

**Editor's Note:** This issue introduces our new logo - focused on "**Building PMR Research**" - and a more concise format. Hope you enjoy!

## The Foundation for PM&R Ensures the Success and Survival of the Field

**By Ross Zafonte, DO, President**



The Foundation's research grants program empowers researchers, inspires innovation, and ultimately leads to a brighter and more inclusive future for individuals with physical disabilities. We provide:

- Support for **Future Innovators**
- Critical **Pilot Research** Funding
- A Strong **Scientific Foundation** for Rehabilitation
- Improved **Patient Care** and Outcomes
- **Community Engagement** and Collaboration
- **100% Success Rate!** (see grant recipient data below)

**Be a Catalyst for Change!** Your donation is more than a financial contribution; it's a catalyst for positive change in the field of PMR.

**Donate now!**

**DONATE NOW**

## Research Grant Money Available

**Application deadline: May 1, 2024**



- **Encompass Midcareer Investigator Grant** (\$20,000)
- **Richard Materson ERF New Investigator Grant** (3 grants of \$10,000 each)
- **Gabriella Molnar Pediatric PM&R Research Grant** (\$10,000)
- **Scott Nadler PASSOR Musculoskeletal Research Grant** (\$30,000)

Details about the grants and criteria can be found on the Foundation website ([www.foundationforPMR.org/research-grants-2/](http://www.foundationforPMR.org/research-grants-2/)); applications must be submitted online at <https://foundationforPMR.submittable.com/submit>.

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## Call for Nominations



The Foundation for PM&R is committed to a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment.

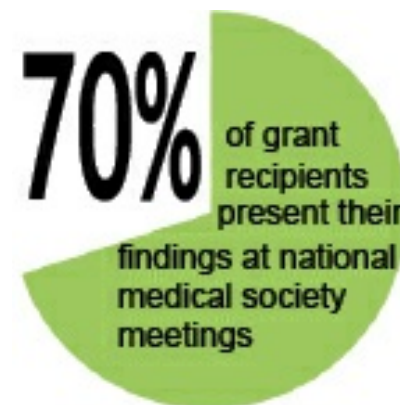
- **Directors-At-Large** – There are two openings for Directors-At-Large on the Foundation for PM&R’s Board of Directors.
- **Gabriella Molnar Pediatric PM&R Lifetime Achievement Award** – The award is given to a physiatrist who has made exceptional contributions to pediatric PM&R via research, teaching and/or patient care.

[Click here for more information](#), or submit a nomination by May 1, 2024 to [panderson@foundationforpmr.org](mailto:panderson@foundationforpmr.org).

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## Support Innovative Research!

Pilot funding from the Foundation provides a vital first step for physiatric researchers, launching careers that contribute to the evidence base of the field.



Grant recipients from the past ten years (2014-2023) report the following:

- 50% of grant recipients have used Foundation-funded findings to **secure additional research support**
- 70% of grant recipients **presented their Foundation-funded findings** at a national medical society meeting
- 61% of grant recipients **published their Foundation-funded findings** in a peer-reviewed medical journal
- **100% are still engaged in research today!**

***But we need your support to continue and grow our research programs!***

**DONATE NOW**

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## Report from a Past Grant Recipient: Ginger Polich, MD

**2020 Richard Materson ERF New Investigator Research Grant, “Rhythmic Auditory Stimulations (RAS) for Functional Gait Disorder”**



We are continuing to work on our Richard S. Materson ERF New

Investigator Research Grant Funding and are so appreciative of all the opportunities this funding has provided for us to explore the use of Rhythmic Auditory Stimulation for Functional Gait Disorders.

Functional gait disorders (FGD) are a common and disabling condition. Consensus-based rehabilitation techniques for treating FGD and other functional neurological disorder presentations at large utilize a variety of therapeutic strategies, including distraction, novel approaches to movement, entrainment, stress/hypervigilance modulation, and psychotherapy. Through our Foundation-funded research, we have found that RAS represents a unique therapeutic approach for treating FGD, complementary to existing consensus-based rehabilitation recommendations, and may warrant further consideration by the field.

Using these funds, we have disseminated our work on this specific topic in the following ways:

- Peer-reviewed case report published in NeuroRehabilitation <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35213331/>(2022)
- Poster at the International FND Society Biannual Conference in Boston, MA (2022)
- Lecture symposium at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA (2023)
- Poster at the American Physical Therapy Association in Boston, MA (accepted for 2024)

We have completed our 10 subjects and are in the process of data analysis. Our goal is to submit an article for publication in the next 6 months. Our bigger picture plans are to pursue further grants using this pilot data to continue to support our work with a larger cohort.