

UNITE 2 FIGHT PARALYSIS



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020

TAKING ON THE PANDEMIC

- We enlisted the SCI Community's help to find available ventilators, and then connected those donors with hospitals who needed them!
- We covered the real-time impact of Covid-19 on SCI researchers and the SCI Community, and explored the parallels and challenges between pandemic restrictions and having an SCI.
- When the Chicago & Twin Cities marathons were cancelled, we created a whole new race event for Team U2FP - the Run-Walk-Roll - with our dedicated team members raising over \$27,000 in just a few months time!

OUR SYMPOSIUM WENT VIRTUAL

We created a unique, user-friendly virtual platform that was accessible and affordable, bringing together innovators from around the world to share their discoveries and strategies for recovery from SCI.

- **Stats:** 245 attendees from 11 countries and 31 states, representing 95 unique companies or organizations. 185 discounted registrations equaling \$19,055 in cumulative savings for event attendees
- **Outcomes:** Molly Shoichet & Nick Jefferies have just submitted a grant to ISRT for using modified ChASE in dogs. And we connected Candace Floyd, Ann Parr, Mark DePaul and Jerry Silver to pursue a study to test a translational combinatorial strategy in pigs

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CURES

- **Translational Workgroup Formation.** We turned last year's lab shut downs into an opportunity to form a translational workgroup that's been meeting for the last 11 months. This cross-disciplinary group of SCI researchers, clinicians and advocates meet regularly on strategies to permanently speed up and streamline the process of getting solid discoveries out of the lab and into humans with chronic SCI.
- **Activity Based Exercise Workgoup.** We brought together SCI exercise experts from across the country and developed (with the University of Minnesota) a public health impact study on the effects of exercise in the SCI population. We believe rehab and exercise will be necessary companions to curative interventions. It's time we pay attention to who pays for it.
- **Neuromodulation Workgroup.** U2FP has joined the Canadian Neuro modulation Expert Collaboration in SCI (CANOE) as a part of our work with the Neuromodulation Group. We continue to work on establishing consensus around patient profiles and how researchers measure effect. We hope to release the expert survey by fall of this year.



SPOTLIGHT ON 2021

PRESERVING \$6M IN SCI RESEARCH FUNDING IN MINNESOTA

We learned in January that Minnesota's Governor proposed defunding our highly successful SCI Research Grant program. We met with our advocates in the SCI Community and the MN state legislature and sprung into action, launching a campaign to save our \$6M appropriation. After 3 months of hard work - with lots of calls and emails from people like you - we convinced the governor to put the money back in the budget! This ensures that the cutting-edge work that's already been funded in MN will continue.

NEW BOARD & STAFF

Early this year we added 3 new board members and 2 new staff members to help us keep pace with the demand for our work. These 5 individuals all hail from different backgrounds and geographic locations. They also bring a wide range of skills & expertise, including: organizational management, advocacy leadership, contract research experience and a background in the law. Already, they are enhancing the breadth and depth of our work, helping us to meet new challenges and deepen our impact.

THE COMPLETION OF KELSEY PETERSON'S DOCUMENTARY - MOVE ME

Back in 2015, Kelsey Peterson sat down with Matthew Rodreck and told him about her itch to take the movement to cure paralysis in a more personal and artistic direction, using the medium of film. U2FP became the film's fiscal agent early on, and we're so proud to see it come to fruition! Now, 6 years later, Kelsey has delivered on her unique vision, having won funding from ITVS last year to complete production and air on public television in 2022. The film, entitled Move Me, finished post-production this spring and is currently being submitted to festivals.

From Kelsey: *"I wanted to show the world my/our experience. To speak to you and to them. To show everyone the good, the bad and the ugly. To battle the status quo. To move the dial. To show the many ways we deal with grief, adapting, all of it."*

SAM MADDOX LENDS HIS JOURNALISTIC VOICE TO U2FP

With labs largely closing down last year during the pandemic, Sam Maddox stepped beyond his role as Director of our Scientific Advisory Board and utilized his journalistic expertise to begin publishing what might currently be called 'Explainers' - synopses of SCI treatments or therapies that provide necessary context for the lay reader and center the salient details for our community. Sam's Headline Patrol series - which started early this year and will continue semi-regularly - got lots of positive feedback from our community. Breaking down flashy headlines and separating the fluff from the facts is an essential service U2FP is proud to be able to offer, thanks to Sam's gift and experience.

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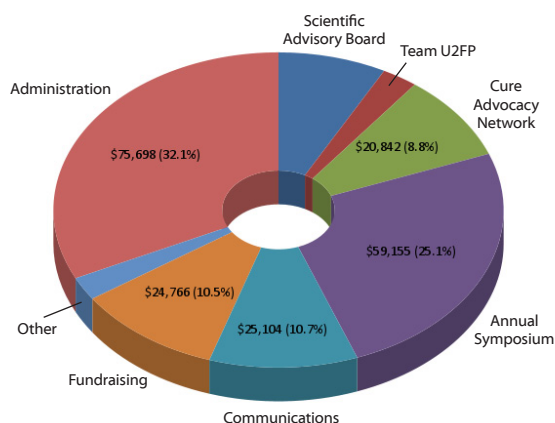
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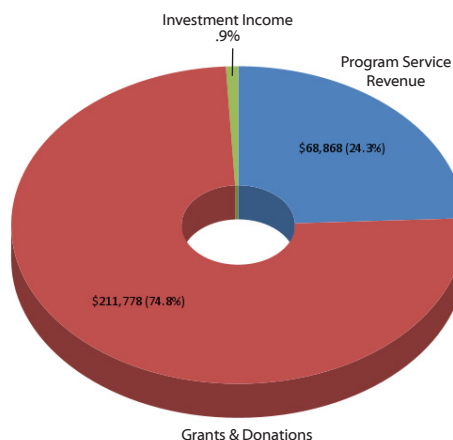
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2020 Expenditures



2020 Revenue



**These pie charts reflect audited financial information for Unite 2 Fight Paralysis*

Unite 2 Fight Paralysis relies almost exclusively on public contributions and grants to provide our services.