CHAD Agency News
Member Agency Research Updates

The ALS Association

- The FDA approved Relyvrio for the treatment of ALS. After committing $2.2 million toward the development of the drug, we led efforts to push the FDA to act with urgency and flexibility in getting the therapy approved.
- The FDA approved an oral formulation of the drug edaravone, allowing for greater ease of use and making the drug accessible to more people.
- Newly published data showed that earlier intervention with the antisense drug tofersen could be effective at slowing disease progression. The FDA is scheduled to decide on whether to approve tofersen by April 25, 2023.
- Go to www.als.org/2022-year-review for more research updates.

Alzheimer's Association Nebraska Chapter

- Xinglong Wang, PhD, pharmacology and experimental neuroscience at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, received a grant of $1,460,552 from DHHS/ NIH/NIA to study mitochondrial TDP-43 in Alzheimer's disease and a grant of $150,000 from the Alzheimer's Association to study TDP-43 liquid-liquid phase separation in Alzheimer's disease.
- The Alzheimer's Association welcomes and is further encouraged by the full Phase 3 data presented by Eisai and Biogen from the CLARITY AD global clinical trial of lecanemab. Peer-reviewed, published results show lecanemab will provide patients more time to participate in daily life and live independently. It could mean many months more of recognizing their spouse, children and grandchildren. Treatments that deliver tangible benefits to those living with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to Alzheimer's and early Alzheimer's dementia are as valuable as treatments that extend the lives of those with other terminal diseases.
- In June 2021, Aducanumab received accelerated approval as a treatment for Alzheimer's disease from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This is the first FDA-approved therapy to address the underlying biology of Alzheimer's disease. It is the first therapy to demonstrate that removing beta-amyloid, one of the hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease, from the brain is reasonably likely to reduce cognitive and functional decline in people living with early Alzheimer's.
- Go to www.alz.org/help-support/i-have-alz/treatments-research or sss.alz.org/ alzheimers-dementia/research_progress for more information.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Nebraska

- NFSP has given a grant to investigate the use of technology to measure suicide risk. Dr. Catherine Glenn, of the University of Rochester, and her colleagues set out to examine if new methods of monitoring short-term suicide risk and warning signs are feasible and acceptable (i.e., appropriate and able to be carried out) for adolescents at increased risk for suicide attempts.
- NFSP funds the research of Dr. Edwin Boudreaux, Professor of Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry and Quantitative Health Sciences Vice Chair of Research, Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. Dr. Boudreaux conducts research on substance cessation suicide prevention, health informatics. https://afsp.org/afsp-research-award-recipients

American Lung Association in Nebraska

- The mission of the American Lung Association is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, and funding research is how we get there. For over a century, the American Lung Association has funded thousands of critical lung disease research projects. These projects include examining the cause and prevention of lung diseases like tuberculosis, asthma, COPD and lung cancer, as well as how to manage and eradicate lung disease. Since 2000 we have invested over $186 million in research funding to directly impact patient care and find cures, and we will continue to invest in research until we achieve a world free of lung disease.
- Nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is clear that we are in for a long fight. Last year, the American Lung Association launched the COVID-19 Action Initiative, a $25 million commitment to respond to the nationwide pandemic. Among the many American Lung Association funded investigations of COVID-19, a compelling new study lead by Dr. C. Terri Hough at the Oregon Health and Science University is examining the clinical course of patients hospitalized with COVID-19. The funding from the American Lung Association will help Dr. Hough follow patients longer, collecting important clinical data on their course months after their hospitalization, shedding light on the condition now being called 'long COVID', a phenomenon in which individuals experience ongoing health problems long after being infected. These symptoms range from mild headaches and brain fog to very serious problems like extreme fatigue and shortness of breath, persisting a month or more. The issue is widespread, an estimated 11 million Americans currently suffer from long COVID, which presents challenges to their daily lives and activity. In partnership with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute within the National Institutes of Health, The Recovery after COVID-19 Hospitalization (REACH) study will use data collected from 1300 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 across the United States. Dr. Hough's team will use surveys, interviews, and in-person testing to track these patients and gather information about their family experience and how they receive healthcare over the first year they are discharged from the hospital. By tracking the patterns of symptoms of these patients and paths to recovery, this study can lead to new treatments to improve long-term outcomes after COVID-19 hospitalization and help determine who is at the greatest risk of developing long COVID in the first place.
- Research takes patience, as small discoveries build over years before yielding major breakthroughs. But our Airways Clinical Research Centers (ACRC) Network puts another kind of patients first—lung disease patients—focusing on clinical trials which can immediately impact patient lives! Our ACRC is the largest not-for-profit network of clinical centers dedicated to asthma and COPD research. For over 20 years, the ACRC has continually advanced lung disease research, like determining that the flu vaccine is safe for people with asthma and discovering low-cost, effective asthma treatments for those who cannot use corticosteroids. One current trial is studying if a specific blood pressure medication could help patients with COPD. First-hand experience matters, and our Patient Advisory Groups, made up of patients and caregivers, guide the ACRC's current and future studies. One current study has COPD patient advisors helping to promote shared decision making about home oxygen use, prioritizing the patient experience and comfort. The ACRC is the true jewel in the crown of our research program. With your continued support it will continue to sparkle! Learn more at Lung.org/acrc.

Arthritis Foundation Nebraska

- The Arthritis Foundation is transforming the landscape of osteoarthritis (OA) research and discovery by focusing on what is paramount for our patients - biomarkers to diagnose the disease early and allow intervention as soon as possible as opposed to solely studying treatments of end stage disease when reduced or no options exist.
- Our Center of Excellence (COE) center of Ex will allow researchers and patients from multiple organizations around the country to interact and share information that will help us:
    - Break down time and resource barriers
    - Accelerate FDA approval of new therapies
    - Connect a community of partners to best manage Osteoarthritis disease, ensuring patients live their YES!
- The Arthritis Foundation is taking the lead in piloting a model of healthcare in rheumatology by partnering with the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA), the Pediatric Rheumatology Care and Outcomes Improvement Network (PR-COIN), Understanding Childhood Arthritis Network – Canadian/Dutch Collaboration (UCAN, CAN-DU), the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), and the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice.
- Together we are building the Rheumatology Learning Health System (RLHS) to improve the quality of care for pediatric and adult arthritis patients. The model will combine existing arthritis patient registries (databases of patient health information typically used for research), electronic patient health records maintained at medical practices and information entered by patients themselves between visits with their doctors. This combination of data will provide a more complete picture of a patient's condition which will improve care delivered, resulting in better health outcomes.
- Turning the Tide for families Living With JA: Too many children live a life restrained by frequent arthritis pain and the detrimental effects the disease can have on their organs and systems. Add the emotional toll childhood arthritis and other rheumatic conditions can take., on top of endless doctor's visits, and it's clear that answers and solutions are urgently needed. That's why the Arthritis Foundation is committed to making sure JA patients and their families are guiding everything we do.

Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska

- There is a growing body of evidence revealing the positive effects exercise has on brain structure and cognitive function following a traumatic brain injury. It is proposed that exercise assessment and aerobic exercise training may reduce concussion-related physiological dysfunction by restoring autonomic balance and improving autoregulation of cerebral blood flow.

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation - Nebraska/Iowa Chapter

- We discovered a marker in the blood that could indicate which kids living with IBD will go on to develop structures in their intestines.
- We uncovered how mutations in a specific gene increase the risk of developing ulcerative colitis.
- We supported research concluding that a protein in the intestine correlates with disease severity that doesn't respond to biolotics therapy.
- We supported research that is evaluating shifts in the gut microbiome and how they correlate to brain changes and the likelihood of developing disease flares in response to perceived stress.
- We leveraged technology to invest in a "smart pill" that delivers medicine directly to diseased areas in the intestines.
- We made progress on a new blood test that predicts which IBD patients are at high risk of having multiple relapses within the following 12-18 months.
- We led studies on how diet and nutrition can help you manage your IBD symptoms.

