



# MONELL CHEMICAL SENSES CENTER

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## INSTITUTIONAL FACT SHEET

*The Monell Chemical Senses Center, founded in 1968, is an independent nonprofit basic research institute focused on the senses of taste and smell.*

- MISSION:** A leader in scientific discovery, Monell expands knowledge of taste and smell through interdisciplinary research, training, and communication.
- LOCATION:** University City, Philadelphia. The Center occupies a 60,000 sq. ft. building and recently has purchased and is expanding into the adjacent building, increasing total occupied space to 80,000 sq.ft.
- LEADERSHIP:** Gary K. Beauchamp, PhD; Director  
Dwight Risky, PhD; Chair, Board of Directors
- SCIENTISTS:** Approximately 25 principal investigators and 35 post-doctoral fellows and research associates, trained in a variety of disciplines including biology, chemistry, sensory science, psychology, neuroscience, molecular genetics, and public health.
- RESEARCH:** The highly interdisciplinary research at Monell increases knowledge about the many mysteries of taste, smell, and chemical irritation. Monell is dedicated to basic research, with scientists choosing projects based on their own curiosity and interests without regard to immediate practical applications. Even so, results of the Center's studies often have relevance to health and quality of life. There is much to learn about these senses and how they impact significant concerns such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, pediatric nutrition and health, aging, homeland security, and environmental pollution. Findings are published in a wide variety of peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- FUNDING:** Over 50 percent of Monell's funding comes from competitive government grants, primarily through the National Institutes of Health. Grants from the Center's corporate sponsors provide another 35 percent, with the remainder coming from foundation sources and private philanthropy.
- EXPANSION:** The Center recently completed a "*Science of the Senses*" capital campaign, raising \$11.2 million to construct state-of-the-art laboratories and hire new faculty for its integrated molecular biology and human sensory perception research programs.

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