

The Foundation for PM&R: Your Role

By Ross Zafonte, DO, President



As we continue to drive the future of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R), I want to emphasize the vital role that your generous contributions play in our field's growth and innovation. **Your support is not just a gift—it's an investment in the future of PM&R,**

fostering groundbreaking research and transformative innovations that directly impact the lives of our patients. By giving to the Foundation, you are helping to elevate PM&R's standing within the broader medical community, ensuring that our field continues to lead in both practice and discovery.

Our ability to innovate is deeply intertwined with the support we receive from our community. Through your contributions, we can fund critical research, like the projects we have supported this year through our competitive grant programs. This research is the cornerstone of our progress, providing the evidence and tools we need to advance patient care and improve outcomes.

The Foundation received a stunning number of quality applications this year. After careful consideration with the input of our reviewers, nine pilot projects were selected for funding (*see article below*). These studies are innovative and we believe they are likely to lead to additional funding for psychiatric research as well as advancing the science of psychiatric care. **Your donations make this vital work possible - thank you!**

DONATE NOW

Nine Pilot Studies to Be Funded

Congratulations to the psychiatric investigators who are being awarded pilot grants from the Foundation for PM&R.



Each one has demonstrated innovation, excellence in scientific methodology, value to our patients and the practice of psychiatry, and

likelihood to attract further research funding. The awards will be presented at our Donor Appreciation Reception on Thursday, November 7 in San Diego.

Encompass Midcareer Investigator Research Grant

Stacy Suskauer, MD (2nd FPM&R grant), Hugo Moser Research Institute at Kennedy Krieger ,
“Preliminary evaluation of genetic influences on subtle motor function after youth concussion”
Special thanks to Encompass Health for their support of this research grant.



Richard Materson ERF New Investigator Grant



Heather Barnett, MD, University of Washington,
“Utilization and Outcomes of Inpatient Rehabilitation after Firearm-Related Injury”



Brendan McNiesh, MD, University of Pittsburgh,
“Executive function’s association with mobile measures of community walking in older breast cancer survivors: A pilot study”



Hye Chang Rhim, MD, MPH, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, “Effect of ketorolac injection on lateral epicondylitis: an open-label single arm study”



Joan Stilling, MD, MS, Weill Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian, “Home treatment of post-stroke fatigue using transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS)”

Molnar Pediatric PM&R Research Grants

Chong-Tae Kim, MD, PhD, Children’s Hospital of

Philadelphia, “Transcranial direct current stimulation for children with disorders of consciousness following brain injury”



Jennifer Wu, MD, PhD, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, “Cerebrovascular biomarkers of subacute pediatric brain injury: a transcranial doppler ultrasonography study in the pediatric inpatient rehabilitation setting”



Nadler PASSOR Musculoskeletal Research Grant



Hugo Masse-Alarie, MD, Universite Laval, “Chronic Low Back Pain Management”

Tactile Medical Cancer Rehabilitation Research Grant

Sonal Oza, MD, Emory University, “Functional and pain outcomes among cancer patients receiving botulinum toxin”



Special thanks to Tactile Medical for sponsoring this research grant.



THANK YOU TO OUR GRANT REVIEWERS who generously give of their time and expertise to not only review and score our grants so that we can select the recipients each year, but also provide feedback to the applicants to help improve and refine their proposals.

Dr. Andrew Sherman and Elliot Roth, *Co-chairs, Research Grant Review Committee*

This year’s reviewers: Drs. Matthew Bartels, Bruce Becker, Kathy Bell, Sheila Dugan, Lynn Gerber, Amy Houtrow, Prakash Jayabalan, Kevin

Murphy, Joel Press, Sam Shahpar, Adam Tenforde, Greg Worsowicz, Michael Yochelson, and Patricia Zheng.

If you are interested in volunteering as a grant reviewer, please contact Phyllis Anderson at panderson@foundationforpmr.org or 847-737-6062.

Craig McDonald Selected for Lifetime Achievement Award



This year's Gabriella Molnar Pediatric PM&R Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Dr. Craig McDonald. Like the award's namesake, Dr. McDonald is an extraordinary educator, clinician and researcher. He has dedicated his career to neuromuscular diseases, especially Duchenne's muscular dystrophy (DMD).

Dr. McDonald's research has contributed to the development of precision-based therapies for DMD and the first 4 approved therapies for dystrophin gene abnormalities that lead to the absence of sarcolemmal-associated muscle protein dystrophin (the underlying cause of DMD.)

Dr. McDonald has served as chair of the Department of PM&R at University of California-Davis since 2009, training dozens of pediatric physiatrists and physiatric researchers. He has also published over 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals and numerous book chapters. The award will be presented at our Donor Appreciation Reception on Thursday, November 7 in San Diego.

New Life Director Named



Dr. Lynn Gerber is being honored with Life Director status on the Foundation for PM&R's Board of Directors for her extraordinary service to the organization and the field. Dr. Gerber has given generously of her time and financial resources; she is not only one of our top donors, but she has also served on the Board of Directors from 2015-

2024; as chair of our Development Strategy Committee during some of our most successful fundraising years; and as a research grant reviewer.

Additionally, Dr. Gerber is nationally recognized for her remarkable

career in cancer rehabilitation research and service in the NIH, as well as being a member of the prestigious National Academy of Medicine. She is truly a treasure to the Foundation and the field.

Rehab 5k is Coming!

Friday, Nov. 8, 6:30 AM



Mark your calendar for this year's Rehab 5k Run/Walk & Roll, which will take place along the waterfront in San Diego (in conjunction with the AAPM&R Annual Assembly.) Make sure you take advantage of the early bird discount on registration!

- **In Person or Virtual** – Join us in San Diego, or take part in the fun from home.
- **Residency Program Challenge** – Once again, we will give residency programs the opportunity to compete for prizes.
- **FREE registration** – All Ascent Club members get free registration to the Rehab 5k event this year. See article below to join.



Join the Club!

The Foundation for PM&R has a new group for physiatrists who recognize the need for more evidence- and outcomes-based psychiatric research as well as expanded research capacity.



The Ascent Club is exclusive to physiatrists age 45 or under who

make a monthly gift of \$20 or more. Members receive special recognition in our publications, on our website, and at all meetings, plus access to our private lounge at the AAPM&R Annual Assembly, where you can get some coffee or tea and connect with friends and colleagues between sessions, plus free registration to the Rehab 5k.

If you would like to be recognized as a physiatrist who cares about and supports vital research, please contact Phyllis Anderson, Executive Director (panderson@foundationforpmr.org or 847-737-6062) to sign up today! Then wear your Ascent Club ribbon proudly at national physiatry meetings to let your colleagues know you care. Thank you!

MATCH GRANT! Support Brain Injury Rehab Research

The members of the Foundation's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Research Task Force have pledged \$12,000 as a match grant to **double all the donations to the Brain Injury research grant fund through September 30**. Our goal is to fund at least one research project every year in perpetuity, to improve the science behind our care and support advancements in brain injury rehabilitation. **Your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar** (up to \$12,000) by the task force members - contribute now by clicking the "Donate" button below and selecting "Brain Injury Rehabilitation Research." Thank you very much!



DONATE NOW

Coming Soon - Fall Fund Drive



In the coming weeks, our fall fund drive will land in your email in-box. Please give as generously as you can to support the research that proves the value of physiatric intervention, improves patient outcomes and drives innovation and advancements in patient care. **Remember, the Foundation for PM&R is the ONLY organization solely dedicated to supporting research!**

Find the Foundation Online

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



Facebook: FoundationforPMR

Instagram: foundation4pmr

X (Twitter): F4PMR

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You can also find videos about psychiatric research issues on our YouTube channel

at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvtViFtBRd0dExw4V__3HNQ.