THE BRAINCHILD OF CONGRESSMAN JIM COOPER, the Golden Goose Award recognizes the enormous and often unanticipated impacts that obscure or odd-sounding federally funded research has had on society—from life-saving medical treatments to game-changing social and behavioral insights to major technological advances.

Awardees are announced throughout the year, followed by an award ceremony each fall in Washington, DC.


CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST TEAM OF 2016 GOLDEN GOOSE Awardees

A TALE OF TWO STUDIES: THE ADOLESCENT HEALTH STORY

In 1991, Dr. Ronald Rindfuss had to deliver devastating news to Drs. Bearman, Entwisle, Udry and the rest of the American Teenage Study (ATS) team: after years of designing this innovative study of adolescent sexual behavior, their $21.5 million merit review approved NIH grant—the largest ever awarded in social and behavioral sciences at the time—had been canceled just months after awarded.

After fierce debate, Congress outlawed ATS for good, but at the same time mandated that NIH fund a prospective longitudinal study of adolescent health broadly. Drs. Udry, Harris, and Bearman answered the call by building on ATS’s innovative design to create the multidisciplinary, longitudinal National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, or Add Health.

Over two decades of longitudinal open access research, Add Health has enabled over 10,000 researchers to carry out thousands of scientific studies. Findings on everything from the impact of relationships on health to causes and consequences of the obesity epidemic help shape national to individual actions affecting human health—from adolescence to adulthood.