become the next generation of leaders and innovators in science, engineering, and technology.

The Beckman Scholars Program is an annual invited program for accredited universities and four-year colleges in the United States that provides mentored research grants that contribute significantly in advancing the education, research training, and personal development of select students in chemistry, biochemistry, and the biological and medical sciences.

The Foundation also funds five major research centers: the Beckman Research Institute at the City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California; the Beckman Laser Institute and Medical Clinic, University of California, Irvine; the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; the Beckman Center for Molecular and Genetic Medicine at Stanford University; and the Beckman Institute, California Institute of Technology.

The Beckman Foundation is proud to support additional innovative STEM and STEAM activities in their local community such as Kids@Science, which provides STEM teacher training in Orange County; CubeSat, a high school program in Irvine Public Schools to launch satellites into space; support and awards for the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair; Beckman Arts & Science Family Day; and support for the Chapman University Keck Center for Science and Technology.

Mission

To promote research in chemistry and life sciences, broadly interpreted, and particularly to foster the invention of methods, instruments, and materials that will open up new avenues of research in science through grants to program-related, nonprofit research institutions.

Location

The Foundation's offices are located in Irvine, California. The Board of Directors meets four times annually, in February; in May, as part of a day and a half long board retreat in alternating years; in August during the annual Beckman Symposium; and in October. These meetings are primarily in southern California, though the board occasionally uses their meetings to visit the Stanford Beckman Center or the Beckman Institute at University of Illinois. While in-person attendance is preferred, board members are able to participate virtually if necessary.

The Role

The Board of Directors of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation provides leadership and strategic guidance for all of the Foundation's activities and grant programs. The board works in partnership with the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Executive Director and the Science Advisory Council to implement these programs. Members of the board may serve a maximum of ten years, with the first year being a probationary year, and with board member assessments performed in years four and seven.

The incoming board member will have succeeded in a career dedicated to science within an academic setting. With a background that allows for the provision of sound counsel, this credible scientist will help foster mission-focused volunteer leadership. As this individual's expertise will both help guide the work of the Board and be fundamental to best in class service delivery, a nuanced understanding of scientific research in academia is essential. This respected member of the scientific community will have knowledge of and a deep commitment to the Beckman Foundation's programs and impact. The new member will join the board in the third quarter of 2024.

The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation builds their board intentionally, ensuring the organization benefits from a diversity of perspectives beyond professional expertise. Foundation leadership understands that scientific endeavor is an undertaking inclusive of and on behalf of all people. Actively working to advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in their programs, culture, and the sciences broadly, the Foundation recognizes that a board whose members have a wide range of lived experiences is a more effective governing body.

Board members are not directly compensated for their service. The Foundation will reimburse members for reasonable travel costs to attend board events. After a full year of service on the board, each board member is eligible to participate in two gift programs administered by the Foundation:

- Trustee gifts: up to $50,000/fiscal year to donate to 501(c)(3) organization(s) of their choice;
- Matching gifts: up to $50,000/fiscal year in matching funds for any board member donations to 501(c)(3) organization(s).

