

= RTI International =

RTI International ( formerly Research Triangle Institute ) is a nonprofit organization headquartered in the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina that provides research and technical services . It was founded in 1958 with \$ 500 @, @ 000 in funding by local businesses and the three North Carolina universities in the Research Triangle region . RTI started with departments for research in isotopes , operational sciences and statistics . It restructured into four departments in 1971 and later created the Office for International Projects , now called the International Development Group .

RTI later split into eleven departments , including Health Research , Drug Discovery & Development , Education & Training Research , Survey Research , among others . The US Agency for International Development has come to account for 35 percent of RTI 's research revenue . RTI research has covered HIV / AIDS , healthcare , education curriculum and the environment , among others . Forbes magazine ranked RTI International sixth of 250 in its America ' s Best Employers list for mid @-@ size companies for 2016 .

= = History = =

In 1954 , Romeo Guest , a building contractor , met with the North Carolina state treasurer , Brandon Hodges , and the president of Wachovia , Robert Hanes , to discuss building a research park in North Carolina to attract new industries to the region . They obtained support for the concept of Research Triangle Park from state governor Luther Hodges and the three universities that form the research triangle : University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill , Duke University and North Carolina State University . The Research Triangle Institute ( now RTI International ) was formed as the research park 's first tenant in 1958 by the park 's founders . The following January they announced that \$ 1 @. @ 425 million had been raised by the Research Triangle Foundation to fund the park and that \$ 500 @, @ 000 of it had been set aside for RTI .

RTI started with three divisions : Isotope Development , Operational Sciences and Statistics Research . Its first contract was a \$ 4 @, @ 500 statistical study of morbidity data from Tennessee . In RTI 's first year of operation , it had 25 staff and \$ 240 @, @ 000 in research contracts . Its early work was focused on statistics , but within a few years expanded into radioisotopes , organic chemistry and polymers . In 1960 the Institute had its first international research contract , for an agricultural census in Nigeria . RTI won contracts with the Department of Education , Defense Department , NASA and the Atomic Energy Commission , growing to \$ 3 @. @ 4 million in contracts in 1964 and \$ 85 million in 1988 .

In 1971 , RTI 's staff of 430 was reorganized into four research groups : social and economic systems , statistical sciences , environmental sciences and engineering , and chemistry and life sciences . It also created a division for education called the Center for Education Research and Evaluation . Four years later , RTI created the Office for International Programs to manage international projects . RTI provided funding assistance to help found the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in 1980 , and two years later was part of a joint venture to create Microelectronics Center of North Carolina ( MCNC ) , a non @-@ profit whose computer network connected local K @-@ 12 schools . A Health Solutions division formed in 2000 serves the pharmaceutical , biotechnology and medical device industries . In 2015 , it formed a subsidiary in New Delhi , India . Among other projects , it was funded to develop a waterless toilet for use in third @-@ world countries .

= = Organization = =

RTI International is a not @-@ for @-@ profit research organization established by three local universities , but managed independently by a separate board and management team . RTI 's structure consists of members of the corporation , the board of governors and corporate officers . The members of the corporation elect governors , who in turn create the organization 's policies . Corporate officers are senior managers that report to the board for their area of responsibility .

RTI has eleven service areas :

RTI also has a separate business called RTI Health Solutions , which supports biotech , diagnostic and medical device companies . As of 2012 , the organization 's largest division managed the social , statistical and environmental sciences services . More than half of RTI 's staff have advanced degrees in one of 120 fields and work on approximately 1 @, @ 200 projects at a time . RTI has partnerships with the Research Triangle Energy Consortium , the Triangle Global Health Consortium and other universities and research organizations . Many of RTI 's staff hold faculty positions at the three universities that form the Research Triangle and participate in cooperative research projects .

There are nine US offices and nine international locations in France , the United Kingdom , South America , Indian and Indonesia , among others , supporting operations in 80 countries . About 60 percent of RTI 's staff are headquartered on a 180 @-@ acre campus inside the Research Triangle Park . Most of RTI International 's funding comes from government research contracts . In 2012 it authored 627 journal articles . At the time , RTI owned 400 patents . RTI competes with the three universities that form the research triangle and other research institutes for contracts . It bids on \$ 2 billion in research contracts a year and wins approximately 40 percent of the budget it bids on .

= = Projects = =

RTI International 's research has spanned areas like cancer , pollution , drug abuse and education .

RTI scientists Monroe Wall and Mansukh Wani synthesized anti @-@ cancer treatments camptothecin in 1966 , from the bark of the Camptotheca tree , and Taxol in 1971 , from a Pacific yew tree . These two drugs account for \$ 3 billion a year in sales by pharmaceutical companies . In 1986 , RTI was awarded a \$ 4 million contract with the National Cancer Institute to conduct an eight @-@ year clinical trial on the effects of an anti @-@ smoking campaign . Two years later , RTI began a \$ 4 @. @ 4 million program to coordinate AIDS drug trials for the National Institutes of Health . This had grown to \$ 26 million by 1988 .

RTI scientists helped identify toxic chemicals in the Love Canal in the 1970s . In 1978 , RTI researched the possibility of improving solar cells for the US Department of Energy and coal gasification for the Environmental Protection Agency in 1979 . It trained Chinese government employees on using computer models to forecast pollution patterns before the 2007 Olympics in Beijing .

An RTI survey in 1973 , commissioned by the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs , confirmed prior research that found no connection between drug use and violent crime , despite prior perceptions of heroin users as more prone to violence . A 1975 study RTI conducted for the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism found that 28 percent of 13 @, @ 000 teenagers polled were " problem drinkers , " despite their age . A 1996 study done by RTI and funded by the Pentagon found that drug abuse in the military had been reduced by 90 percent since 1980 .

RTI in 1975 recommended that the Bureau of the Mint halt expensive production of pennies , and replace half @-@ dollars with a new dollar coin . In 2001 , RTI scientists created a new thinfilm superlattice material that uses the thermoelectric effect to cool microprocessors . A 2009 study by RTI and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published in Health Affairs estimated that obesity in the US caused \$ 147 billion in increased medical care costs annually . RTI also developed a reading skill measurement program , the Early Grade Reading Assessment ( EGRA ) , for the USAID and the World Bank . The EGRA has been used in 70 languages and 50 countries .

RTI began working for the US Agency for International Development ( USAID ) after the conflict between Iraq and the US began in 2003 . USAID work represented 35 percent of RTI 's revenue by 2010 . An employee of the contractor Unity Resources Group , hired to protect RTI staff doing USAID work in Iraq , shot and killed two Iraqi women on October 9 , 2007 .

In 2004 , Nextreme was spun off of RTI to develop a thermoelectric material for semiconductors commercially . RTI acquired a healthcare marketing firm called MasiMax in March 2009 . It also created another semiconductor startup that year called SiXis . In 2011 RTI created the Center for Agricultural and Environmental Biotechnology and in 2012 it acquired a California @-@ based

education research firm , MPR Associates .