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – Nebraska Chapter

- The Universtiy of Nebraska Therapeutics Development Center was awarded $28,000. This grant supports the general operations of the CF Therapeutics Development Center at the University of Nebraska, which conducts clinical trials.
- The University of Nebraska Pediatric CF Care Center was awarded $155,000. This grant supports the general operations of the pediatric CF care center at the University of Nebraska, which provides specialized medical care for all children living with CF in Nebraska.
- The University of Nebraska Adult CF Care Center was awarded $150,000. This grant supports the general operations of the adult CF care center at the University of Nebraska, which provides specialized medical care for all adults living with CF in Nebraska.

Epilepsy Foundation Nebraska

- There is currently a shortage of epilepsy specialists, child neurologists and physician scientists. The Epilepsy Foundation is helping to solve this problem by supporting four different early career investigator awards. Christopher M. DeGiorgio MD, FAAN, professor and vice chairman, UCLA Department of Neurology received a fellowship Award early in his career. "The award, coupled with amazing mentoring by David Treiman and Professor Tomiyasu, instilled in me an urgent desire to pursue a career in epilepsy research."
- The Epilepsy Foundation is launching a new partnership, called the Human Epilepsy Project (HEP2), in collaboration with the Epilepsy study Consortium. This study is designed to better understand the challenges of living with focal seizures that do not respond to medication. The study will last two years and measure changes in the seizure frequency, treatments used, adverse events experienced and presence of comorbidities in 200 people.
- Benzodiazepines, first discovered in 1955 by Dr. Leo Sternbach, have become the first-line treatment for the management of acute repetitive or prolonged seizures and status epilepticus. However, better delivery options are needed to help people manage acute seizures that happen at home and in their community. Until recently, benzodiazepine delivery has been limited to intravenous therapy, rectal injection, or a limited prescribed pill form. Encouragingly, the obvious need for easily accessible and applied rescue therapies has resulted in the development of innovative drug delivery for benzodiazepines. The FDA has approved the use of midazolam intra nasal spray (NAYZILAM®) as a rescue therapy, and the intranasal diazepam spray (Valtoco®) which has recently become available for prescribed use. A novel diazepam buccal film (Libervant) has shown early promise and is also currently pending FDA approval.

Heart Heroes, Inc.

- Current partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Munroe-Meyer Institute studying neurodevelopmental outcomes in patients born with Congenital Heart Disease who have undergone open heart surgery as an infant.
- The research team works with TIPS (Tracking Infant Progress Statewide) clinic at Children's to identify the future focus groups.
- Works alongside Children's Hospital Omaha to fund much needed health monitoring equipment for pediatric cardiology patients to aid in research and diagnostic testing.

