



NC SCIENCE. GLOBAL IMPACT.

RTI INTERNATIONAL AND PARTNERS DELIVER GLOBAL GOOD.

Headquartered in the heart of Research Triangle Park and serving as its first tenant, RTI International is a nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition in North Carolina, throughout the U.S. and in more than 90 countries around the world. RTI's mission is so expansive with expertise in 250 disciplines, it's challenging to grasp the full global impact of its work on 3,800 projects each year. Let's begin by looking at a few examples in climate, health and community partnerships.

INVESTING IN CLEAN ENERGY

The need for clean energy affects every industry. To drive real change, decisions must be grounded in science, informed by data and supported by the know-how to implement workable solutions. A prime example of how the institute is putting this into action is a new green jet fuel project. In a first-of-a-kind engineering demonstration on its campus, RTI researchers, in partnership with Syzygy Plasmonics, piloted a new technology that converts greenhouse gases into jet fuel using an all-electric process. At scale, this could significantly reduce the carbon intensity of the aviation industry and the heavy-duty transport sector including trucking.

In early 2024, RTI was selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to lead a commercial-scale carbon capture pilot project leveraging CO2 capture technology developed over 15 years in one of its RTP labs. This initiative, in collaboration with commercial companies International Paper, SLB and Amazon, aims to demonstrate effectiveness and scalability of carbon capture, sequestering 120,000 metric tons of CO2 annually. This project could have a similar effect as green jet fuel, but this time by reducing the carbon footprint of the paper industry and more.

INNOVATING TO PREVENT FUTURE PANDEMICS

In 2021, RTI announced the launch of Forethought, a regional research collaboration that invited bold proposals to address critical societal issues. The institute backed the initiative with \$5 million in seed funding. A team led by UNC-Chapel Hill's Rapidly Emerging Antiviral Drug Development Initiative (READDI) won the challenge and is focused on developing broad-spectrum antiviral drugs targeting coronaviruses. The aim is to prevent future pandemics by creating small-molecule drugs that inhibit viral replication by targeting host cell proteins.

The READDI Forethought team includes researchers from UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University and RTI. Together they are leveraging their diverse expertise across virology, artificial intelligence and computational biology, medicinal chemistry, biological screening and pharmaceuticals. And they're making progress. After multiple rounds of testing, they found three promising antiviral drug targets. Next will be preclinical testing to aid in drug development. Through these collaborative efforts, the READDI team is paving the way for the development of groundbreaking antiviral treatments that will treat novel coronavirus infections before they reach pandemic levels.

BOOSTING COMMUNITY PARTNERS

This state serves as an economic hub, reaching a milestone in 2023 with \$40 billion in exports. In May, the North Carolina Minority Business Development Association and CyberAlliance launched the North Carolina Export Initiative on RTI's campus. The initiative highlights the importance of public-private partnerships and strives to equip small businesses with the essential information and tools they need to develop effective export strategies. To help illustrate options for international expansion, RTI's Chief of Party in Rwanda shared a case study on how her team is successfully exporting high-value agricultural products, diversifying and facilitating investments to sustainably boost economic growth in-country. Bringing its global reach back home is one way RTI gives back.

A shining example of board governance and inclusive leadership in The Triangle, the late Robert "Bob" Ingram served on RTI's board of governors for more than a dozen years.

He mentored countless individuals in his professional roles at GlaxoWellcome, GSK and Hatteras Venture Partners. Ingram was also a longtime member of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) Research Triangle Chapter, and this year RTI and NACD announced a fellowship program to continue his legacy by bolstering candidates who exhibit high potential for public or private company board service. RTI is proud to carry forward Bob's legacy by supporting the next generation of leaders.

Supporting communities through corporate donations and sponsorships and staff-driven charitable giving is a fundamental part of RTI's mission. Last year, the institute positively impacted 226 organizations around the world focused on climate, humanitarian assistance, economic development, education, equity, health and STEM. Locally, RTI is the largest corporate donor to the United Way of the Greater Triangle and was a sponsor of the 2023 Mighty Giveback concert, which raised more than \$1 million for 20 nonprofits to address the need for affordable housing. With a focus on engaging future scientists, RTI served as the 2024 presenting sponsor of NC Science Festival, which celebrates the economic, educational and cultural impacts of science throughout the state. Established in 2010 by the UNC Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, the festival has reached more than 3.5 million participants.

In alignment with its mission, RTI has set an ambitious goal to positively impact the wellbeing of one billion people through science-based solutions in climate, education, health and equity by 2030. RTI's global impact begins here in NC with science, innovation and partnerships that contribute to a healthier, more resilient and more equitable world.



NC Export Initiative Summit | May 2024



UNC Science Expo | April 2024

RTI International is an independent nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition.



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