

Dr. Blake Perkins Awarded \$200,000 Grant to Establish an Assistive Technology Clinic

9/14/2022



Blake Perkins, PT, DPT, ATP, clinical and research physical therapist at the MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute, the MetroHealth Center for Rehabilitation Research and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has been awarded a \$200,000 grant through the Creating Opportunity & Independence portfolio of the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation.

The two-year award is entitled "Clinical and Community-Collaborative Assistive Technology Provision in Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)." The grant will be used to establish an Assistive Technology Clinic to support

people with SCI, with \$55,000 earmarked toward new equipment. The clinic will provide on-site trials of various assistive technologies, promoting exposure and access to those that improve home automation and environmental control.

With clinic leadership from Dr. Perkins, the project will formally integrate the technical and practical expertise of community members living with SCI, and collaborate with community resources including the SCI Volunteer Corps of Cleveland State University's Engineering program, the Benjamin S. Gerson Family Resource Center, and the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the United Spinal Association throughout provision efforts.


This project will provide a foundation and springboard for an enduring assistive technology program as part of the MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute. In the future, its mission can be expanded to serve individuals with other disability conditions.

Additional contributors and advisers to this project include James Wilson, DO; Anne Bryden, PhD, OTR/L; and Eric Schearer, PhD.

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