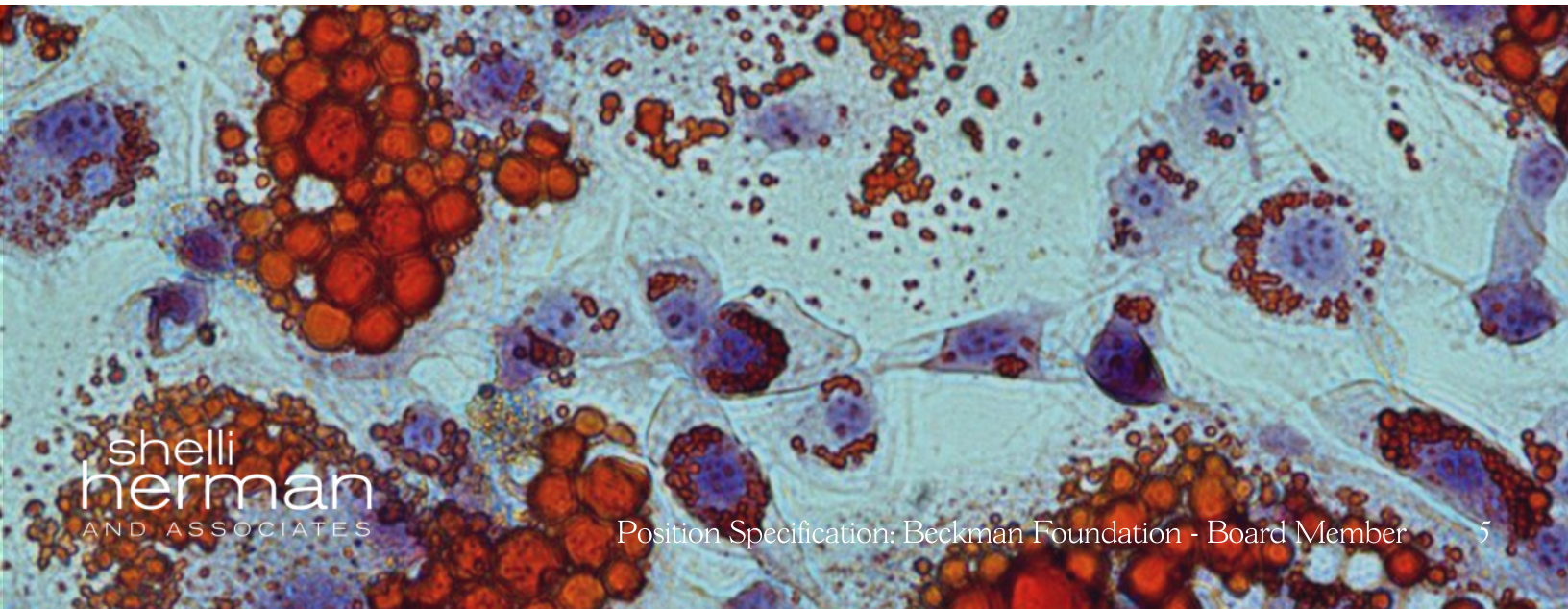
Responsibilities and Duties

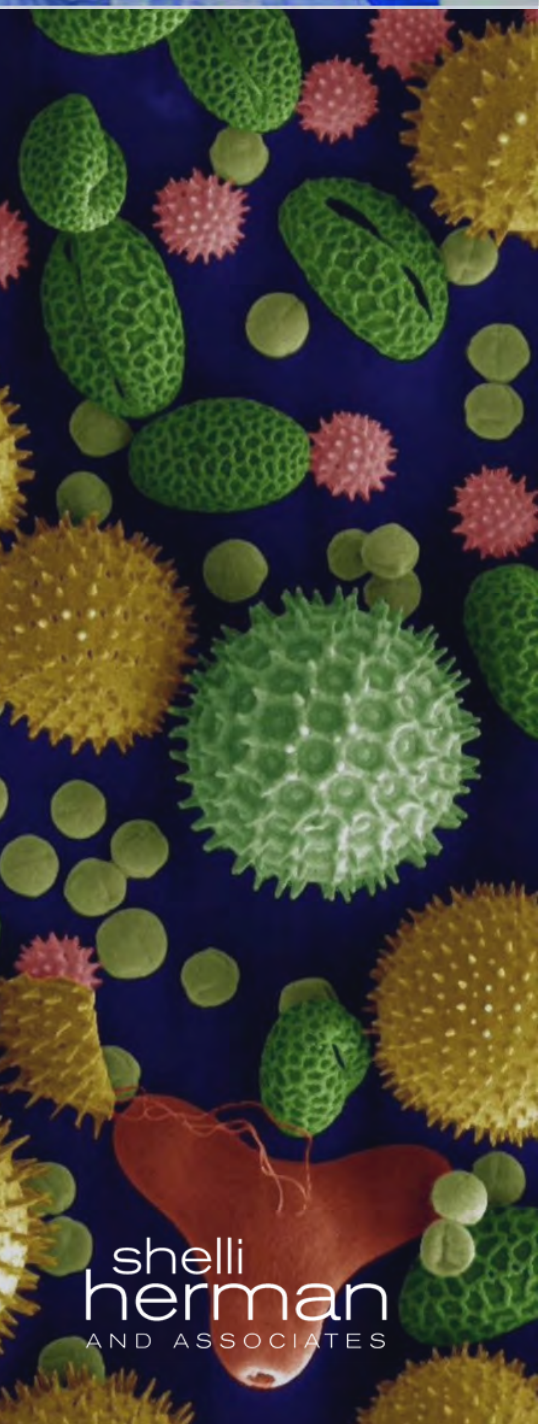
Primary responsibilities include:

