

President's Message: More Research Funding for 2026!

By Elliot J. Roth, MD, President



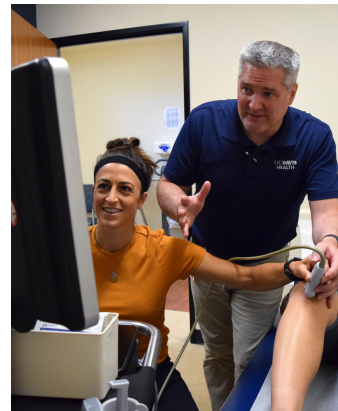
We are extremely excited about the creation of 4 new grant opportunities available to you from the Foundation

for PM&R, which provide support for innovative and interesting research.

As a result of the generosity and foresight of an anonymous donor, we now have grant opportunities focused on: 1) research in neuroscience, neurophysiology and rehabilitation neuroengineering (named for **Richard M Herman, MD**); 2) sexuality, relationship and lifestyle issues affecting individuals with physical disabilities (named for **Dorothea D. Glass, MD**); and 3) physiology of chronic pain and its clinical management (named for **Martin Grabois, MD**). These are unique and important opportunities, which will both advance our science and recognize these 3 great past contributors to our field!

Research Grants Available

We are excited to announce that our spring 2026 grants cycle is now open with an **application deadline of May 1**. Information about the grants can be found on the Foundation website (www.foundationforPMR.org/research-grants/); applications must be submitted online at <https://foundationforPMR.submittable.com/submit>.



Opportunities include:

Encompass Health Midcareer Investigator Research Grant - One grant of \$25,000 for an experienced physiatric investigator to pursue a new line of inquiry. (*Special thanks to Encompass Health for their ongoing support of this grant!*)

NEW! Dorothea Glass PM&R Lifestyle Research Grant - One grant of \$10,000 for physiatric research focused on sexuality, relationship, and lifestyle issues affecting individuals with disability.

NEW! Martin Grabois Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Research Grant - One grant of \$10,000 for physiatric research focused on the physiology of chronic

pain and its clinical management.

NEW! Richard Herman Neurorehabilitation Research Grant - One grant of \$10,000 focused on psychiatric research in neuroscience, neurophysiology or rehabilitation neuroengineering.

Richard Materson ERF New Investigator Grants - Up to three career development grants of \$10,000 each for psychiatric investigators five years or less out of training (residency or fellowship.)

Gabriella Molnar Pediatric PM&R Research Grant - One grant of \$10,000 for a pilot study in pediatric rehabilitation.

Scott Nadler PASSOR Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation Research Grant - One grant of \$30,000 for a pilot study in musculoskeletal rehabilitation.

NEW! Nobis Rehabilitation Partners Inpatient Rehabilitation Research Grant - One grant of \$30,000 for psychiatric research focused on best practices, comparative effectiveness, transition of care or other inpatient-specific rehabilitation topics.

Tactile Medical Cancer Rehabilitation Research Grant - One grant of \$10,000 for research in rehabilitative care of cancer patients. *(Special thanks to Tactile Medical for their support of this grant!)*

Questions about our research grants program can be directed to Phyllis Anderson, panderson@foundationforPMR.org or 847-737-6062.

Tax Letters in the Mail

The Foundation for PM&R is an IRS-designated charitable organization. Everyone who gave \$50 or more in 2025 will receive a receipt for tax purposes in the coming weeks. **Thank you for your support!**



As you start thinking about ways to minimize your personal income tax burden for this year, keep these options in mind:

- **Donations of appreciated stock** avoid capital gains tax.
- If you are age 70-1/2 or older, making a **Qualified Charitable Distribution** directly from your retirement plan is a good option for your annual Required Minimum Distribution so it doesn't increase your income level.
- If you have or plan to set up a **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)**, please ask your fund manager to make a disbursement to the Foundation for PM&R.

- If you plan to itemize your tax return next year, a gift to the Foundation will help ensure you reach **the new 0.5% of AGI threshold** so your charitable gifts are tax deductible.

Amplify Your Gift

If you or your spouse/partner works for an institution or company that matches gifts to qualified organizations, we can provide you with proof of donation so you can apply for a matching gift. Drs.



Faren Williams (a physiatrist in Massachusetts) and her spouse, Luke Maki, have leveraged this for several years to double their contribution to the Foundation.

If asked by your employer, the Foundation for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation qualifies as a nonprofit organization recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

FPM&R at AAP Meeting

Visit us in **Booth # 624** in the exhibit hall in sunny San Juan this February. You can get information about our research grants and awards program and make a donation onsite. Hope to see you there!



Volunteers Wanted

Do you have physiatric research experience? If so, would you be willing to lend your expertise to help select the



winners of this year's FPM&R research grants? Each reviewer receives 1-2 grant applications in mid-May to score using an easy online system; you will have 4-6 weeks to complete the reviews. Please contact Phyllis Anderson (panderson@foundationforpmr.org or 847-737-6062) to sign up.

