

**TRAIN: The Research Acceleration and Innovation Network**  
**Submitted By *FasterCures* ([www.FasterCures.org](http://www.FasterCures.org))**

Why does it take so long to find cures? A high-speed train potentially could go 200 mph, but the average speed of today's train is 55 mph. It's not the speed of the train that holds us back; it's the speed of the track. At *FasterCures*, we're committed to building faster tracks to cures.

So we formed TRAIN (The Research Acceleration and Innovation Network), a ground-breaking coalition of disease research organizations operating outside the traditional medical research infrastructure – including Alpha-1 Foundation, Alliance for Aging Research, ALS Therapy Development Foundation, Cure Autism Now, JDRF, Michael J. Fox Foundation, Myelin Repair Foundation, Prostate Cancer Foundation and the Komen Foundation.

*FasterCures* developed an innovation agenda to help these groups (and others) accelerate their work. Because technology and innovation go hand in hand, we will promote medical record and biological material databases for researchers, create information technology platforms to support innovative research, and advance new open source approaches to intellectual property in biomedical research.

Collaboration is another important part of innovation; so we will share case studies of successes and failures in novel disease research approaches and create a guide on how to select, fund and review scientific research.

*FasterCures* is working on three projects agreed on by TRAIN members: creating a format for standard patient data collection; identifying elements for an interoperable, scalable IT platform to facilitate data collection and collaborative analyses; and building a joint advocacy effort to increase the funding of translational research within the federal government.

Currently, TRAIN is riding on some pretty rusty tracks but *FasterCures* believes that, by working together, we can make those tracks to new cures faster for all of us.

**For more information, see Greg Simon's abstract presentation at the "Individuals Seeking Cures" keynote session, November 11, 2005, at 1:00 pm.**