

From Labs to Lives

How Research Funding Solves Real-World Problems

NIH-Funded Research on How Environment Shapes Heart Failure Risk

At UC Davis, heart failure and transplant cardiologist Dr. Martin Cadeiras is leading NIH-funded research to understand heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF), a common but poorly understood form of heart failure in which the heart stiffens over time. His team has found that patients in different ZIP codes face different risks and even develop distinct forms of the disease. Factors like air quality, healthcare access and socioeconomic conditions all play a role. By identifying these patterns, his research aims to improve diagnosis and treatment tailored to a patient's environment.

Helping Families

Cadeiras' research is part of a larger multicenter initiative by the NIH aimed at improving understanding and identifying new therapies for this form of heart failure, ultimately leading not only to discover new treatment strategies, but also to help closing health gaps between communities. Without continued NIH funding, progress in identifying these hidden risk factors could stall, putting vulnerable populations at even greater risk. Sustained investment ensures that heart failure care is personalized, giving every patient the best chance at a healthier life, no matter where they live.

// If the federal funding is reduced or eliminated, it will not only hinder discoveries aimed at addressing a growing public health problem but it will also prevent other scientists from building on this work and shed light on the next generation of clinical discoveries and treatments.” — Dr. Martin Cadeiras



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