Before 1993, most testing done in clinical trials and diagnostic and device development was conducted on men.

Rheumatoid arthritis affects more than 1.3 million people in the US.

78% of Americans with autoimmune diseases are women. That’s 40 million women.

60% of patients are women.

Not until 2016 were female mice mandated to be included in research by NIH.

80% of rheumatoid arthritis patients are between ages 35-50.

80% of the $86 million 2019 NIH rheumatoid arthritis budget went to women-focused research.

JUST 7% of the $86 million

The average annual NIH rheumatoid arthritis budget equates to:

7¢ PER WOMAN

$1 PER MAN

Nearly 1/3 of people with rheumatoid arthritis had to quit working within 5 years of diagnosis.

Rheumatoid arthritis costs our economy over $40 billion a year.
WHAT NEXT?

According to The WHAM Report*, if we double NIH funding for rheumatoid arthritis, adding $6 million, the funding:

- Pays for itself 1,750X
- Generates $10.5 Billion in returns to the economy
- Adds back 32,000 productive years in the workforce for rheumatoid arthritis patients and caregivers

174,000% return on investment

THE BACKGROUND:

WHAM (whamnow.org) was created in response to the considerable funding gap, historical exclusion, and underrepresentation of women in health research.

Women are the majority of the U.S. population, nearly 50% of the workforce, and control over 60% of personal wealth. In the U.S., women are responsible for over 85% of consumer spending and make over 80% of healthcare decisions. When women are pulled from the workforce because of inadequate treatment options or to care for their families, there are direct consequences – for our businesses and our economy.

The data on the reverse side of this page represents a very small sampling of the inequities and bias that exist in women’s health research. While some progress has been made since 1993, when the National Institutes of Health mandated that women and minorities be included in any government-funded health research, there is still a long way to go.

The lives of women and men will vastly improve through research that is equally inclusive of women and men in trials – and female and male animals in preliminary research. By conducting research in parity and reporting gender outcomes separately, health breakthroughs will be accelerated and health outcomes around the world improved. As women benefit from this research and reduce their burden of disease, they will improve their own wellbeing, which is directly connected to the wellbeing of our economy.

WHAM is committed to supporting research that investigates diseases and conditions that exclusively, differently or disproportionately affect women.

OUR FOCUS
- Autoimmune Disease
- Brain Health
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Disease

WHAM IS FOCUSED ON THREE INITIATIVES:

THE WHAM COLLABORATIVE: The WHAM Collaborative is a group of leading scientists focused on women’s health research who help inform everything WHAM does.

THE WHAM INVESTIGATOR’S FUND: WHAM funds cutting edge investigators to study women’s health and the role of sex and gender in outcomes. WHAM collaborates with leading institutions in the U.S. focused on women’s health.

THE WHAM REPORT: The WHAM Report shows the impact of accelerating sex and gender-based health research on women, their families, and the economy. The WHAM Report will be a benchmark of change in this field and available to all.

To the best of WHAM’s and RAND’s knowledge this is the first analysis of its kind and is likely to become a seminal part of the arsenal in advocating for increased investment in women’s health research. The research methodology and the microsimulation models have been vetted by a diverse panel of experts convened by RAND.

We encourage other leaders, including advocates, economists, scientists, public health experts and policy makers to draw from and act upon the results of this report. Together, we can drive meaningful change.

OUR VISIONARY COLLABORATORS:

We are very grateful for the support of our Visionary Collaborators. WHAM’s Collaborators are premiere institutions and organizations who are seen as leaders and pathfinders in each of our four disease areas creating the criteria that will ultimately affect how women’s health research is conducted.

* WHAM commissioned the RAND Corporation to conduct The WHAM Report, a data-driven study of the economic impact to society of increasing the investment in women’s health research. To the best of WHAM’s and RAND’s knowledge, The WHAM Report is the first analysis of its kind to create and calibrate a microsimulation model that examines differences for women’s health research investment.