JDRF Nebraska-Iowa Chapter

- First Disease-Modifying Therapy Gets Approved - In a historic moment for T1D—and one that JDRF had a hand in from the beginning, supporting research from the 1980s on—the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Tzield™ (teplizumab-mzwv) for use in delaying the onset of clinical disease in at-risk individuals aged 8+. For the first time in history, Tzield will treat the autoimmune process behind T1D, altering the course of the disease. This is the first disease-modifying therapy—treatments that can slow, halt, or reverse the course of the disease—for T1D to be approved, but it won't be the last. This breakthrough and others like it put us on the pathway to finding cures and, one day, preventing T1D entirely.
- Making Insulin Affordable and Accessible for All Americans - With JDRF and healthcare organizations' support, Civica—a nonprofit pharmaceutical company—will manufacture and distribute three biosimilar insulins at $30 a vial or $55 for a box of 5 pens starting in 2024, regardless of insurance status. This will significantly lower the cost for millions of Americans and—most importantly—save lives. In addition, JDRF advocates played a role in getting the Inflation Reduction Act signed into law, which caps the cost of insulin at $35 per month and removes insulin from the annual deductible for people on Medicare insurance.
- Accelerating Cures with Stem Cell-Based Therapies - Joining forces in the quest for cures, Vertex has acquired ViaCyte, bringing together two of the biggest companies pursuing stem cell-based therapies for diabetes and allowing them to combine their resources, technologies, and more. JDRF has been funding stem cell research advanced by both companies since the early 2000s. Vertex is now advancing a stem cell-derived islet replacement therapy for T1D. Grounded in the work of JDRF-funded researcher Douglas Melton, Ph.D., it's in human clinical trials and showing amazing results, with one participant being off insulin entirely.
- T1D Index: A First-of-its-Kind Lifesaving Tool - JDRF and other T1D-related organizations launched the T1D Index, a first-of-its-kind data simulation tool that offers the most accurate estimate of T1D ever created. The Index measures and maps how many people live with this condition in every country, the healthy years of life it takes from people living with T1D, the number of people who would still be alive today if they hadn't died prematurely from T1D complications, and our global strategy to reduce the impact of T1D.
- Regulatory Approval of Several T1D Therapies and Technologies - JDRF funds research to facilitate the development of new therapies and technologies to make day-to-day life with T1D easier, safer, and healthier. In the past year, we had a lot to be thankful for: Insulet Omnipod 5, the first tubeless artificial pancreas system, for ages 2+; Dexcom G7® continuous glucose monitor (CGM) system for ages 2+; Abbott FreeStyle® Libre 3 continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) system for ages 4+; Senseonics Eversense® E3 CGM system, the first long-term implantable CGM, for ages 18+.
- A New Tool to Accurately Diagnose Type 1 in Adults - Misdiagnosing adults with T1D as having T2D is an all-too-common problem that can have tragic consequences, so JDRF and IQVIA teamed up to develop an algorithm using artificial intelligence to identify people with T1D but misdiagnosed as T2D. The model can look at medical records and identify individuals who are diagnosed with T2D but actually have T1D, which could be used in real time to correct misdiagnoses, offering the potential for future development into a clinical decision support tool.

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society – Nebraska Chapter

- The Beat AML® Master Clinical Trial is the first collaborative precision medicine clinical trial in a blood cancer. The trial uses advanced genomic technology to identify each patient's cancer-driving genetic mutations, and then matches patients to the most promising, targeted treatment.

March of Dimes, Nebraska & Western Iowa Market

- March of Dimes is working with Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital to explore how COVID-19 confers antibodies to fight the virus, and if a pregnant mom can pass those
- One of our researchers at Northwestern University at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago is evaluating general factors and the impact of a father's education on birth outcomes.
- At the Vanderbilt School of Medicine, researchers are testing older, previously approved drugs to combat preterm birth.

National MS Society, Mid America Chapter

- In FY22, we launched 28 new research fellows into the MS workforce to pursue critical questions that will lead to advances toward MS cures.
- Researchers at Harvard published the strongest evidence yet that the common Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) can trigger MS when other risk factors are present.
- Researchers supported by a special initiative of the JDRF, Lupus Research Alliance, and the National MS Society, found a potential mechanism for how Epstein-Barr virus may trigger immune attacks in MS.
- At least 10 clinical trials are underway testing myelin repair strategies in people living with MS.
- A study testing a computer program was found to improve information processing speed in people with MS, and the benefits were maintained six months later
- An international committee identified knowledge gaps that, when filled, could improve care and slow the disease in women.
- Published research priorities for earlier detection of MS symptoms to decrease time between diagnosis and treatment.
- The International Progressive MS Alliance published its global scientific strategy for progressive MS and released its strategic roadmap focusing on understanding, preventing and reversing progression, speeding and improving clinical trials, improving wellbeing, and enhancing collaboration.
- The Pathways to MS Cures Roadmap, published in the Multiple Sclerosis Journal, establishes the first global MS research agenda. The plan features the most promising areas of research to cure MS.

Nebraska Chapter of the National Bleeding Disorders Foundation

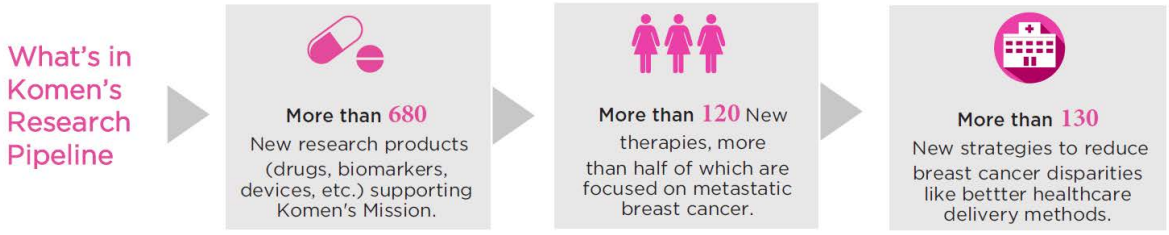
- NBDF has created Community Voices in Research (CVR) which is a community based registry that gathers surveys offering researchers a 360- degree view of what it is like to live with a bleeding disorder. Open to all persons affected by an inherited bleeding disorder as well as their non- affected family members (Parents, spouses, grandparents and siblings), it provides all an opportunity to participate in patient-reported outcome research.
- NBDF is also working to bring research and awareness for gene therapy for severe hemophilia patients.

Nebraska Kidney Association

- The first U.S. trial of a wearable artificial kidney has proved successful. The present prototype of WAK is a 10- pound device, powered by nine-volt batteries and worn around the waist.
- Home Hemodialysis has a better mortality rate with more frequency than in center treatments. It also frees up some of the dietary and fluid restrictions.

Susan G. Komen® Nebraska

- Research Saves Lives - Because of medical research, improvements have been made to early detection and treatment of breast cancer that have led to about a 40% decrease in mortality in the U.S. over the past 30 years. There are more than 3.8 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S. Despite this tremendous progress, more than 42,000 people still die from breast cancer every year in the U.S. We can do better. Komen's Mission is to save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer. We listened to our patient advocates and worked with our scientific advisors to set research priorities to help us achieve this mission by conquering metastatic breast cancer (MBC), eliminating disparities in outcomes, and putting Big Data to work for breast cancer patients. Our research investments are guided by more than 40 leading scientists and advocates, including our Scientific Advisory Board and Komen Scholars. We fund the brightest minds and the best breast cancer research. Our research program is patient-focused, with patient advocates involved in all steps of the research process. As a global leader in the fight against breast cancer, we have funded research in 47 states and the District of Columbia, and 24 different countries. Our commitment to the most promising, innovative and meaningful research will never waver.
- What are Komen funded researchers doing right now? Developing and testing new and improved treatments for metastatic breast cancer starting with an understanding of the biology of breast cancer and how it spreads.
- Developing better treatments for aggressive forms of breast cancer and those that tend to become resistant to treatment and spread (become metastatic).
- Identifying the factors that contribute to breast cancer disparities and developing tools and methods to improve access and utilization of high-quality breast cancer re among underserved populations.
- Using Big Data and transformative technology such as artificial intelligence to fuel scientific discoveries and accelerate the delivery of equitable, patient-focused care.