Report from a Past Grant Recipient:
Andrienne Ricard-Denis, MD (2023 *Encompass Health Midcareer Investigator Research Grant*, “Using a point-of-care electrophysiological method to accelerate the detection of neurogenic bladder dysfunction and improve prognosis of neurofunctional recovery after acute spinal cord injury”)



Thanks to the support provided by the FPMR, our team was able to support 2 international medical fellows in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation; 2 MSc and 1 PhD students. **We also secured an additional \$1 million in large-scale competitive research grants**, which are allowing us to continue and expand our work in the field of neurophysiological sacral assessment after spinal cord injury. This funding has been instrumental in sustaining the development, validation, and clinical implementation of the ESG platform.

Here are the many publications and presentations that resulted from this Foundation-funded research:

Publications

- **Cifuentes Hernandez JD, Mac-Thiong JM, Bensoussan N, Mputu Mputu P, Duguay M, Richard-Denis A***. *A novel bedside surface EMG tool for early detection of neurogenic bladder dysfunction following thoracolumbar spine injury: A proof-of-concept study.* **Status:** In finalization.
- **Duguay M, Mac-Thiong JM, Bensoussan N, Cifuentes Hernandez J, Richard-Denis A***. *Development and prospective validation of the ElectroSacroGram: a point-of-care neurophysiological precision tool for assessing neuro-sacral function in spinal cord injury.* **Status:** Accepted in *Journal of NeuroEngineering and Rehabilitation* (October 2025).

(Several additional manuscripts are currently in preparation.)

Presentations

- **Richard-Denis A**, Duguay M, Cifuentes Hernandez J, Bensoussan N, Mputu P, Mac-Thiong JM. *ElectroSacroGram (ESG): A Digital Neurophysiological Tool for Bedside Sacral Function Assessment and Early Detection of Neurogenic Bladder Dysfunction After Spinal Cord Injury.* 2025 Spinal Research Network Meeting, London, UK
- **Richard-Denis A.** *Transforming Neuro-Sacral Assessment in Spinal Cord Injury: Development and Validation of the ElectroSacroGram (ESG).* **Invited presentation** as co-winner of the Best Abstract – Knowledge Generation category.

2025 Canadian Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Association (CSCI-RA) National Conference, Toronto

- **Richard-Denis A**, Walden K, Chan E. *Integrating ISNCSCI into Clinical Care Using Innovative Tools, Advanced Technologies, and Interactive Learning*. 2025 CSCI-RA National Conference, Toronto
- **Bensoussan N**, Mac-Thiong JM, **Richard-Denis A**. *Subclinical sacral function detected by ElectroSacroGram (ESG) predicts neurological recovery after SCI*. 2026 CAPMR + ISPRM World Congress, Vancouver
- **Bensoussan N**, Mac-Thiong JM, **Richard-Denis A**. *Preserved sacral sensation in anterior cord syndrome: a rare case demonstrating the diagnostic specificity of a novel point-of-care ElectroSacroGram (ESG)*. 2026 CAPMR + ISPRM World Congress, Vancouver
- **Bensoussan N**, Mac-Thiong JM, **Richard-Denis A**. *Optimizing surface electrode placement to minimize signal variability in a point-of-care device for detecting neuro-sacral dysfunction after SCI*. 2026 CAPMR + ISPRM World Congress, Vancouver
- **Bensoussan N**, Duguay M, Cifuentes Hernandez JD, Mac-Thiong JM, **Richard-Denis A**. *Transforming neuro-sacral assessment in SCI: development and validation of the ElectroSacroGram (ESG)*. 2026 CAPMR + ISPRM World Congress, Vancouver
- **Leblanc-Grant A**, Mac-Thiong JM, Bensoussan N, **Richard-Denis A**. *ElectroSacroGram (ESG): Transforming Neurogenic Bladder and Bowel Dysfunction (NBB) Assessment and Triage After SCI*. 2026 CAPMR + ISPRM World Congress, Vancouver
- **Duguay M**, Mac-Thiong JM, Cifuentes Hernandez JD, Bensoussan N, **Richard-Denis A**. *Development and Validation of the ElectroSacroGram (ESG): A Digital Point-of-Care Tool for Real-Time Neuro-Sacral Assessment After Spinal Cord Injury*. 2026 American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA
- **Cifuentes Hernandez J**, Mac-Thiong JM, Bensoussan N, Duguay M, Barthelemy D, **Richard-Denis A**. *Electromiografía sacra para la detección temprana de disfunción vesical neurogénica incompleta en pacientes con lesiones agudas toracolumbares*. XXXII Congreso Colombiano de Medicina Física y Rehabilitación & IV Congreso de la Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana de Rehabilitación, Pereira, Colombia

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