Progress in **RESEARCH**

Winter 2026

Dear Friends,

For decades, scientists called spinal cord injury (SCI) the "graveyard of neurobiology," a field where progress was slow and recovery out of reach. Today, that narrative is changing. Across labs, clinics, and even inside people's homes, we're witnessing a steady march from discovery toward real-world impact—and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is accelerating that shift.

Our mission is bold: to support research that improves life after injury, not just in one domain, but across the full spectrum of function—from movement and autonomic control to cardiovascular health and bladder function. This commitment to advancing quality of life outcomes is why the Reeve Foundation partnered with Spinal Research to award $1.5 million in preclinical grants, targeting one of the most persistent bottlenecks in SCI research: the gap between early discovery and the rigorous studies required before regulatory review.

Too often, promising projects stall not because the science lacks merit, but because investigators lack the necessary resources to demonstrate readiness for human application. Our open-call Request for Applications—the first of its kind at the Reeve Foundation in several years—encouraged investigators to clearly articulate mechanism, delivery strategy, and a realistic path toward regulatory readiness. The result: a diverse portfolio of projects across academia and industry, startups and nonprofits with a shared focus on human impact.

Beyond these grants, the broader SCI research landscape continues to evolve. Recently, ONWARD Medical's neurostimulation technology gained FDA authorization for home use, opening the door to daily functional gains outside the clinic. We continue to educate and connect the community through public conversations on emerging nerve regeneration and device-based strategies because progress requires shared understanding and coordinated action.

Thanks to your advocacy, philanthropy, and partnership, what was once considered impossible is increasingly achievable. Together, we are helping ensure that research breakthroughs do not stop at publication or proof of concept—but move forward to change lives.

With gratitude and resolve,

Dr. Marco Baptista
Chief Scientific Officer
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

INSIDE

CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION
TODAY'S CARE. TOMORROW'S CURE.®

BRIDGING THE GAP: TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH MOVES SCI SCIENCE FORWARD

For decades, progress in spinal cord injury (SCI) research moved in careful, incremental steps. Scientists made important discoveries, but translating those findings into meaningful therapies proved far more difficult. Today, that landscape is beginning to shift. Advances in technology, deeper biological understanding, and new models of collaboration are opening doors that once seemed firmly closed.

Yet even in this moment of momentum, a critical challenge remains: moving promising ideas through the middle stages of research—after early discovery, but before human testing—where resources are scarce and risk is high.

"There's a real funding gap at this stage of the research and development pipeline," says Marco Baptista, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer of the Reeve Foundation. "And without support at this point, many potential therapies never make it from the lab to human trials."

To bridge this critical gap, the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation partnered with Spinal Research to award $1.5 million in preclinical grants.

A Focus on Translation

In summer 2025, the Reeve Foundation and Spinal Research issued an open-call Request for Applications (RFA) focused on translational research for SCI. In addition to demonstrating scientific promise, applicants also had to outline a clear plan for how their work could move forward.

"The selected projects are all uniquely positioned to help advance a therapeutic through the R&D pipeline toward commercialization and clinical trials," says Harvey Sihota, Chief Vision Officer at Spinal Research. "Each project includes an industry partner or another strategic approach for translating therapeutics into the clinic."

The four funded projects reflect a range of approaches, institutions, and expertise—spanning academia and industry—while sharing a common goal: addressing real challenges faced by people living with SCI.

And the awards go to ...

NOVO-120 to Address Bladder Dysfunction

Lead: CEO and Co-founder Travis Stiles, Ph.D., Novoroo Bioscience Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Novoron Bioscience, Inc. | Therapeutic: Biologic

Bladder dysfunction is among the most common and disruptive consequences of SCI, affecting health, independence, and quality of life. NOVO-120 is an experimental drug designed to interfere with biological signals that prevent damaged nerves from repairing themselves.

In preclinical studies, animals treated with NOVO-120 showed earlier return of independent urination and healthier bladder function. Both outcomes directly enhance daily independence and reduce medical complications. This award will support additional safety studies and deeper investigation into how the drug works—essential steps in determining whether it is ready to advance toward testing in people.

