

Drs. Kim Anderson and Robert Hoey Awarded \$3M Grant from DoD Spinal Cord Injury Research Program

8/19/2022



Drs. Kim Anderson and Robert Hoey

Kim Anderson, PhD, and Robert Hoey, PhD, faculty in the department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) and the MetroHealth Center for Rehabilitation Research, were awarded a four-year, \$3.06 million Department of Defense (DoD) clinical trial grant entitled, "*Genital Nerve Stimulation to Modulate Anorectal Reflex Activity in Neurogenic Bowel Dysfunction in Individuals Living with Spinal Cord*

Injury."

Spinal cord injury (SCI) causes motor paralysis, loss of sensation, and significant dysregulation of autonomic functions such as bladder, bowel, cardiovascular, and sexual function. For people living with SCI, bowel control and dysfunction are among their biggest perceived challenges. Despite numerous management strategies, constipation and incontinence are still common, and innovative tools are needed. This grant will evaluate one such approach, genital nerve stimulation (GNS). GNS involves non-invasive stimulation of nerves in the pelvis.

This award is part of a new funding strategy by the DoD, which includes an established PI, Kimberly Anderson, PhD, Professor of PM&R, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) mentoring an early career partnering PI, Robert Hoey, PhD, Assistant Professor of PM&R.*

This multi-disciplinary grant includes co-investigators Dennis Bourbeau, PhD, Assistant Professor of PM&R; James Wilson, DO, Assistant Professor of PM&R; Ronnie Fass, MD, Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology); Douglas Gunzler, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Population Health Research Institute); and collaborators Megan Moynahan (CWRU Institute for Functional Restoration) and M. Kristi Henzel, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of PM&R (VA Northeast Ohio), as well as community partners with SCI lived experience (Amy Binko and Jason Shaw).

**Pending CWRU review and approval*

MetroHealth Information Village © 2021 The MetroHealth System

Connect with MetroHealth 

(<https://www.facebook.com/metrohealthcle>) 

(<https://twitter.com/metrohealthcle>) 

(<https://instagram.com/metrohealthcle/>) 

(<https://www.youtube.com/user/metrohealthcle>)