Progress in **RESEARCH**

Fall 2026

Dear Friends,

For decades, the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation has challenged long-held scientific assumptions about spinal cord injury (SCI), refusing to accept that paralysis was permanent. By investing in bold ideas and supporting equally determined researchers, the Foundation helped transform what was once considered impossible into one of the most promising frontiers in medicine.

From the beginning, our strategy has been to follow the most promising science while building the infrastructure needed for progress. In the early years, that meant investing in foundational discoveries that reshaped understanding of the injured spinal cord and revealed the biological barriers preventing repair and restoration. Today, it means strengthening the ecosystem that moves those discoveries from the laboratory to patients.

The Foundation's early investments enabled pioneering researchers to decode the complexities of the central nervous system and identify the mechanisms that impede recovery. At the center of this work was a collaborative network of laboratories that established much of the scientific foundation that underpins today's pursuit of transformative therapies.

At the same time, the Foundation helped build the broader clinical and research infrastructure needed to translate discovery into patient benefit. Our research funding strengthened the field's capacity to conduct rigorous clinical research while simultaneously expanding access to innovative rehabilitation and recovery strategies for people living with paralysis.

As the science advanced, so did the Foundation's role. From pioneering investments in epidural stimulation research to co-founding SCI Ventures — the first venture philanthropy dedicated exclusively to spinal cord injury — the Foundation has continually adapted to accelerate the most promising pathways toward cures.

Today, the science is advancing faster than ever. Yet progress is still constrained by systemic barriers that no single laboratory, company, or funder can solve alone. Investment gaps, fragmented data, inconsistent research models, and limited collaboration continue to slow the translation of promising discoveries into effective therapies.

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

These are the critical “enablers” the field has been missing.

The Reeve Foundation is uniquely positioned to provide them through an integrated strategy designed to remove the barriers that most often delay progress:

- **Strategic funding for breakthrough science,** directing capital toward the field’s most significant bottlenecks while supporting rigorous preclinical development and clear pathways to clinical translation.
- **Standardized preclinical validation and translational testing** that improve scientific rigor, reproducibility, and confidence in results. By replacing fragmented research models with shared standards, we facilitate the identification of the therapies most likely to succeed in clinical development while reducing costly failures.
- **Investment-driven commercialization through the world’s first spinal cord injury venture philanthropy.** Together with global partners, SCI Ventures provides capital, expertise, and industry connections that help promising therapies and technologies advance toward patients.
- **A shared data and collective intelligence platform** that integrates and connects spinal cord injury data across institutions. By breaking down traditional silos, we enable researchers, clinicians, industry, and advocates to collaborate more effectively and accelerate discovery.
- **Curated convenings that unite leaders across research, clinical care, industry, and advocacy** to exchange ideas, identify emerging opportunities, and build the partnerships needed to move the field forward.

Together, these initiatives form a coordinated strategy that strengthens every stage of the innovation pipeline — from discovery through commercialization — creating the conditions for faster, more effective progress.

The Reeve Foundation has already helped change what the world believed was possible. Today, as the field’s Strategic Enabler, we are focused on removing the barriers that continue to limit progress — concentrating resources where they can have the greatest impact and accelerating the journey from scientific discovery to meaningful treatments. **By building the infrastructure that the entire field depends upon, we can help move the most promising therapies into the clinic faster, more efficiently, and with greater impact.**

When Christopher Reeve challenged the world to believe in the possibility of cures, he wasn’t asking us to wait for a miracle; he was asking us to build one. Thank you for believing in this mission and for helping us power the systems that will turn today’s scientific promise into tomorrow’s treatments.

The work ahead is ambitious, but so is our community.

Whether you are a researcher, clinician, advocate, donor, industry partner, or someone living with paralysis, you have a role to play in accelerating progress. I invite you to follow our work, share in these advances, and join us in bringing the next generation of therapies from discovery to reality.

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

EMPOWER BP UPDATE: GLOBAL CLINICAL STUDY AIMS TO ADDRESS BLOOD PRESSURE INSTABILITY AFTER SCI

For people living with spinal cord injury (SCI), blood pressure instability, characterized by chronic orthostatic hypotension and episodes of autonomic dysreflexia, is a key unmet need. According to research, 78% of people living with tetraplegia are diagnosed with orthostatic hypotension, yet only 28% receive treatment. Of those, 91% continue to experience symptoms including dizziness, lightheadedness, blurred vision, and fatigue.