Engineered Neural Progenitor Cells for Chronic SCI

Lead: Michael Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS, Professor of Neurosurgery and Co-Director of the Spinal Program at the University of Toronto | Therapeutic: Cell therapy (engineered neural progenitor cells)

Chronic SCI presents biological barriers that differ from acute injury. Dr. Fehlings' team is advancing specialized neural progenitor cells designed to address two major obstacles to recovery: produce chondroitinase (chABC) to clear scar tissue that

blocks regrowth and release glial cell-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) to support neuron survival. Both activities are tightly regulated so they act only where needed. The grant will support investigators in their efforts to further evaluate safety, understand how the cells behave in injured tissue, and complete the final preclinical steps required before human testing can begin.

NUPA-200 Combined with Rehabilitation

Lead: Nick Sather, Ph.D., Co-founder and CEO of Amphix Bio, and Samuel Stupp, Ph.D., Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer | Therapeutic: Scaffold/biomaterial

NUPA-200 is a novel, injectable gel made from self-assembling molecules that interact with cell receptors to support healing within an injured spinal cord. Early studies showed improvements in movement, prompting further investigation.

This project will examine how NUPA-200 performs when paired with structured physical rehabilitation, reflecting growing evidence that biological repair strategies may be most effective when combined with activity-based therapy. The study will help clarify how the treatment works and how it might be delivered in a real-world clinical setting.

Repurposing an FDA-Approved Enzyme Therapy

Lead: Sarah Mondello, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor at the University of Washington | Therapeutic: Enzyme replacement therapy (galsulfase)

This project explores a new application for an FDA-approved enzyme replacement therapy currently used for a rare genetic disorder. The therapy targets specific molecules in scar tissue that interfere with nerve repair, while leaving supportive elements intact.

Since the therapeutic already has an established safety record, investigators expect the approach to move more quickly toward human studies than a newly developed drug. The research team will study optimal delivery methods and evaluate its effectiveness in SCI models.

"We're deeply grateful for this support. While we're encouraged by the motor recovery we see, we also know bowel and bladder function is a top patient priority in SCI and remains under-studied. This funding lets us build on promising preliminary data and rigorously evaluate bladder recovery with NOVO-120 using clinically translatable endpoints, a critical step toward improving the impact and feasibility of future human studies. If successful, this represents real progress toward delivering benefits that matter deeply to patients."

Dr. Travis Stiles, CEO, Novoron

Why This Moment Matters

The science in SCI has advanced rapidly. The challenge now is ensuring promising therapies receive the support they need at this early, but decisive, stage of development.

"These awards mark a moment when targeted funding and collaboration can translate possibility into tangible options for people living with SCI," says Sihota.

For the SCI community, these projects represent measurable progress: targeted work on bladder function, chronic injury, rehabilitation-informed therapies, and faster translational pathways. For the field, they reflect a collaborative model that brings together academic insight, industry expertise, and patient-centered priorities.

"These awards represent more than an investment in individual projects—they mark a turning point in how we pursue cures," said Maggie Goldberg, President & CEO of the Reeve Foundation. "By deliberately targeting the critical middle of the research pipeline, we are accelerating the path from discovery to impact. This is how we move the field forward with urgency, intention, and confidence in what's possible for the SCI community."

The Science Is Ready. SCI Ventures Is Making Sure the World Is, Too.

Inside the Fund Fast-Tracking Real Treatments for Spinal Cord Injury

SCI Ventures, a groundbreaking philanthropy initiative co-founded by the Reeve Foundation, continues its bold progress toward cures for spinal cord injury (SCI). As the first fund of its kind solely focused on breakthrough therapies for SCI, SCI Ventures is accelerating the path from discovery to real-world impact for the next generation of treatments.

Since its launch in June 2024, the evergreen fund has raised over $33 million and built a portfolio of eight early-stage companies. Backed by the Reeve Foundation and leading SCI foundations across Europe, and guided by world-renowned neuroscientists, SCI Ventures targets functional improvements for rapid progress while also pursuing the ultimate goal of biological repair of the spinal cord.

A defining strength of SCI Ventures is catalyzing the jump from bench science to first-in-human trials, leveraging its own capital and expertise to attract substantial additional private co-investment. Recent proof points include EG 427, now enrolling patients in a first-in-human trial of its gene therapy for dysfunctional bladder, and Axonis Therapeutics' development of an oral drug advanced to a clinical trial for neuropathic pain – addressing two frequently cited medical priorities of SCI community. The Axonis asset also shows promise for motor-function recovery. These successes underscore SCI Ventures' ability to unlock additional investment and accelerate promising therapies into the clinic.

