

## President's Message: Extraordinary By Ross Zafonte, DO, President



The field of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) is experiencing a moment of extraordinary importance in these remarkable times. The Foundation for PM&R has been at the forefront of this progress, providing critical financial support that has enabled groundbreaking research, advanced clinical care, and expanded

educational opportunities. The success of the Foundation for PM&R and the field of PM&R has truly bred further success, as evidenced by a series of extraordinary gifts that continue to propel the field forward.

This issue highlights two of these extraordinary acts of generosity: a **very large anonymous gift that will establish new research grants**, and the **remarkable support of Dr. Bruce Becker**, whose vision and commitment exemplify the spirit of innovation and generosity that drive our foundation's mission. **These gifts underscore the essential role philanthropy plays in ensuring the continued growth and competitiveness of our specialty.**

For PM&R to remain viable, innovative, and transformative in the years ahead, we must cultivate and empower a dedicated cadre of young researchers. These future leaders will carry forward the momentum we have built, translating discoveries into real-world impact for patients and communities. **By investing in their potential, we not only strengthen the foundation of our field but also ensure that our specialty remains a leader in medical innovation.**

The Foundation for PM&R's financial progress and unwavering commitment to nurturing talent are testaments to the shared belief that **together, we can transform the future of rehabilitation medicine.**

**DONATE NOW**

### An Extraordinary Gift

A donor who wishes to remain anonymous is making a gift totaling \$900,000 to the Foundation for PM&R. A contribution like this can drive lasting



change for the field of PM&R, and the Foundation is deeply honored

and incredibly grateful.

At the donor's directive, **the contribution will be used to support up to 3 new pilot research grants annually**, honoring past leaders in psychiatry and addressing some of the Foundation's research priority areas. Specifically, the gift establishes The Memorial Fund to promote the lifetime interests and research themes of three notable psychiatrists in the following areas: sexuality, relationship and lifestyle issues affecting physically disabled individuals (Dr. Dorothea D. Glass); physiology of chronic pain and its clinical management (Dr. Martin Grabois); neuroscience, neurophysiology, and rehabilitation neuroengineering (Dr. Richard M. Herman); .

**The new grants will be available in the 2026 research grants cycle.**

## How to Get Free Money

On Saturday, October 25 from 3:00-4:15 PM, Foundation President Dr. Ross Zafonte and VP Dr. Elliot Roth will provide an overview of the application and review processes for FPM&R research grants. Past grant recipients Drs. Prakash Jayabalan, Adam Tenforde and Patricia Zheng will share their experiences as grant recipients and reviewers. There will be time for questions. The session will be held in Room 251ABC of the Salt Palace Convention Center (in conjunction with the AAPM&R Annual Assembly - see the complete list of Foundation events in Salt Lake City below.)



## Congratulation, 2025 Research Grant Recipients!

The mission of the Foundation for PM&R is building psychiatric research by supporting young investigators and providing pilot funding for experienced psychiatric scientists.



This year's research grant awards will be presented at the Donor Appreciation Reception (*see below*); the winners are:

### ENCOMPASS MIDCAREER INVESTIGATOR RESEARCH GRANT

- **Corinna Bondi, MD**, University of Pittsburgh, "Clinically-relevant neurorehabilitation to mitigate aging- and hypertension-mediated cognitive decline after traumatic brain injury" (*Special thanks to Encompass for supporting this grant*)

### RICHARD MATERSON ERF NEW INVESTIGATOR GRANTS

- **Nicole Katz, MD**, Spaulding Rehab Hospital, "Mechanistic impact of synovial fluid relaxin-2 on the progression of knee osteoarthritis"
- **Syed Qadri, MD**, Moss Rehab, "Evaluating Brain Plasticity in Moderate TBI Patients with Theta Burst Stimulation: A Pilot Study"
- **Jason Silver, MD**, University of Washington, "Bioengineered muscle tissues to assess muscle stem cell fate decisions with aging"