Over time, persistent low blood pressure can threaten neurological recovery and negatively impact cardiovascular health. Dr. Candy Tefertiller, Executive Director of Research and Evaluation at Craig Hospital and Empower BP Principal Investigator, explains: "Blood pressure instability is a silent yet debilitating complication of spinal cord injury, with serious consequences for cardiovascular health and quality of life."

To address this need, ONWARD Medical launched Empower BP, a global pivotal study evaluating the safety and effectiveness of its investigational implantable ARC-IM® System to address blood pressure instability after SCI. The system comprises the implanted ONWARD Medical Neurostimulator and a purpose-designed Thoracic Lead, optimized for surgical placement in the specific region of the thoracic spinal cord containing a high density of neurons that regulate blood pressure.

Empower BP is expected to involve participants across approximately 20 leading neurorehabilitation and neurosurgical research centers in the US, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, and the UK. The randomized, double-blinded, sham-controlled study targets people with injuries at spinal cord levels C2-T6 and injury severities of AIS A-D. Several participants have already been enrolled in the study across leading research facilities. 13 centers are now actively recruiting study participants across the US and Canada.

ONWARD® MEDICAL

This pivotal trial is supported by data from ONWARD Medical's ongoing multi-year feasibility studies. As published in Nature Medicine, preliminary findings show ARC-IM Therapy reduced hypotensive symptoms, improved quality of life and sleep quality, and enabled cessation of conservative treatments including compression garments and medications. Additional clinical validation is expected through the Empower BP trial.

Learn more about Empower BP: https://onwd.com/empower-bp/

Read about the real-life impact of the investigational ARC-IM device here: Core Memory

The Reeve Foundation's partnership with ONWARD Medical is furthered by grants to .NeuroRestore, an ONWARD Medical research partner, to investigate epidural stimulation as a potential tool for managing bladder dysfunction and also a study of novel brain-computer interface (BCI) technology to reverse upper limb paralysis. ONWARD Medical is also supported by SCI Ventures. This enduring partnership reflects forward-thinking collaboration between nonprofits and industry to drive innovation.

ARC-IM® is investigational and not available for commercial use. Its safety and effectiveness have not yet been established.

ABOUT POWERING THROUGH

Powering Through is a new podcast hosted by quadriplegic content creator and mom, **Jessie Owen.** This series explores what happens when identity, independence, and your imagined future shift overnight. Through candid conversations about spinal cord injury, each episode offers an honest and unfiltered look at creating a life that's genuinely worth showing up for.

Previous episodes feature SCI community figures such as Kenny Salvini, Rebecca Koltun, Cairo Smith, and Mason Branstrator.

Powering Through is supported by ONWARD Medical and is available on all your favorite platforms, including Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and YouTube.

New Study Highlights Promise of Handheld Ultrasound for Bladder Management After SCI

A pilot study funded by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation with a grant to Kessler Foundation has demonstrated the potential of a handheld ultrasound device to improve bladder management for people living with spinal cord injury (SCI). Recently published in the *Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine,* the study found that the portable Butterfly iQ™ ultrasound device — also featured on the medical drama *The Pitt* — may help individuals monitor bladder volume at home.

The study showed that patient- and caregiver-directed handheld bladder ultrasound monitoring using a modern smartphone or tablet-connected platform is feasible, with clinically acceptable accuracy, and may reduce unnecessary catheterization in individuals with SCI performing routine clean intermittent catheterization (CIC).

"After a spinal cord injury, disrupted communication between the bladder and the brain can lead to UTIs and long-term health complications," said Marco Baptista, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer at the Reeve Foundation. "Our goal is not only to better understand these challenges but to advance innovative solutions that improve quality of life. We look forward to future studies that evaluate sustained use and impact on clinical outcomes and bladder management."

The feasibility study enrolled 10 participants with SCI who routinely perform intermittent catheterization. Researchers found that:

KESSLER FOUNDATION
Changing the lives of people with disabilities

- Individuals with SCI and their caregivers learned to use the device with just one hour of training.
- The handheld ultrasound provided bladder volume estimates that closely matched catheterized measurements.
- Participants may have been able to reduce catheterization frequency without increasing average bladder volume.