SCI Ventures

Adrien Cohen
Founding Managing Director, Board & Investment Committee Member

With key investments made in 2025, the year ahead portends even greater scientific progress toward real-world SCI solutions. These include:

- **NervGen Pharma Corp.,** a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing first-in-class neuroreparative therapeutics for SCI and other traumatic and neurologic disorders. The company is developing a drug candidate, called NVG-291, that has the potential to become the first approved regenerative drug for SCI. SCI Ventures' investment supports both the continued advancement of NVG-291 toward a Phase 3 clinical trial and an anticipated Nasdaq listing, a step that would broaden access to U.S.

SPOTLIGHT ON EG 427

EG 427, a biotechnology company leading the development of pinpoint DNA medicines for prevalent chronic diseases in neurology, recently announced breakthrough initial results from a Phase 1/2 clinical trial of EG110A, its novel DNA therapy for neurogenic bladder. Treatment of overactive bladder in people living with SCI using the lowest dose was found to reduce the incidence of urinary incontinence episodes by over 88%. Further, 100% of patients saw improvement with no serious side effects or immune reactions reported.

The company also received Fast Track designation in the U.S., where the therapy is currently being evaluated in a 16-patient clinical study across four centers.

Bladder dysfunction is among the most challenging daily issues for people living with SCI, and current treatments, such as Botox, are often invasive, short-lasting or poorly tolerated. Many patients stop medications due to side effects. EG 427 may offer a more effective, targeted therapy and improve quality of life – possibly within the next 5 years.

investors and strengthen the company's position ahead of key clinical and regulatory milestones, notes Adam Rogers, MD, Interim Chief Executive Officer, NervGen.

"NVG-291 has been shown to deliver sustained functional improvements that continue to build even after treatment. The durability of these gains points to true neurorepair, not just a temporary symptomatic effect," said Adrien Cohen, Founding Managing Director of SCI Ventures. "Participants also reported improved bladder control, reduced spasticity, and lower dependence on medications and mobility aids – all major quality of life enhancements for people living with paralysis. This data challenges the long-standing dogma that, once injured, the spinal cord cannot repair itself in a meaningful way."

Read more: NervGen announces $10m round to advance therapy and list on Nasdaq

- **Precision Neuroscience,** for development of its brain-computer interface (BCI), a wireless device that aims to restore function after paralysis. With access to SCI Ventures' vast network of patients, doctors and regulatory experts, the company aims to accelerate its push to bring the device to patients with SCI and neurological diseases like ALS and stroke.

  SCI Ventures' investment in Precision reflects its confidence in the potential impact of the BCI field. BCIs are an emerging class of medical technology designed to translate brain signals into digital commands, with numerous potential benefits – from physical movement to enabling people with paralysis to operate computers, communicate with loved ones, control external devices with their thoughts, and more. Precision's flagship technology, the Layer 7 Cortical Interface, recently received FDA clearance, marking a major milestone in this field.

  Read more: SCI Ventures Partners with Precision Neuro

"Seeing lasting gains in function and quality of life after treatment gives real hope. This could be the first pharmacological therapy of its kind with profound impact for the SCI community. Every spinal cord injury is unique, and we'll need many kinds of solutions. NervGen Pharma Corp.'s new data brings us closer to a future where people living with SCI have real medical options for true recovery."

Marco Baptista Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer, Reeve Foundation

THE PROMISE OF BCI

SCI Ventures' investment in Precision Neuroscience underscores the Reeve Foundation's growing support for BCIs as a promising path toward restoring connection between the brain and body after SCI. How the Reeve Foundation is advancing BCI research:

- **Funding research.** The Foundation has awarded significant grants, such as a $1.1 million grant to ONWARD Medical to support a clinical study using its ARC-BCI System.
- **Supporting ethical development.** The Foundation is a charter member of the Implantable Brain-Computer Interface Collaborative Community (iBCI-CC), an organization that brings together scientists, the FDA, and industry to advance BCI technology ethically and collaboratively.
- **Connecting innovators and investors.** Through initiatives like the annual SCI Investor Symposium, we are facilitating data sharing and accelerating progress across the field.

