



for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health, Inc.

The Alpha Foundation is pleased to present its 2020 Annual Report.

The report provides a summary of activities directed toward the realization of the Foundation's mission to improve mine health and safety through funding research and development projects by qualified academic institutions and other not-for-profit organizations.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made 2020 a challenging year. Several of our on-going research projects have been granted no-cost extensions, but most have been able to continue to progress although at a slower pace. Fortunately, all active grants have been able to adjust funding allocations to accommodate the research delays without any additional cost to the Foundation.

### **Grantmaking Summary**

Since its beginning in 2011, the Alpha Foundation has supported a portfolio of research that comprises 99 projects awarded to 34 institutions including 36 active grants in 2020. These grants address the four major focus areas of the Foundation, with award percentages as indicated:

- Safety and Health Interventions - 55%
- Mine Escape, Rescue & Training - 6%
- Safety & Health Management & Training - 9%
- Injury & Disease Exposure & Risk Factors - 30%

### **Grants awarded in 2020**

As we are nearing the final phases of our funding, the call for proposals in 2020 shifted to a more focused agenda compared to the open solicitations in previous years. In addition to funding two follow-up research efforts based on the successful outcomes of their initial research, we had two solicitation calls in 2020:

- AFCTG20 – Targeted grant solicitation of priority research topics that emphasized the specific expertise of the university teams and their previous successful research endeavors. Four proposals were funded in 2020 and a fifth is planned for award in the first quarter of 2021.
- AFCRFP20 – In this solicitation, specific Requests for Proposals with a pre-specified scope of work outline were requested. We received 33 proposals and funded 5.

### **Preparing for Final Grant Awards**

Over the previous 9 years, the Foundation has allocated most of the available funding and will soon enter a transition to closure. In preparation, the Foundation is evaluating the highest priority research options for awarding the remaining funds.

### **Alpha Foundation Board of Directors**

Dr. Michael Karmis, Director and President

Dr. Keith Heasley, Director and Secretary

Dr. David Wegman, Director and Treasurer

### **Alpha Foundation Staff**

Dr. Thomas Barczak, Executive and Technical Director

Dr. Michael Silverstein, Technical Associate