"This study shows that a modern, handheld ultrasound can be quickly integrated into daily care by both individuals living with SCI and their caregivers," said principal investigator and lead author Steven Kirshblum, M.D., Chief Medical Officer for Kessler Foundation and Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation. "Some of the participants found the device to be a valuable addition to their care."

While larger, longer-term studies are needed to evaluate clinical outcomes, these early findings highlight the promise of accessible technology to improve bladder management. The Reeve Foundation is proud to continue advancing research that addresses the everyday challenges affecting life after SCI.

SCI VENTURES: BREAKTHROUGHS, PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRESS

SCI Ventures, a groundbreaking initiative co-founded by the Reeve Foundation, continues to accelerate progress toward breakthrough therapies for spinal cord injury (SCI). As the first fund of its kind dedicated to SCI, it is helping move promising discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic, and closer to the people who need them most.

Since its launch in June 2024, the specialist fund has raised more than $35 million and built a portfolio of nine early-stage companies, with a tenth investment anticipated before the end of the year. Backed by the Reeve Foundation and leading SCI foundations and clinical centers around the world, and guided by world-renowned neuroscientists, SCI Ventures invests in therapies that deliver meaningful functional improvements while pursuing the ultimate goal of biological repair of the spinal cord.

In June, renowned Craig Hospital joined SCI Ventures as an Alliance Partner, reinforcing a shared commitment to advancing new therapies for people living with paralysis. Craig Hospital will invest in SCI Ventures, join the fund's Board of Directors, and contribute clinical expertise and direct connection to the patient community. The Reeve Foundation and its SCI Ventures co-founders are proud to welcome Craig Hospital to this groundbreaking partnership.

The Reeve Foundation's research program plays a critical role in advancing the fund's investment strategy by priming the SCI research field for more ambitious investment. For example, the Foundation's Standardized Testing Research InVivo Endeavor (STRIVE) preclinical grant supports development of a validated research tool for the SCI community, helping accelerate the therapeutic development that is central to SCI Ventures' mission.

Across the Portfolio, Momentum Is Building

SCI Ventures is investing in companies tackling some of the biggest challenges in SCI, from regeneration and functional recovery to bladder dysfunction and AI-enabled drug discovery. Together, these investments illustrate how the fund is accelerating multiple pathways toward better treatments and, ultimately, cures.

Moving Toward the First Regenerative Therapy for SCI

NervGen Pharma Corp. is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing first-in-class neuroreparative therapeutics for spinal cord injury (SCI) and other traumatic and neurological disorders. Its lead drug candidate, NVG-291, has the potential to become the first approved regenerative therapy for SCI. Backed by SCI Ventures, the company is preparing to launch its pivotal RESTORE Phase 3 registrational trial, a randomized, placebo-controlled study enrolling approximately 150 adults with chronic cervical SCI at up to 60 sites across the U.S. and Canada. Designed to evaluate improvements in functional hand use and independence, the trial represents a critical step toward potential regulatory approval.

SCI VENTURES BY THE NUMBERS

$35+ million raised since launch

9 portfolio companies

specialist venture fund dedicated to breakthrough SCI & neuro-restoration therapies

SCI Ventures' investment has also supported NervGen's recent Nasdaq listing, broadening access to U.S. investors and strengthening the company's position as it advances through these key clinical and regulatory milestones. With durable functional improvements and strong walking data already in hand, along with a recently completed $60 million financing round, NervGen is moving quickly toward its goal of developing the first disease-modifying therapy for chronic SCI — potentially within just a few years. Such a milestone could transform the field and spark a new wave of pharmaceutical investment and innovation, with enormous potential benefit for the SCI community.

A Potential Breakthrough for Neurogenic Bladder

EG427 is a biotechnology company pioneering pinpoint DNA medicines for chronic neurological diseases, including EG110A, a novel therapeutic candidate for neurogenic bladder. In 2024, SCI Ventures catalyzed the Series B financing that enabled EG427 to move EG110A into clinical trials — and that investment is already showing promise.

The company recently announced Phase 1/2 clinical trial results demonstrating that the lowest dose of EG110A reduced urinary incontinence episodes by 90% after 12 months in people living with SCI. Every participant experienced improvement, with no serious side effects or immune reactions reported.

EG427 also received U.S. FDA Fast Track designation, and the therapy is currently being evaluated in a 16-patient clinical study across four centers.