- **Healx,** a pioneer in AI-driven drug discovery for rare and neglected diseases, has partnered with SCI Ventures on a first-of-its-kind effort to identify new treatments for chronic SCI. The collaboration applies Healx's advanced AI platform to uncover regeneration-related mechanisms and pinpoint existing drugs that could be repurposed for SCI—dramatically accelerating the path to effective therapies. While centered on SCI, the partnership is also expected to generate insights relevant to other central nervous system conditions. As a biologically well-defined and stable indication, SCI provides an ideal model for advancing innovation that could ultimately benefit traumatic brain injury, stroke, ALS, MS, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's.

This momentum, coupled with SCI Ventures portfolio company ONWARD Medical's recent FDA 510(k) clearance, which is expanding ARCEX System indication for home use, portends a new era for SCI and paralysis.

Learn more about SCI Ventures, its founding story and how the fund is accelerating innovation on Unite 2 Fight Paralysis (U2FP)'s podcast: SCI Ventures -u2fp podcast // SCI Ventures - Apple podcast link// SCI Ventures – Spotify podcast link

Together, SCI Ventures and the Reeve Foundation are transforming research into real-world treatments.

Please consider a gift to help move breakthroughs from the lab to life.

REEVE FOUNDATION URGES CONGRESS: DON'T LOSE MOMENTUM, PARALYSIS SUPPORT NEEDS FY 2026 FUNDING

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation applauds the U.S. Senate and House Appropriations Committees for maintaining level funding for the National Paralysis Resource Center (NPRC) in the FY 2026. This funding supports the NPRC's vital services, peer support, and resources that enhance health, independence, and dignity for millions living with paralysis.

This progress reflects the tireless advocacy of the Reeve Foundation community and the commitment of longstanding bipartisan supporters in Congress. The NPRC's cost-effectiveness and nationwide reach make it a lifeline for people with paralysis — a role that would be jeopardized if funding were cut and a loss the U.S. cannot afford.

With the newly enacted Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (CR), most of the government is funded through January 30, 2026. However, the full FY 2026 appropriations package for Labor, HHS, and Education has still not been finalized.

As lawmakers approach the January 30, 2026 CR deadline, Congress has the power to secure the NPRC's future, and the Reeve Foundation urges lawmakers to maintain full funding of $10.7 million to ensure that robust, nationwide services continue.

Advocates are encouraged to speak out to protect this lifesaving resource and ensure that robust, nationwide services continue.

Become an advocate today.

MOMENTUM ON THE MOVE FOR CURES

The past few months have been nothing short of extraordinary for Team Reeve. From Chicago to New York City, our athletes, supporters, and fundraisers have turned dedication into impact, raising over $1 million and capturing attention both at the races and online. Every mile reflects the power of our mission and the passion of our community.

Looking Ahead: Big Races, Bigger Impact
Team Reeve is hitting the road again! On Sunday, March 15, 2026, we'll take on the NYC Half Marathon. Supporters can join the team, fundraise for *Today's Care. Tomorrow's Cure.*® and show that anyone can make a difference.

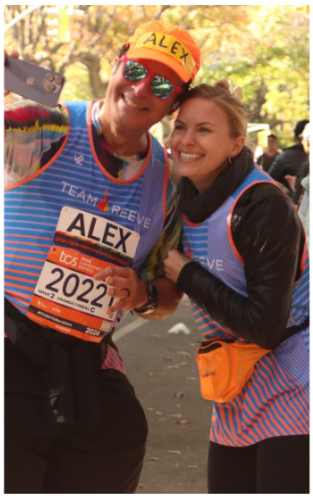
April brings the Boston Marathon, where the Reeve Foundation's own Kelly Lamb, Director of Team Reeve, will lead an all-female team in her first marathon in seven years and the 6th time she's laced her running shoes for Team Reeve. Boston holds a special place in Team Reeve's story and marathon history. It was the first major marathon to introduce a wheelchair division, a milestone that mirrors our commitment to inclusion and accessibility in endurance sports. The Boston Marathon was also one of the first major marathons to welcome female runners, breaking barriers and paving the way for generations of women athletes, and the Reeve Foundation is proud to carry forward this special piece of history with our all-women team this year.