Team Jack Foundation

- The University of Nebraska Medical Center and Children's Hospital & Medical Center welcomed pediatric neurosurgeon, Dr. Afshin Salehi in September 2021. The hiring of Dr. Salehi was part of the $1.5 million investment from the Team Jack Foundation combined with the State's $1.5 million funding investment to UNMC. Dr. Salehi spent much of his residency research efforts exploring how LITT, Laser Interstitial Thermotherapy, works. LITT therapy is a minimally invasive thermal therapy technique that treats brain tumors that are difficult to reach with conventional surgery
- Team Jack Foundation Grants $10,000 to Dr. Chittalsinh Raulji for Intensive Program Training in Colorado. The Team Jack Foundation is proud to announce a commitment of $10,000 in June to support the education of Dr. Chittalsinh Raulji in pediatric neuro-oncology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. This grant is part of Team Jack's Power 5 Brain Tumor Initiative at UNMC. As Nebraska's only cancer center, UNMC is deeply committed to caring for the children of our region with top-notch care. In order to do this, it is important to have specialized physicians to treat kids, specifically with brain cancer. To complete the team of physicians necessary to treat kids with brain tumors, a pediatric neuro-oncologist is critical to ensure access to advanced care and clinical trials. Due to the high demand for pediatric neuro-oncologists and their limited numbers, it has been difficult to recruit one to Nebraska. Despite this challenge, UNMC has successfully filled this gap.
- Team Jack Foundation's Funded Research Reveals Positive Initial Results Providing Vital Advancement for Treatment Options for Children with Brain Cancer. In 2017, the Team Jack Foundation joined other national non-profits to fund basic/ translational science and subsequently the clinical trial phases of a project entitled TAK580 lead by Principal Investigator, Dr. Karen Wright, at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA. This promising therapy is an oral treatment taken once-a-week for children battling relapsed glioma brain tumors. To date, the Team Jack Foundation has committed $800,000 to this project. In May 2020, Day One Biopharmaceuticals, a pharmaceutical company whose focus is to bring new treatments to market that benefit children, announced that they had acquired TAK580 (DAY101), and it will be their top priority. Day One is developing DAY101, now referred to as tovorafenib, as a targeted treatment for children with brain cancer and is working to bring this new therapy to market worldwide. In June, Day One Biopharmaceuticals announced positive data from this pivotal trial.

United Cerebral Palsy of Nebraska

- The Institute for Human Neurosciences at Boys Town received received a grant for Ignighting Mobility in Adolescents and Mound Adults with Cerebral Palsy.
- The Institute for Human Neurosciences at Boys Town received received a grant for Powering Through Transtion.
- Genetic problems cause about 14% of cerebral palsy cases, and many of the implicated genes control the wiring of brain circuits during early fetal development, new research shows.
- UCP Research Initiative - It is an exciting time, as up-and-coming biomedical and therapeutic innovations have the potential to change the course of a child's life. Advances in our understanding of early brain injury and genetic determinants of disease are changing concepts of cerebral palsy and related disorders. Understanding how the complex interaction of genetics and a child's experiences shape the developing brain creates urgency. The opportunity to impact a life's trajectory is most substantial at its beginning—we know that to provide early diagnosis and early treatment for a young child with cerebral palsy is to help an individual throughout their life span.
- Contact: UCP Communications Coordinator James Garcia, jgarcia@ucp.org,
  UCP awards $80,000 in grants to fund four cerebral palsy research projects. The UCP Research Committee (https://ucp.org/ucp-research-committee/) awarded grants aimed at advancing clinical and translational research, witha "knowledge transfer implementation focus" that advances the state of the science and culminates in real-life gains, bridging the gap between research and care by transforming the lives of children with cerebral palsy and related neurodevelopmental disabilities. "It is an exciting time, as biomedical and therapeutic innovations have the potential to change the course of a child's life," said UCP Research Committee Co-Chair Dr. Michael Kruer, a pediatric movement disorders specialist, neurologist and human geneticist, who serves as director of the Pediatric Movement Disorders Program at the Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix Children's Hospital. "Advances in our understanding of early brain injury and genetic determinants of disease are changing concepts of cerebral palsy and related disorders, and we know that diagnosing and treating young children as early as possible is the best way to help them throughout their lifespan." UCP President and CEO Armando Contreras said, "United Cerebral Palsy created the Research Committee, which includes some of the top cerebral palsy researchers and experts in the nation, as a way to support the growing and promising advances in this field of study. At its core, the mission of our new grant program is to fund research aimed at helping children with CP and other neurodevelopmental disabilities in ways that help them grow up to live the best lives they possibly can."
  Applications were accepted from researchers and clinicians in the U.S. and Canada on any studies relevant to cerebral palsy and related neurodevelopmental disabilities, though preference was given to research that will focus on early diagnosis and early treatment of cerebral palsy. Both biomedical and therapy-focused studies were welcomed. Grants were awarded for the following projects:
  - Progression of cerebral palsy: The first two years of life. Grant recipient and award amount: Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, $20,000
    Description: The aim of this study is to describe early progression of CP by mapping the development of infants with, or at-risk of CP, prospectively over the first two years of life in a multi-site, international longitudinal cohort. Current funding through CP Alliance allows for assessment of 100 infants at Cincinnati Children's. With this extension grant, we could increase our sample by one-third allowing for a more representative sample of infants from the United States.