Industry interest continues to build. EG427 is on track to become a new standard of care for neurogenic detrusor overactivity (NDO), with the potential to become an approved therapy within three to four years.

Bladder dysfunction remains one of the most challenging daily realities for people living with SCI. Existing treatments are often invasive, temporary or poorly tolerated, and many patients discontinue medications because of side effects. EG110A may offer a more targeted, longer-lasting treatment that significantly improves quality of life, potentially within the next five years.

Harnessing AI to Accelerate Discovery

Healx, a pioneer in AI-driven drug discovery for rare and neglected diseases, partnered with SCI Ventures in early 2025 on a first-of-its-kind initiative to identify new treatments for chronic SCI. The collaboration leverages Healx's advanced AI platform to uncover regeneration-related biological mechanisms and identify existing drugs that could be repurposed for SCI, dramatically accelerating the search for effective therapies.

Earlier this year, SCI Ventures expanded the collaboration with a second program focused on combination therapies, targeting multiple mechanisms of repair simultaneously.

To date, SCI Ventures has invested $3.5 million in the collaboration, attracting an additional $2.5 million to the SCI program. The initial partnership is already advancing toward in vivo testing in fall 2026, with multiple promising compounds identified. The second program focused on combination therapies is progressing rapidly, with AI-generated predictions expected by the end of the year.

Speed is what distinguishes these programs from traditional drug discovery, which often requires a decade or more and billions of dollars to move from candidate identification to validation. By harnessing AI, Healx is compressing that timeline by an order of magnitude.

While focused on SCI, the collaboration is also expected to generate insights applicable to other central nervous system disorders. As a biologically well-defined and stable condition, SCI provides an ideal model for advancing innovations that could ultimately benefit people living with traumatic brain injury, stroke, ALS, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

Learn more and follow SCI Ventures at www.sciventures.com and on LinkedIn.

FDA CLEARS NEW AT-HOME SPINAL CORD STIMULATION THERAPY

The FDA has cleared ANEUVO's ExaStim® Stimulation System, a non-invasive transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation device for use in both clinical and home settings. The system is indicated to improve hand sensation and strength in adults with chronic incomplete spinal cord injury when paired with functional task practice.

"We are encouraged to see another transcutaneous stimulation therapy becoming available to our community. It reflects real momentum in the spinal cord injury field, where scientific innovation is translating into regulatory progress and, ultimately, meaningful improvements in quality of life for people living with SCI."

— Dr. Marco Baptista, Chief Scientific Officer

Patient-Focused Drug Development: A Virtual Community Discussion

The Reeve Foundation is proud to partner with the paralysis community in support of the FDA's Patient-Focused Drug Development (PFDD) initiative, ensuring that the experiences and priorities of people living with paralysis help shape future treatments. We invite you to join an upcoming virtual community meeting and be part of the conversation.

This free, virtual meeting gives individuals living with SCI an opportunity to share their experiences directly with the FDA and treatment developers.

Participants will discuss daily life with SCI, experiences with current treatments, and priorities for future therapies and research. Attendees can contribute through live polling and comments, and what they share will become part of an official report that the FDA and treatment developers can use to help shape future treatments.

September 29 | 10:00 AM–3:00 PM ET | Free & Virtual

Register today: https://www.scipfdd.org/register

CELEBRATING TOMORROW'S SCIENTIFIC LEADERS

The future of spinal cord injury research is bright. The Reeve Foundation is proud to be a Supporting Sponsor of *Scientific American's* inaugural **Young American Scientists** initiative, recognizing rising researchers whose discoveries have the potential to transform lives. By investing in the next generation of scientific leaders, we're helping accelerate the breakthroughs that will lead to better treatments — and ultimately, cures.

COMING UP: 2026 SPINAL RESEARCH NETWORK MEETING

From Discovery to Translational Drug Development: The Nuts and Bolts of Therapeutic Development Principals, Sponsored by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation & Spinal Research

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, London

The annual Spinal Research Network Meetings provides an opportunity for academic and clinical researchers from all over the world to share information, outcomes and data from their studies. It promotes the exchange of ideas about understanding the complexity of spinal cord injury.

A special pre-course session jointly sponsored by the Reeve Foundation will convene leading researchers, clinicians, industry experts, and people with lived experience to explore the latest advances in spinal cord injury research — from regenerative medicine and neurotechnology to biomarkers, clinical trial design, and translational pathways — while identifying opportunities to accelerate collaboration.

