

# THE CONVERSATION US

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For Immediate Release

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## Rita Allen Foundation Provides Grant of \$50,000 in Support of The Conversation's Coverage of COVID-19

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**Boston, May 18, 2020** – [The Conversation US](https://www.theconversation.com) (TCUS), a nonprofit media organization providing explanatory journalism and expert analysis written exclusively by university scholars, announced that it has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from Rita Allen Foundation to support its coverage of COVID-19. The Rita Allen Foundation is a private foundation with the mission to invest in big ideas with the power to be transformative. Another \$10,000 will be available as a matching grant from individual reader donations to The Conversation. The funds will allow The Conversation to augment its editorial staff to meet the expanding need to provide the public with research-based information in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As communities across the country strive to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conversation US is serving a vital civic science role—connecting the public to experts across disciplines,” said Elizabeth Good Christopherson, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rita Allen Foundation. “More than ever, our democracy needs trusted, evidence-based information at the intersection of science and society to inform dialogue, decisions, and understanding.”

The Conversation's staff of subject-expert editors works with top scholars nationwide to transform their research into accessible journalistic content, which is offered free to news media. Stories are distributed through the Associated Press, Yahoo News and other media outlets. The Conversation has relationships with scholars at more than 625 colleges and universities and has published more than 9,000 articles. It is funded by support from many of the nation's leading foundations and universities.

“We are grateful for the Rita Allen Foundation's continued support” said Beth Daley, TCUS Editor and General Manager. “Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Conversation has dramatically increased its publication of research-based articles in response to the desire of scholars to get important facts about this threat to the public. The public has responded to our efforts and we have experienced more than a doubling of readership.”

“The Rita Allen Foundation has been a strong and steadfast supporter of The Conversation US since we were established five years ago. Their significant and on-going support helps The Conversation achieve its mission of democratizing knowledge,” said Bruce Wilson, TCUS Chief Innovation and Development Officer.

### **About The Conversation US**

The Conversation US (TCUS) is an organization of professional editors working at the nexus of academic research and news media to help build the quality of conversations in today's public discourse. TCUS seeks to increase the public's access to expert, research-focused scholars, with the goal of increasing the

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availability of evidence-based information that can help us have better conversations. Launched in 2014, The Conversation's newsroom is based in Boston, with editors in New York, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. It is part of a global network that shares content, with editorial offices in Australia, Canada, the UK, France, Indonesia, Spain and Africa. <https://theconversation.com/us>

## **About the Rita Allen Foundation**

The Rita Allen Foundation invests in transformative ideas in their earliest stages to leverage their growth and promote breakthrough solutions to significant problems. It enables early-career biomedical scholars to do pioneering research, seeds innovative approaches to fostering informed civic engagement, and develops knowledge and networks to build the effectiveness of the philanthropic sector. Throughout its work, the Foundation embraces collaboration, creativity, learning and leadership.

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