#### **GABRIELLA MOLNAR PEDIATRIC PM&R RESEARCH GRANT**

- **Anders Asp, MD**, Mayo Clinic, "Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation to Improve Lower Limb Function and Assess Lower Motor Neuron Health in Children with Spina Bifida"

#### **SCOTT NADLER PASSOR MUSCULOSKELETAL RESEARCH GRANT**

- **Adam Tenforde, MD**, Spaulding Rehab Hospital, "Achilles Tendinopathy"

#### **TACTILE MEDICAL CANCER REHABILITATION RESEARCH GRANT**

- **Sharon Bushi, MD**, Burke Rehab Hospital, "Evaluating inpatient rehabilitation for metastatic cancer patients" (*Special thanks to Tactile Medical for supporting this grant.*)

### **2025 Gabriella Molnar Pediatric PM&R Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Dr. Gloria Eng** is being posthumously awarded this year's Gabriella Molnar Pediatric PM&R Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Eng was a contemporary of Dr. Molnar and had a great influence on pediatric PM&R in its earliest days through training new physicians, clinical care and research. The award will be presented at the Donor Appreciation Reception (*see below*).



### **Foundation Events at Academy Meeting**

The Foundation for PM&R hopes you will join us for the following events during the 2025 AAPM&R Annual Assembly:



- **VIP DONORS LOUNGE** (*Thursday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, Saturday, 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon, Lower Concourse*) – Summit and Ascent Club members are invited to stop by for coffee/tea and a place to relax between sessions.
- **DONOR APPRECIATION RECEPTION** (*Thursday, 7:30 PM, Salt Lake E, Hyatt Regency*) – All donors are encouraged to join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres as we present the 2025 Research Grant Awards to our recipients (*listed above.*)
- **REHAB 5K RUN/WALK & ROLL** (*Friday 6:30 AM, Memory Grove*)

Park) – Join a Residency Program Team or just run/walk/roll with colleagues in beautiful Memory Grove Park, 1 mile north of the Salt Palace Convention Center. Virtual option is available if you won't be at the meeting.

- **PRESENTATION OF 2016 NADLER RESEARCH GRANT AWARD FINDINGS** (Thursday 3:45-5:00 PM, Grand Ballroom F, Ground Level) - Dan Herman will present the results of his Foundation-funded study on “Secondary Musculoskeletal Injury Risk after Concussion: A New Paradigm for Musculoskeletal Injury Risk Evaluation, Prevention and Rehabilitation.”
- **VIDEO PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS** (Friday 10:45 AM-12:00 Noon, Hall E, Ground Level) - The Foundation's research grant awards and 2025 Gabriella Molnar Pediatric PM&R Lifetime Achievement Award will be part of the Academy's video awards presentation.
- **PROOF OF THE PUDDING DEBATE** (Friday 12:30-1:30 PM, Room 150DEF) - Prakash Jayabalan and Jennifer Soo Hoo will share different perspectives on this year's topic: “Intra-articular steroid injections for knee osteoarthritis: Is it time to stop doing them?” Coffee and dessert will be served.
- **GETTING FUNDED: HOW TO WRITE AND SUBMIT A SUCCESSFUL FPM&R RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL** (see above)

---

## Thank you, Dr. Becker!

Dr. Bruce Becker is a past President, Summit Club member and long-time donor to the Foundation for PM&R. His recent gift brought him to the highest donor club level, The John Melvin Circle (>\$100,000 cumulative gifts).



**Thank you, Dr. Becker!**

---

**Contribute now!** Click on the button below, or scan the QR code.

**DONATE NOW**



---

## Follow the Foundation Online

Find news and updates about the Foundation for PM&R and physiatric research by following our social media accounts.



**Facebook:** FoundationforPMR

**Instagram:** foundation4pmr

**X (Twitter):** F4PMR

**LinkedIn:** Foundation for PM&R

You can also find videos about physiatric research issues on our

YouTube channel

at: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvtViFtBRd0dExw4V\\_\\_3HNQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvtViFtBRd0dExw4V__3HNQ).