

2024 PAL Presenter Bios

William Bockenek, MD, CPE

- Chief Medical Officer, Carolinas Rehabilitation
- Vice-Chair of Academics, Department of PM&R, Carolinas Medical Center
- Clinical Professor, Dept of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation, Wake Forest School of Medicine
- Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Fellowship Director, Carolinas Medical Center/Carolinas Rehabilitation

Michael Boninger, MD

- Professor and UPMC endowed vice chair for research in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Senior medical director for Post-Acute Care for the Health Service Division of UPMC and vice president for Medical Affairs for Community Provider Services.
- Physician researcher for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and is Senior Associate Medical Director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL).
- Co-Director RMSTP Program

Pablo Celnik, MD

- Chief Executive Officer of Shirley Ryan AbilityLab where he oversees the organization's clinical and research enterprise
- Previously served as Director of the Human Brain Physiology Lab; Director of the Precision Medicine Center of Excellence in Rehabilitation and Co-director of the Sheikh Khalifa Stroke Institute — all at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

John Chae, MD, ME

- Professor and Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Case Western Reserve University.
- Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs for The MetroHealth System.
- A member of the National Academy of Medicine and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.
- Recently appointed Associate Director of the Program for Academic Leadership in the AAP

Andrea Cheville, MD

- Medical Director, Patient-Centered Outcomes Program and Chief of Cancer Rehabilitation and Lymphedema at Mayo Clinic, Rochester
- Chair for Research, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Mayo Clinic

Gary Clark, MD, MMM, CPE

- Emeritus Professor, Department of PM&R at CWRU/MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute

- Previously served for 12 years as Professor and Founding Chair of the Department of PM&R and at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Brad Dicianno, MD

- Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- Assistant Dean for Medical Student Research.
- Medical Director and COO of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories. He is the
- Medical Director of the UPMC Center for Assistive Technology and the Director of the UPMC Adult Spina Bifida Clinic. He serves as the
- Director of the Rehabilitation Research Experience for Medical Students.

Alberto Esquenazi, MD

- Department Chair and Chief Clinical Officer at MossRehab, Jefferson Health

Gerard Francisco, MD

- The Wulfe Family Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Chairman and Professor (with tenure), Distinguished Teaching Professor, UT Systems
- Chief Medical Officer and Clinical Scientist, TIRR Memorial Hermann
- Director, UTHealth NeuroRecovery Research Center at TIRR Memorial Hermann

Walter R. Frontera, MD, PhD

- Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Professor of Physiology, School of Medicine, University of Puerto Rico
- Member National Academy of Medicine
- Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of PM&R
- Past President, International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine

Christopher J. Garrison, MD

- Residency Program Director, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, UT Austin Dell Medical School
- Associate Professor in the Departments of Neurology and Population Health
- Medical Director, Central Texas Rehabilitation Hospital
- Founder and CEO of Intelligent Healthcare, Inc., an education and consulting corporation in Texas.

Flora Hammond, MD

- Professor and Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Indiana University School of Medicine

- Chief of Medical Affairs and Brain Injury Co-Medical Director at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana
- Project Director of the Indiana Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, and Chair of the TBI Model Systems Program Executive Committee

Jayme Knutson, PhD

- Professor in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
- Director of Research and Senior Staff Scientist in PM&R at The MetroHealth System
- Research focuses on the development, clinical testing, and translation of neurostimulation technologies for rehabilitation of patient populations such as stroke and spinal cord injury.
- Co-inventor of Contralaterally Controlled Functional Electrical Stimulation, a patented neuromuscular electrical stimulation therapy for upper limb rehabilitation after stroke.

James McDeavitt, MD

- Professor & Chair, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Baylor College of Medicine
- SVP & Dean of Clinical Affairs, Baylor College of Medicine
- Chief Clinical Integration Officer, CHI St. Luke's Health System

Leslie Morse, DO

- Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at University of Minnesota
- Areas of expertise include therapeutic outcome analysis, stem cell therapy for spinal cord injury, osteoclast biology, gait training and analysis
- Previously the Endowed Medical Director of Research at Craig Hospital and Co-Project Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Spinal Injury System

Preeti Raghavan, MBBS

- Associate professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Neurology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Director of the Center of Excellence for Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation at the Sheikh Khalifa Stroke Institute and Vice Chair for Research in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- Recognized internationally for her groundbreaking work on the treatment of muscle stiffness, which is transforming the way we treat neurologic disability, and her cross-disciplinary innovation, which has led to world-wide patents for the development of new technologies and treatments for the recovery of movement in individuals with stroke.
- Edited Spasticity and Muscle Stiffness: Restoring Form and Function, published by Springer Nature in 2022.

James Sliwa, DO

- Chief Medical Officer and Chief Quality and Safety Officer Shirley Ryan Ability Lab
- Former Director of the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R)
- Former Residency Program Director for PMR at RIC/ Shirley Ryan Ability Lab

Joel Stein, MD

- Physiatrist-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
- Professor and Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Professor and Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College.
- Clinical and research interests are in the area of stroke rehabilitation with a particular focus on the use of exercise as a treatment, and on the use of robotic and other technologies to facilitate recovery of motor function after stroke. He has authored or coauthored two books on stroke recovery and rehabilitation for stroke survivors and their families, and edited a multi-authored medical textbook on this subject entitled "Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation."

Gwendolyn Sowa, MD, PhD

- Chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Director of the UPMC Rehabilitation Institute and the medical director of UPMC Total Care - Musculoskeletal Health
- Co-director of the Ferguson Laboratory for Orthopaedic and Spine Research, and holds joint appointments in the Departments of Orthopaedic Surgery and Bioengineering

Carmen Terzic, MD

- Chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, at Mayo Clinic, Rochester from 2011 until 2020
- Currently is the Medical Director of Cardiovascular Rehabilitation at Mayo Clinic
- Research work has been focused in the area of regenerative medicine, stem cells biology and cellular differentiation, specifically in cardiac regeneration and cardiac rehabilitation

John Whyte, MD, PhD

- Founding director of MRRI, and continues as Institute Scientist Emeritus on a part-time basis.
- Maintained a clinical research laboratory at MRRI until 2019, as well as founding and directing the clinical Responsiveness Program, a MossRehab subspecialty rehabilitation program for patients with prolonged disorders of consciousness.
- In parallel with his research program, he has maintained an interest in the special methodologic challenges posed by rehabilitation research more broadly, and in training and mentoring researchers to meet those challenges.
- Co-director of RMSTP Program.

James Wilson, DO

- Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Director and Director of Spinal Cord Injury Fellowship, MetroHealth System

- Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
- Co-Director, Northeast Ohio Regional SCI System

Richard Wilson, MD, MS

- Interim Chair and Division Director of Neurological Rehabilitation, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MetroHealth System
- Associate Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, CWRU
- Current research involves motor nerve stimulation to reduce post-stroke shoulder pain and pain associated with subacromial impingement syndrome. He has expertise in clinical trials and has conducted multiple multi-center clinical trials in pain relieving therapies.

Ross Zafonte, DO

- Earle P. and Ida S. Charlton Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School
- Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR) at Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- President of Spaulding Rehabilitation Network
- Senior Vice President Medical Affairs Research and Education at Spaulding Rehabilitation Network