Follow the Reeve Foundation for updates.

A ROUND WITH A PURPOSE:
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY THROUGH GOLF

This summer, the Reeve Foundation community came together for two annual golf outings that unite supporters and friends around a shared mission to improve the quality of life of people living with paralysis.

The season kicked off at Metuchen Golf & Country Club with the second annual LeGrand Golf Classic, presented by Prudential. The event brought together returning golfers and new friends to support Team LeGrand and the Reeve Foundation, raising more than $100,000 while celebrating resilience, teamwork, and the power of community.

The momentum continued at the historic Winged Foot Golf Club during the annual Reeve Golf Classic, where more than 200 players gathered in support of the Foundation's mission, raising nearly $900,000. The event proudly honored Brigitte & Chip McCarthy and welcomed a passionate community of advocates and supporters dedicated to advancing hope and progress.

Across both outings, heartfelt stories, meaningful conversations, and moments of laughter highlight the impact of collective support. These events showcase the strength of the Reeve Foundation community.

Thank you to everyone who participated, sponsored and supported these unforgettable celebrations. Hope to see you on the greens next summer!

MAKE AN IMPACT, JOIN THE MOMENTUM

FERGUS WALKS HEADS TO THE U.S.

This summer, the Reeve Foundation is partnering with Spinal Injuries Ireland to support Fergus Walks, an extraordinary journey to raise awareness and critical funds for spinal cord injury (SCI) research and resources. Beginning August 22, Fergus Farrell, who was told he had just a 5% chance of ever walking again after a SCI, will walk from Brooklyn, New York, to Santa Monica, California, inspiring communities across the country while shining a light on the realities and possibilities of life after spinal cord injury.

Follow the journey: Follow the Reeve Foundation on social media to see Fergus's journey, special stops along the way, and ways you can support him from wherever you are.

TEAM REEVE HITS THE ROAD

From Chicago to New York City, and soon to London, Team Reeve runners are taking on some of the world's most iconic marathons to raise funds for spinal cord injury (SCI) research.

Cheer them on: Support our incredible Team Reeve athletes as they train, race, and turn their endurance into hope for the paralysis community. Your encouragement and donations help fuel breakthroughs that change lives.

GO FORWARD RETURNS TO NEW YORK

Following the success of last year's inaugural **Go Forward** reception, the NHL is once again bringing together the hockey community in support of spinal cord injury (SCI) and Parkinson's disease research. Join us on **Thursday, February 4, 2027**, at **Tribeca Rooftop + 360°** in New York City for an unforgettable evening benefiting the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, the Michael J. Fox Foundation, and the SCIBoston/ Travis Roy Legacy Grant Program.

Save the date and help move groundbreaking research forward.

GO FORWARD!™
CELEBRATING THE POWER OF HOCKEY TO BREAK BARRIERS

MAKE AN IMPACT, JOIN THE MOMENTUM

ROUND UP TO GIVE BACK AT HUEY MAGOO'S

The Reeve Foundation and Huey Magoo's are proud to partner this September during Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month to raise critical funds in support of *Today's Care. Tomorrow's Cure.* Through this month-long in-store campaign, guests can make a meaningful difference with every visit.

At participating Huey Magoo's locations, guests can simply round up their purchase to the next dollar, with every cent donated to the Reeve Foundation to help advance life-changing care, groundbreaking research and hope for individuals and families living with paralysis.

"The Reeve Foundation is near and dear to my family," said Andy Howard, president and CEO of Huey Magoo's. "We're honored to support the Foundation's incredible work and invite guests at participating Huey Magoo's locations to join us this September by rounding up their in-store purchase. Even the smallest donation can make a meaningful difference for individuals and families living with paralysis."

huey magoo's® CHICKEN TENDERS

Founded in 2004, Huey Magoo's is one of the fastest-growing fast-casual brands, earning multiple awards for its bold flavors and quality, most recently securing a spot on Fast Casual's 2026 Top 100 Movers + Shaker's list. With locations in 12 states and growing, Huey Magoo's continues to bring premium ingredients and exceptional hospitality to communities nationwide. Guests can order through Huey Magoo's mobile app for convenient pickup, delivery, and rewards tracking. For more information, visit HueyMagoos.com.

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