

The Mayday Fund Annual Report 2015

Overview of Grants

Overview of 2015 Grants Indicating the Percentages of Grants Portfolio per Category

2015 took Mayday in some new directions, as the Trustees continued their interests in identifying tools, including a pain thermometer type of diagnostic test, that would build the evidence base for what pain is and how it might best be addressed. The other challenge was to try to identify clinical treatments that might ameliorate and hopefully eliminate pain.

The Fund continued to contribute to projects that address pediatric pain and geriatric pain. MAYDAY is one of the few foundations that address pain across the life cycle. In 2015 the public comments made in response to the draft National Pain Strategy pointed out how important it is to correct the bias towards a focus on adult medicine in the research and clinical care communities.

In the list below, the new grant-making targets are indicated in a parenthesis after the description.

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

In pediatric pain, clinical research:

- The grant made to Philadelphia Children's Hospital for large scale data analysis will further document the disparities in pain treatment in children who are communication impaired and treated in the hospital setting. (*Research Bench to Bedside*)
- Rett's Syndrome, a genetic postnatal neurological disease, is characterized in part by the child's inability to communicate what his or her pain is. This study at the University of Minnesota will identify biomarkers for pain and strategies to better treat these children. (*Pain Thermometer*)
- Children's Hospital of Minnesota will pioneer a practice change study across 4 hospitals, chosen via application, to address needle procedure pain that is undertreated in the hospital setting. This study complements the work being done with the WHO through the grant to the University of Toronto, Help in Kids Project, to provide public access to journal articles that demonstrate the evidence that needle pain can be treated; this will improve parental compliance with vaccinations. (*Research Bench to Bedside*)

Total: \$299,377

In adult clinical medicine:

- The Fund extended its work in Emergency Medicine by continuing 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 ED for auto-crash related injuries. 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 several years and which holds great promise diagnostically. The grant in 2015 was made to the Rhode Island Hospital to expand the geographical reach of the sites that contribute data. (*Research Bench to Bedside*)
- The Geisinger Health System in Pennsylvania is using MAYDAY support to team pharmacists with pain specialists to provide better education to patients on their drug

regimens. At the 6-month stage, there are already powerful results that have persuaded the Geisinger leadership to make the demonstration project a permanent component of pain specialty care. (*Research Bench to Bedside*)

Total: \$171,006

In basic biomedical research:

- The grant made to the University Health Network in Toronto to pursue fMRI research to identify brain patterns in a rare genetic disease will hopefully allow the development of an objective measure for pain. (*Pain Thermometer*)

Total: \$150,178

Aggregate Grants Amount: \$620,561 or app. 70% of the 2015 grant budget of \$889,171

2015 proved to be a year where Mayday became more involved in building cadres of clinicians and researchers to better understand and care for pain.

- While most of MAYDAY's work in training has involved meetings, conferences and publications, in 2015 the decision to contribute to the Boston Children's *Open Pediatrics* web-based forum is creating an online community of clinicians. Currently, *Open Pediatrics* is being used in 132 countries in 6 continents. The 2015 grant provides support for 5 World Practice Forums dedicated to pain. <http://openpediatrics.org> (*Knowledge & Networks*)
- With other funders including the Altman Foundation, in support of the Alzheimer's Association, New York Chapter, a contribution was made to a Conference on the Assessment and Treatment of Pain in Context of Palliative Care and Dementia. Those participating were nurse aides. (*Knowledge & Networks*)
- NAPS – The North American Pain School: MAYDAY contributed start-up funds to the creation of what is intended to be an annual immersive training program for pain researchers involved in basic science research. (*Knowledge & Networks*)
- To continue its commitment to Geriatric Nursing, MAYDAY supported a series of webinars focused on pain management through the Hartford National Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence. (*Knowledge & Networks*)

Total: \$80,400 or 9% of the total 2015 grant budget

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

- The Trustees continued to 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. (*Knowledge & Networks*)
- The Lancet Commission on Global access to Palliative Care and Pain Control received core support to produce a special edition of the Lancet dedicated to pain and palliative care. (*Knowledge & Networks*)
- To aid in the dissemination of the World Health Organization's, 'Immunization-related Needle Pain Guideline,' the Fund supported free public access to the evidence-based guidelines and publications that informed the WHO Guideline through the Help in Kids Project. (*Knowledge & Networks*)

- Intrigued by the potential of Virtual Reality Therapy to address pain, Mayday asked leaders at the University of Southern California Institute of Creative Technologies and the Stanford Virtual Reality Laboratory to design a conference to bring leaders in VRT together with pain specialists to brainstorm about how to best realize this potential. This meeting will be held on September 19, 2016. (*Alternative Strategies & Therapies*)

Total: \$157,271 or 18% of the total 2015 grant budget

Nimble work:

- The Trustees contributed to a film being made at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York that focuses on the care of pain and how it figures in the delivery of palliative care. The filmmakers have already won an academy award in the documentary category. MAYDAY joined the Lily Auchincloss Foundation in contributing seed monies. (*Knowledge & Networks*)

Total: \$25,000 or 3% of the total 2015 grant budget

Foundation Citizenship:

- Grants made to the Council on Foundations and Philanthropy New York
- Grant made in lieu of an honorarium to Medecins Sans Frontiers

Total: \$5,950 or .01 % of the total 2015 grant budget

Total 2015 Grants \$889,171