- Implementation of Therapy Together with Early Childhood Intervention. Grant recipient and award amount: Texas Woman's University/State of Texas Early Childhood Intervention, $19,968.
  Description: The aim of this proposed project is to conduct a pilot hybrid type two implementation and efficacy study on Therapy Together with Early Childhood Intervention using an explanatory mixed methods approach. Therapy Together is a parent led pediatric intensive constraint induced movement therapy (P-CIMT) program for young children (3 months-2 years 11 months) with unilateral cerebral palsy (UCP).
- Use of the Affected Limb in Children with Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy as Measured by Accelerometry following Infancy Initiated Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy: A Pilot Study. Grant recipient and award amount: Gillette Children's (UCP of Minnesota), $20,000. Description: A pilot study of infants with hemiplegic CP by initiating directed CIMT while they are infants, and periodically measuring with accelerometers over 4 years their affected limb movements during routine daily activities. We also propose measuring the wearing time of the constraint with a body temperature sensor embedded in the constraint device. Our long-term goal is to determine if early intervention with CIMT has long-term functional benefits during everyday activities and if those benefits are correlated with the length of time the infant wears the constraint while engaged in directed activities.
- Use of the Affected Limb in Children with Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy as Measured by Accelerometry following Infancy Initiated Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy: A Pilot Study. Grant recipient and award amount: Gillette Children's (UCP of Minnesota), $20,000. Description: A pilot study of infants with hemiplegic CP by initiating directed CIMT while they are infants, and periodically measuring with accelerometers over 4 years their affected limb movements during routine daily activities. We also propose measuring the wearing time of the constraint with a body temperature sensor embedded in the constraint device. Our long-term goal is to determine if early intervention with CIMT has long-term functional benefits during everyday activities and if those benefits are correlated with the length of time the infant wears the constraint while engaged in directed activities.
- Transforming Health through Relationships via In-Person and Virtual Environments (THRIVE) Cerebral Palsy. Grant recipient and award amount: James Madison University, $20,000. Description: Transform one's physical and mental health by turning their home into a personalized activity space creating social connection and increasing one's social capital through one-on-one mentorship and connection with peers with and without cerebral palsy through our THRIVE Community connecting individuals to existing resources and opportunities in one's community.
  The UCP Research Initiative also plans to provide $10,000 — thanks to a grant from The MENTOR Network Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Sevita — to support the 2023 Alabama Early Intervention and Preschool Conference to be hosted by UCP of Alabama and other local sponsors. The funds granted will go to provide 10 scholarships for attendees and $5,000 toward the cost of an expert speaker for the "motor track."