
ARNOLD & MABEL
BECKMAN
FOUNDATION
Member, Board of Directors
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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. Dr. Beckman paved the way for myriad scientific breakthroughs throughout his life, and the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation continues this legacy today. Founded in 1977, the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation is a nonprofit foundation that awards grants to advance chemistry and life sciences research. Dr. Beckman and his wife, Mabel, were partners in every sense of the word. After his retirement, they became increasingly active philanthropists, leaving a legacy that continues to shape the future of science and technology through the Foundation's ongoing work.

Throughout his long life, Arnold Beckman was as respected as he was admired. He was recognized as a brilliant scientist and inventor, a devoted family man, and a 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. Dr. Beckman's integrity and deep love for science were hallmarks of his highly decorated career. He earned 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 the Board of Trustees.



Dr. Beckman's influence on the scientific community was profound. His invention of the acidimeter, a precursor to the modern pH meter, quickly became an essential tool in analytical chemistry and helped revolutionize the field. This achievement earned him a place in the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1987. His unwavering commitment to developing and manufacturing scientific instruments led to the release of the Beckman DU Spectrophotometer in 1941, a device that revolutionized chemical analysis. President George Herbert Walker Bush recognized these extraordinary contributions by awarding Dr. Beckman the National Medal of Science in 1989 for his leadership in analytical instrumentation development and 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 and the 1988 National Medal of Technology for his 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 annually in institutions and people performing cutting-edge research. The Foundation actively seeks high-risk, interdisciplinary research projects that would be unlikely to secure funding from federal agencies. It then supports awarded scientists with flexible funding to pursue their research interests. The Foundation is proud to count three Chemistry Nobel Laureates among its alumni: Dr. Jennifer Doudna (1996 BYI) was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize for gene-editing technology, Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi (1998 BYI) was awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize for click chemistry, and Dr. David Baker (1995 BYI) was awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize for computational protein design.

"My preference is to favor young investigators, new ideas, and a variety of projects rather than fund large, established ones of long duration."

- Dr. Arnold O. Beckman



The Beckman Foundation has over $800 million in assets under management and grants approximately $34 million annually. About 60% of this annual funding is directed to individual scientists/programs; 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 scientific research.

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 developing and building chemical instrumentation. This program supports first- and second-year postdoctoral fellows at research institutions who are judged to have the highest potential for success in a chemistry career and 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 significantly advance 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 its local community, such as awards for the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair; Beckman Arts & Science Family Day; and support for the Orange County Inspired Teachers Program, which provides high school teachers in Orange County with materials and experiences to enhance their STEM programs.

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 August during the annual Beckman Symposium, and in October. These meetings are primarily held in Southern California, though the board occasionally uses them to visit the Stanford Beckman Center or the Beckman Institute at the University of Illinois. While in-person attendance is preferred, board members can 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 partners with the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Executive Director and the Science Advisory Council to implement these programs. Board members may serve a maximum of 10 years, with the first year a probationary year; board member assessments are conducted 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 second or third quarter of 2027, depending on the selected candidate's schedule and availability.

The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation builds its board intentionally, ensuring the organization benefits from diverse perspectives beyond professional expertise. Foundation leadership understands that scientific endeavor is an undertaking inclusive of and on behalf of all people. Actively working to support inclusion in its 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).

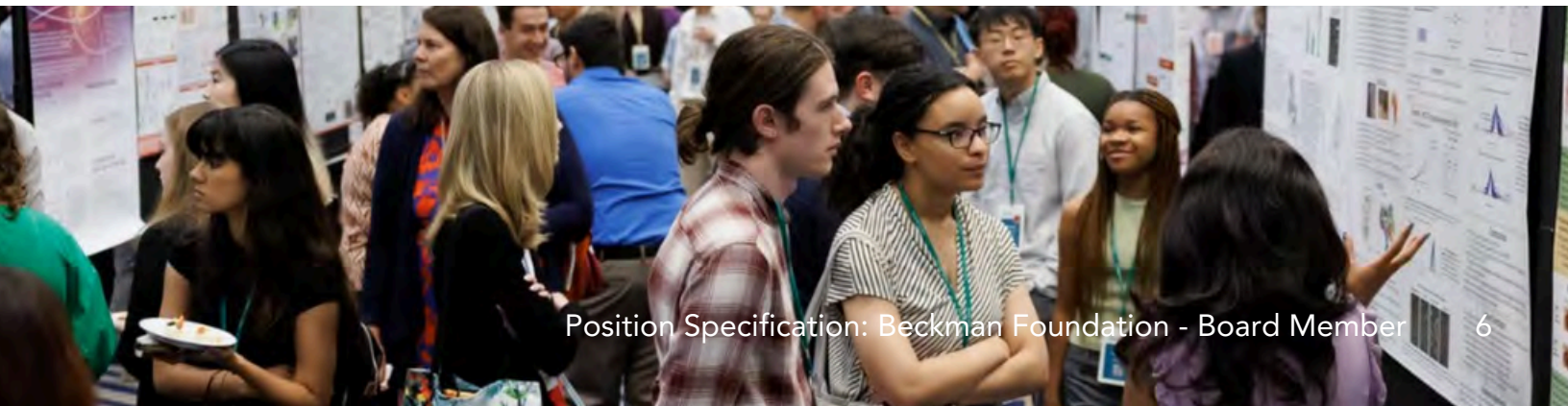
Responsibilities and Duties

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 independent yearly 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 Foundation operations and activities comply with applicable laws, regulations, governance policies, and sound business practices, including bringing any legal or ethical concerns to the Chair of the Board or the entire 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, to consider 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 Foundation's work.
- Fully prepares for and participates in all board activities. This includes reviewing all materials before meetings and being prepared 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 critical members of the Foundation's volunteer leadership, the Board of Directors must possess and project the utmost integrity and highest standards of professional conduct. They must also be individuals qualified by accomplishment and experience to exercise 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 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 approaching discussions with various groups and stakeholders, genuinely and earnestly. Willingness to engage in a shared leadership approach and desire to bring forward an individual opinion, as appropriate, during discussions.
- Understands the contributions of diverse life experiences and expertise 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 expectation for themself and all others involved in the work of the Foundation. As a leader, this individual will be biased toward action.
- Prior experience on a nonprofit or public board of directors and 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 debates and deliberations.

Process

Interested individuals are encouraged to submit their credentials as soon as possible for full consideration. We are actively reviewing applications and conducting interviews on a rolling basis. To ensure your application is fully considered, please submit your credentials by December 22, 2026, via our website, and include a cover letter outlining your interest and your current resume, including all work experience. The Beckman Foundation Board Nominating Committee plans to interview qualified candidates in Q1 of 2027 so the board can vote on the nominated finalist at either its May or August 2027 meeting.







About Shelli Herman and Associates, Inc.

Founded in 2011, Shelli Herman and Associates, Inc. (SHA) is a Los Angeles-based, certified woman-owned executive search firm that places transformational, values-aligned leaders in the C-suite of mission-driven and educational organizations nationwide. Every search is led personally by founder Shelli Herman, tailored to each organization, grounded in integrity, and focused on quality results. SHA maintains a 99% placement retention rate, and approximately 98% of new searches come from past clients and referrals.

SHA brings clarity to consequential leadership decisions. We help organizations define what they need next, guide a disciplined search, and select a leader equipped to move their mission forward.