Team Reeve All Stars: A Growing Force
Our All Stars continue to expand, carrying Team Reeve's message of hope, inspiration, and community to major events nationwide. Each new member strengthens our impact, raises awareness, and uplifts the spirit of our community.

This summer, Mark and Heather Segal completed another incredible coast-to-coast ride for the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, pedaling 1,737 miles (with nearly 69,000 feet of elevation gain) — part of their long-term effort that's covered close to 12,000 miles and raised nearly $128,000.

Their journey not only raised vital funds for spinal cord injury research but also brought the Reeve mission to dozens of communities nationwide, spreading hope and awareness every mile of the way.

From record-breaking fundraising to unforgettable race days, Team Reeve is moving the needle—and we're just getting started.



HONORING LOVE, PERSEVERANCE, AND PROGRESS

This past giving season, Lorraine DiPaolo inspired the Reeve Foundation community with a generous December Match Challenge. Every gift made through December 31 was matched dollar for dollar, up to $50,000 — doubling the impact of each contribution and accelerating vital research and treatments for spinal cord injury.

Lorraine's connection to this cause is deeply personal. In 1960, her husband Gordon was paralyzed from the neck down after a swimming accident. Through years of intensive care, experimental procedures, and unwavering determination, Gordon regained some mobility, returned to work as a college professor, and built a rich life alongside Lorraine.

"My husband Gordon's accident in 1960 changed the course of our lives, but never our love or belief in what is possible," Lorraine shared. "Since his passing in 2020, I have carried forward the hope and strength we shared. How far we have come is incredible, though there is still more work ahead."

Thanks to Lorraine's leadership and generosity, supporters transformed perseverance into progress. Every gift during the Match Challenge went twice as far — funding critical research, supporting treatments, and bringing renewed hope to the spinal cord injury community. Lorraine's story is a powerful reminder of enduring love, resilience, and the extraordinary impact of giving back.

JOIN US: REEVE SUMMIT 2026

WHERE CARE, CURE AND COMMUNITY CONNECT

Boston, MA, May 6-8th

Today's Innovation. Tomorrow's Impact.

Bold ideas drive meaningful change for people living with paralysis, and progress is driven by community. Join us in Boston, MA, from May 6-8 at Reeve Summit 2026, where *Care, Cure and Community Connect*. This premier gathering brings together individuals living with paralysis, caregivers, family members, healthcare providers, scientists, medical innovators, advocates and policymakers to imagine new solutions and accelerate transformative impact.

Register today.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER:
THE LEGRAND KNIGHT CELEBRATION

The Reeve Foundation community came together at The Rutgers Club on November 13th to honor Eric LeGrand in a lively and inspiring celebration. Fans, friends, and supporters gathered with Rutgers Athletics to support Team LeGrand and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.

Joined by Athletic Director Keli Zinn and former teammates Mike Teel and Kevin Malast, the evening highlighted resilience, team spirit, and the power of community — truly embodying the spirit of a LeGrand Knight.

From heartfelt stories to conversations filled with reflection, laughter, and pride, the event showcased the impact of determination and collective support in the lives of people living with paralysis. It was a night full of energy, connection, and inspiration, and a meaningful reminder of why our mission matters.

Thank you to everyone who joined the celebration and made it unforgettable!

Eric LeGrand, Sam Good, and Darren Lumbard

JOIN US ON TIKTOK!

The Reeve Foundation is now on TikTok! Follow us @reevefoundation for inspiring stories, behind-the-scenes moments, and updates on *Today's Care. Tomorrow's Cure.*® from our Gen Reeve Voices, Team Reeve and across our community. Don't miss Mason Branstrator and other advocates sharing their journeys — be part of the conversation and help amplify every voice!

Watch Mason's story here

THE REEVE FOUNDATION IS COMING TO MIAMI!

Join us for an evening filled with connection, community and purpose.

Reeve Connect
Reconnect. Inspire. Impact.
Giselle Miami with DJ Ire
Thursday, March 19
6PM-9PM

Get Tickets!

Proceeds will support the Reeve Foundation's vision of a world in which spinal cord injury does not result in paralysis and paralysis does not result in diminished quality of life.

CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION
TODAY'S CARE. TOMORROW'S CURE.®