- Provides strategic direction and vision such that the Foundation remains consistent with the mission statement as articulated by Dr. Beckman and that the Foundation's activities continue to innovate programmatically and remain on the leading edge of work in the scientific community.
- Approves annual operating budget and reviews annual independent audit reports.
- Reviews performance and provides direction to the Executive Director of the Foundation.

Additional activities include:

- Ensures the organization is well managed and its mission and stewardship are carried out through appropriate checks, balances, and oversight.
- Ensures that all operations and activities of the Foundation are conducted in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, governance policies, and sound business practices, including bringing forth any legal or ethical concerns to the Chair of the Board or the full board, as appropriate.
- Recruits and orients new board members.
- Each board member serves on two standing committees and volunteers for special assignments. Current committees include: Executive, Investment Management, Programs, Audit, and Nominating.
- Reviews and sets policy, as needed, for the consideration of funding requests and program initiatives.
- Stays well informed about the Foundation by carefully reading minutes of the board meetings, financial statements, and other relevant materials. Through personal expertise and awareness, provides insights into community activities and legal/political/ business events that may impact the work of the Foundation.
- Fully prepares for and participates in all board activities. This includes reviewing all materials prior to arriving at meetings and being ready to engage in thoughtful dialogue.
    - Four board meetings per year.
    - Committee meetings as needed.
    - Occasional social events to support Foundation programs.
- Promotes the Foundation's mission within the community.
- Reviews annual reports from the Beckman Institutes/Center to monitor their activities in relation to the goals of the Foundation.





Qualifications and Experience

As key members of the Foundation's volunteer leadership, the members of the Board of Directors must possess and project the utmost integrity and highest standards of professional conduct, and must be individuals qualified by accomplishment and experience to exercise the leadership of a capable, collegial, and motivated community.

Expected qualifications for all members of the Board of Directors include:

- Commitment to supporting the mission and philosophy statement of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, as articulated by Dr. Arnold O. Beckman. Possesses an inherent appreciation and depth of respect for the importance of scientific research and its impact on the global community. Beckman Foundation board members are champions for the Foundation's values, ensuring they are reflected in all organizational activities.
- Preferred expertise includes professional experience in the sciences, ideally in an academic research setting, and a high-level understanding of the means by which new avenues of scientific research can be rigorously and ethically explored.
- Highest level of integrity and firm commitment to the Duty of Loyalty, Duty of Obedience, and Duty of Diligence (provided in the Board Member Handbook).
- Ability to productively work in teams and committees, and willingness to strive for consensus decisions. Diplomatic in approach to discussions with various groups and stakeholders in a genuine and earnest way. Willingness to engage in a shared leadership approach and willingness to bring forward an individual opinion, as appropriate, during discussions.
- Understands the contributions that a diversity of life experiences and expertise bring to group discussions and decisions.
- Appreciates, supports, and fully acknowledges the vital roles that diversity, equity, and inclusion play in the Foundation's support of scientific progress and innovation, and brings those perspectives to group discussions and decisions.
- Low-ego professional with a track record of success in a dynamic, mission driven organization.
- Has a high expectations for oneself and all others involved in the work of the Foundation. As a leader, this individual will have a bias toward action.
- Prior experience on a nonprofit/public board of directors as well as professional experience in strategic planning, evaluating mission delivery, budget management, and setting organizational goals and performance metrics are strongly preferred.
- Maintains a healthy sense of humor, even during debate and deliberations.

Process

Interested individuals are encouraged to submit their credentials as soon as possible for full consideration. Complete applications may be submitted electronically via email and should include: a cover letter articulating interest and a current resume reflecting all work experience. Expeditious application is encouraged.

Contact

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