



*Note from The Executive Director*

2013 was a year of transition for the Mayday Fund, as there were many multi-year grants that were operating in mid-stream. The overall focus of the year was to continue support for projects, which were both innovative and which held the promise of making a contribution to the better care of the person in pain.

The Trustees continued their commitment to projects that address the need for better information that is easily accessible to clinicians. Ranging from *geriatricpain.org* to seed funding for the development of an app for patients with chronic pain, the Trustees sought projects that held promise as tools that could easily be used to improve patient care.

Also figuring importantly in the grants portfolio are projects that target the development of networks of researchers, *The Pain in Child Health* initiative in Canada and the *Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity* initiative are two examples. Another is the Pediatric Regional Anesthesia Network's goal to coordinate databases to be used for the analysis of how pediatric painful conditions are being treated.

The role of neuro-inflammation and pain was the subject of one research grant, and the role of lipids in diet was another. For the Trustees, providing pilot level support is one means to help move the science of pain forward.

The Mayday Fund's grant making spanned the life cycle, from projects that address the pain involved in procedures such as needle sticks in newborns, to how older adults are screened and treated for pain in the Emergency Department. Grants included lectures as well as creating web resources. The Trustees added support to the trend towards addressing 'Interprofessional' team work in the care of pain and the notion that competencies in pain could be taught and tested in clinicians at different stages of their education and professional activities. The ultimate goal with this approach is to have more health care providers practicing from a basis of knowledge about pain and its impact on a person's quality of life.

And, 2013 was a banner year for the Mayday Pain & Society Fellowship. Six new leaders were trained and coached with the goal that they communicate more effectively with the public and policy makers. The challenge, to translate professional competence into messages that are easily understood is a complicated one – the Fellows were determined to meet it and in the year that has passed have contributed greatly.

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