



Overview of 2014 Grants

2014 proved to be a year where Mayday became more involved in building cadres of clinicians to better care for pain.

- Grants were made for nurse leaders who conduct clinical research in the Veterans Administration (Jonas Scholars) and in Geriatric Medicine (Gerontological Society of America in concert with the John A. Hartford Foundation). In the Geriatric project, *Building Academic Excellence in Geriatric Nursing*, Mayday over the course of 10 years has supported 25 pre- and postdoctoral researchers. All currently have faculty positions and are contributing to building the pipeline of pain-focused faculty. This program leveraged Mayday's support in a substantial way through a partnership with the John A. Hartford Foundation.
- The momentum begun with Mayday's initial grant for the development of *Interprofessional Core Competencies in Pain Management* continues to build with adoption of the competencies by many medical professional organizations. Mayday supported a second round to further develop this program and again was joined by the Milbank Foundation. At the end of the year, 'nimble' requests were funded that underwrite a review of the National Medical Licensure exam to determine if there are sufficient questions on pain and a Dean's Lecture Series dedicated to Pain. When released, the United States *National Pain Strategy* will likely include a section on competency training— a sign that this approach responds to the need for clinicians to expand their skills for treating pain and working in teams.
- 2014 represented the final year of Mayday's commitment to *Pain in Child Health (PICH)*, the *training* program underwritten by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Mayday agreed to support international participation in the program. Canada's investment in the program was \$6 million Canadian. Mayday's contribution was \$327,000, which translates to the addition of 148 international trainees at a cost per trainee of approximately \$2209. This program has created a generation of pediatric pain researchers who work collaboratively. <http://paininchildhealth.dal.ca>
- While most of Mayday's work in training has involved meetings, conferences and publications, in 2014, the decision to contribute to the Boston Children's *Open Pediatrics* web-based forum is helping to create an online community of clinicians. Currently, *Open Pediatrics* is being used in 124 countries in 6 continents. Mayday's contribution has helped to move pain from lower down in the queue to nearer the top. <http://openpediatrics.org>
- An unrestricted grant to the Tufts University, Program on Pain, Research and Education was made to explore new ideas in this highly collaborative program.

Grants were made to support clinical and basic science research to determine the causes of pain and strategies to assess and treat it.

In pediatric pain:

- The Borsook lab at Boston Children's Hospital continued its work on the fMRI imaging of children with concussions and on the use of Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) technology to detect those patients for whom anesthesia does not work during operations. Estimates are that as many as 10% of patients experience pain while they are immobilized by anesthetic drugs. <http://www.childrenshospital.org/research-and-innovation/research/centers/center-for-pain-and-the-brain-pain-research-group>



- For neonates, the Fund's studies -- of Kangaroo Care as a comfort during painful procedures and on the use of acupressure at the time of the first heel stick after birth at Arkansas Children's and Stanford University's Lucille Packard Children's Hospital -- hold the promise of mitigating pain in the first days of life.
- To better gauge the ways that children are treated while in the hospital for pain, the Fund provided pilot support for an epidemiological study to document the state of current practice. This grant to the University of Iowa College of Nursing will develop a strategy and methods for creating as realistic a portrait as possible. This would be a first step in identifying if and how practice needs to be changed.
- The Trustees at the end of the year agreed to contribute to an epidemiological study of the effects of anesthesia on the neurocognitive development of infants over a 5-year period. This is being coordinated by Boston Children's Hospital.

In adult medicine:

- The Fund extended its work in Emergency Medicine by agreeing to add support to a large NIH funded study at the University of North Carolina on Biomarkers that would indicate those patients at risk to develop chronic pain after being treated in the Emergency Department for sexual assault. There is a basic science component in this research that uses microRNA to target who may be at risk. This is a line of basic research that Mayday has supported for the last 3 years and which holds great promise diagnostically.
- Also at the University of North Carolina, the Trustees approved pilot data support for a project that will examine the role of diet in persistent lower back pain. The North American Spine Society shares this project equally. It builds on earlier work examining the role of diet in chronic daily headache.

In basic science research:

- Work continued at St Louis University to identify biomarkers as a first step in developing an assay that would indicate those at risk for developing chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathies – painful conditions that are an unintended consequence of chemo and that are believed to be a permanent side effect.
- At the University of California, San Francisco, The Fund agreed to support a laboratory study to discover the causes of endometriosis pain.

In the arena of convenings, networking and the support of virtual forums:

- The Trustees agreed to continue support for the *Pain Research Forum* at the Harvard Neurodiscovery Center, <http://www.painresearchforum.org>. This has become a vital resource for pain scientists and continues to grow at a lively pace. Mayday was one of the core initial funders in the development of this site.
- Leaders in pain genetics met at the Cold Spring Harbor Banbury Conference Center to discuss areas of collaboration and research development. Thus far several projects have emerged from the meeting.
- Keynote lectures on pain were sponsored at UC Davis College of Nursing, The Tufts Medical Center and The International Pediatric Pain Symposium.

Nimble work:

- The Trustees contributed to a matching fund appeal to help complete the film, *Little Stars*, which examines pain care and the undertreatment of pain in children with life-limiting diseases.

Program Related Project

The Mayday Pain & Society Fellowship: A Media & Policy Initiative is designed to equip physicians, nurses, social workers, scientists, and ethical and legal scholars with the skills to become effective advocates and spokespeople about pain issues in the United States. The Fellowship was established to build a community of experts in the pain management field that can effectively communicate to the public and policymakers. The Fellowship is steered by an advisory committee made up of some of the nation's leading experts in the pain management field. Contacts: Carol Schadelbauer, Burness Communications <http://www.maydayfellows.org/>

Total Grants Paid in 2014: \$878,519.42

Financials The Mayday Fund Financial Statements are published on the website: <http://www.maydayfund.org>