



ENDOWMENT IMPACT SUMMARY

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Thank you for your support of the MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute (MRI). Your generosity helps patients receive the best care possible, and it provides tomorrow's caregivers with invaluable experience. Your partnership makes it all possible. I'm pleased to share an update and highlights from the past year.

FUND UPDATES

The Benjamin S. Gerson Family Endowment

Supports the Gerson Family Resource Center in connecting patients with community resources after trauma or illness interrupts, and sometimes, forever alters their lives.

- Eighteen patients received lymphedema garments, which are critical to managing complications of lymphedema.
- More than 50 patients were assisted with obtaining durable medical equipment, which is crucial to ongoing rehabilitation and independence. This equipment was made possible through the Gerson Endowment and the Gerson Center's partnership with MedWish International to repurpose durable medical goods.
- In partnership with state rehabilitation agency Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, over 30 patients were assisted with career transitions to employment opportunities and financial stability.
- Thanks to strong partnerships with the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services and the City of Cleveland Department of Aging, patients have been provided with access to supportive services addressing issues that have long-term impacts on their quality of life.
- Because support groups are vital to helping patients adjust to changes caused by traumatic events, the Gerson Center provides referrals to the MetroHealth Trauma Recovery Center, the Brain Injury Association of Ohio and MetroHealth's Stroke Support Group.

In collaboration with the Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) Department, a Peer Mentoring Program and related support groups are being developed with The Amputee Coalition.

Gerson Resource Center Gap Endowment – Last year, the Gerson Gap Fund provided patients in need with more than \$21,000 in resources like financial assistance, medical and accessibility equipment and wraparound services, including rental and utility assistance, auto insurance and bus passes.

Spinal Cord Endowment and The Jeanette Grasselli Brown and Glenn R. Brown Endowment – Funding from these endowments allowed various team members to attend national conferences to obtain training to improve specialized care for those with spinal cord injury (SCI).

The P. Hunter Peckham, PhD and George J. Picha, MD, PhD Endowment – Funding helped to set up an advanced testing station for implanted technology and conduct long-term testing in preparation for human implantation. Once troubleshooting and testing was completed – for which securing federal funding is difficult – staff began implanting devices in patients with SCI. Those with paralysis in both arms and legs had function restored in their hands and arms, allowing them to feed themselves and perform other daily activities. As a result, three patients with SCI have been successfully implanted during the past year, which is more than has been achieved since 2006.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Research is an essential part of advancing patient care, and grants are vital to ensuring that innovative research continues. In 2023, the collective contributions of the MRI's talented researchers resulted in a variety of accomplishments:

47 invited presentations

114 abstracts

49 peer-reviewed articles were published
with **12** in production

9 books or book chapters were published
with **6** in production

\$92.3 million in grant funding

Nearly **45** clinical and research faculty
members

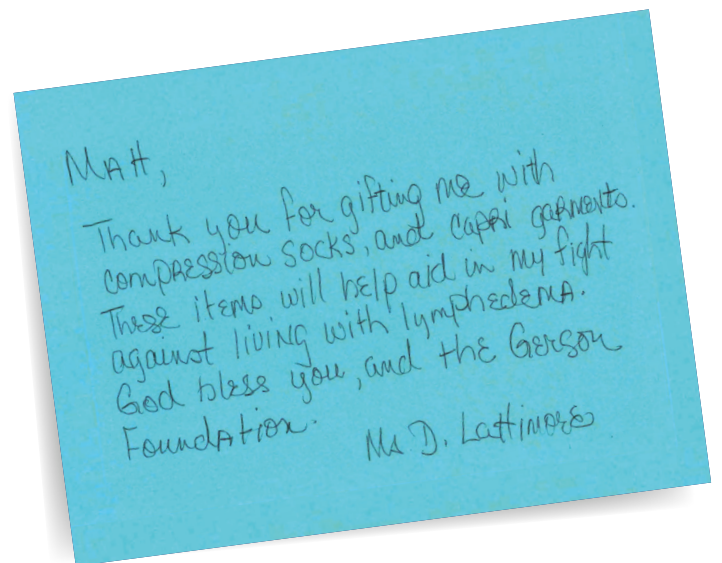
7 residents (6 rehabilitation, 1 physical
therapy) and **6** fellows graduated

Kim Anderson-Erisman, PhD, research faculty in the Department of PM&R and the Center for Rehabilitation Research at MetroHealth, was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine (NAM). Having sustained a spinal cord injury in a car accident while a teenager, Dr. Anderson-Erisman's first-hand experience living with a SCI has influenced her research, which focuses on translational investigations and bridging the gap between basic science, clinical science and those living with spinal cord injury.



SUCCESS STORY: Patient's Trauma Leads to Meaningful Work

A man slipped on the ice-covered parking lot of a senior care facility where he worked as an administrator, hit his head, and immediately experienced chronic headaches, dizziness and other symptoms. After MetroHealth's Outpatient Brain Injury Program diagnosed him with a visual convergence issue, he received several therapies and enrolled in the Work Matters program, as it was clear that he couldn't continue working as an administrator. The man began part-time work that capitalized on his skills and current abilities and is now pursuing a master's degree in social work.



A Note from Ms. D. Lattimore,
MetroHealth Patient



I'm excited to have been appointed PM&R Department Chair after serving as Interim Chair since last August. It's an honor to work with a talented team of people who are dedicated to helping others lead their best lives.

Thank you again for your support of our rehabilitation initiatives at MetroHealth. They are critical to ensuring that every patient – whether they are doing physical therapy or recovering from a traumatic injury – receives expert care and resources to help them get better and return to their community.

With gratitude,

Richard D. Wilson, MD, MS
Chair, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation