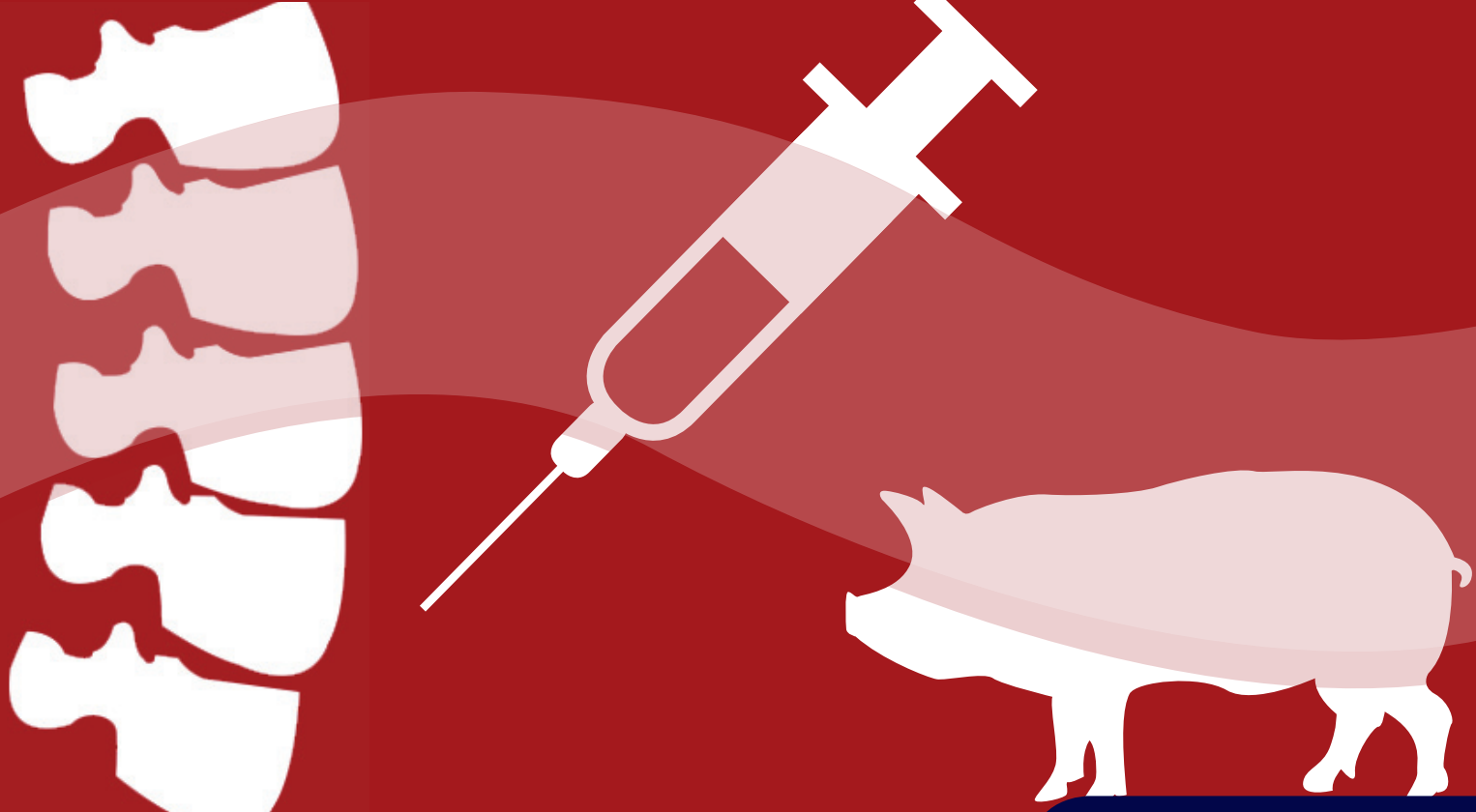




# ANNUAL REPORT 2022







## Stim/Peptide Combination Study

In 2022 U2FP created a multidisciplinary research study combining a nerve growth drug and epidural stimulation in a large animal model targeting chronic spinal cord injury. We brought together researchers from three universities and a biotech startup, then pulled the funding together by brokering resources from five independent SCI charities.

The study has begun at Emory University. We'll be monitoring its progress and reporting back on the results (good or bad).

“ I liked this project because it starts in the community, is funded by the community, and involves collaboration of academia and industry.”

- Traci Fernandez, United Paralysis Foundation

“ It occurred to me that if the peptide worked, we might be able to drive it with some sort of combination therapy. So, I called Jerry [Silver] and asked him, ‘have you ever considered combining your peptide with neuromodulation?’ He laughed and said that he had been dreaming about using spinal cord stim to enhance the peptide.”

- Matthew Rodreick, U2FP



Scan here to learn more about this project and how U2FP brought it to fruition.

# 17th Annual Science & Advocacy Symposium

“

This is my 5th time attending U2FP's Annual Symposium and every time I learn something new. It's always nice to meet face to face with the researchers, clinicians, and doctors. I could have never met them without these Symposiums!”

- Jesus Centeno



## Stats

**243** attendees from 7 countries, representing over 59 unique companies or organizations.



## Value

We provided discounted registrations totaling

**\$23,415**

in cumulative savings for event attendees



## Highlights

The top leaders in Neuromodulation - Reggie Edgerton, Susie Harkema and David Darrow - all gave updates on their work in spinal stimulation.

Dale Hull gave an insightful critique of the current rehabilitation system - both for acute and chronic SCI patients. He then cast a holistic vision for SCI treatment that anticipates the clinical need for curative therapies - like spinal stim - to take hold.

U2FP hosted an Adaptive Outdoor Expo ahead of our Symposium that included 14 adaptive sports organizations from the mountain west.



Scan here to watch Dale Hull's presentation (or any presentation or panel discussion - free!) from U2FP's Annual Symposium in Salt Lake City, 2022.



“

As a researcher and member of a startup I had not gotten an introduction to the SCI community. This symposium brought everyone together and I found it unique and led to rich discussion.”

- Tom Gawriluk





## Cure Advocacy Network - Overall Impact

While we were lobbying for new legislation in Wisconsin and Colorado, we continued to deepen the impact our Cure Advocacy Network (CAN) advocates are having in states where we've already passed SCI Research Grant bills. We're committed to ensuring the legislation we've passed stays relevant and creates more and better collaborative opportunities for all the stakeholders in the SCI community.

A total of  
**\$30.3M**  
appropriated by the  
end of 2023



All of that research funding  
was chosen by an  
Advisory Board made up of  
SCI scientists and those who  
live with the injury



CAN funding has  
now resulted in nearly **200 People**  
with an SCI getting a meaningful intervention

Established research collaboration project  
between Minnesota and Ohio



Scan here to read the Cure Advocacy  
Network's Economic Impact Summary,  
newly compiled through the end of 2022.





Nearly  
**14,000**  
plays logged in 2022, up  
6% from 2021

Currently on track  
to grow by another 20%  
in 2023

Over 60,000  
plays since CureCast first  
launched in 2016

Voted Best of the  
Best Paralysis Podcast  
2022 by SpinalCord.com

Gained our first  
two sponsors in 2022:

**Lawyer Match +  
Mobius Mobility**



## CureCast Podcast

After years of slow but steady growth, 2022 was the year we saw all the hard work we've put into the CureCast podcast start to pay off. We won a grant from the Reeve Foundation that allowed us to hire our new podcast producer, Julie Censullo, helping to professionalize our show while increasing episode output. U2FP's CureCast is required listening among several of the top SCI graduate research programs in the country. It's also an empowering educational tool that continues to reach tens of thousands of individuals in the SCI community.



CureCast is made possible by a grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's National Paralysis Resource Center.



# CURECAST



Scan here to listen to one of our most popular episodes this year: **Psilocybin and SCI: Thinking Outside the Box** with guest **Jim Harris**.



# Lab Rats

In 2021, U2FP began placing individuals with a spinal cord injury into SCI research labs to act as expert consultants. We dubbed this initiative, Lab Rats. This innovative placement strategy is a win-win for the Scientific & SCI Communities. It provides greater efficiency for the lab in setting and defining targets, and it educates those with the injury on the challenges labs face in designing and executing their experiments.

In 2022, we more than doubled our lab placements from the previous year. Our lab rats are shaking the foundations of the research enterprise in the best way possible. Take a look.



Jake Chalfin (C-7, ASIA B) chats with John Houle (retired SCI researcher) at Drexel University's recent SCI Research Day. Jake has been one of U2FP's Lab Rats in Michael Lane's Research Lab since 2020.



## Placements

As of this writing,  
U2FP has coordinated  
**33** Placement Interviews  
**10** SCI/Lab placements

### Participating labs:

Lane Lab *Drexel University*  
Blackmore Lab *Marquette University*  
Gensel Lab *Univ. of Kentucky*  
Fox Lab *Univ. of Florida*  
Dulin Lab *Texas A&M Univ.*  
Gaudet Lab *Univ. of Texas, Austin*  
Ferguson Lab  
*Univ. of California, San Fran (Track SCI)*  
Schwab Lab + McTigue Lab  
*Ohio State Univ.*  
DeBerry Lab  
*Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham*  
Floyd Lab *Emory Univ.*



Scan here to watch Valerie Dietz's presentation on the Dulin Lab's publication.

## Publication

The Dulin Lab polled their Lab Rats on what they thought of clinical trials being offered. They challenged the researchers to think more strategically, and dove into the data, looking at all current clinical trial offerings for SCI. The result was the publication, "Fighting for recovery on multiple fronts: The past, present, and future of clinical trials for spinal cord injury" in *Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience*.

## FDA Listening Session

U2FP coordinated a listening session between select Lab Rats and the Food and Drug Administration. The goal was to educate the FDA on the priorities of the SCI community and the deficits that exist in the regulatory agencies approval processes.

## New Project Proposal

Lab Rats in the Dulin Lab have begun working to create a database of all SCI research projects funded within the last 10 years.





## Team U2FP

Team U2FP participants bring funds and awareness to the SCI movement for cures in a very specific way: the money they raise primarily supports our Cure Advocacy Network (CAN), where we train and mobilize SCI community advocates to pass state legislation that funds curative research. We do this because it is extremely difficult to get grant funding for legislative advocacy, since it's technically considered political lobbying. Team U2FP racers help fill this funding gap while running or wheeling in one of our premiere race events!

**\$54,005**

was raised by Team U2FP participants in 2022 - our highest amount ever!



**30 Racers + Wheelers**

signed up for our races, challenging themselves physically while fundraising to advance the movement for curative therapies.



### Race Events

- The Bank of America Chicago Marathon (14 participants)
- The Twin Cities Marathon & 10 Mile Races (8 participants), where we had our first ever wheeler (*Jake Anderson, pictured on the cover*). We are pushing for more inclusivity for wheeler participation in the Twin Cities races.
- The Freestyle Challenge (8 participants), our DIY race event where participants designed their own courses and pace.





**SPINAL CORD INJURY HOPE**  
PUSH TO GET STATE FUNDING FOR MORE WISCONSIN-BASED RESEARCH

**EXCLUSIVE**



## Cure Advocacy Network - Wisconsin

Our efforts in 2022 were laser focused on Wisconsin, where we've been working for nearly five years to pass an SCI Research Grant Bill. And those efforts paid off, as we secured Assembly and Senate hearings in early 2023. Our proposed legislation in Wisconsin would add to the CAN's success in Minnesota, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, which have resulted in over \$30M appropriated to SCI Research over the last 8 years. We're hopeful that we can get a win in Wisconsin this year and take advantage of that state's advanced biotech and regeneration markets.



### Key Accomplishments:

- \$3M SCI Research Program included in Gov. Evers Executive Budget
- Bill introduced in the Assembly and Senate
- 1/3 of Assembly signed on as co-authors
- 1/4 of Senate signed on as co-authors
- Bill passed through Senate committee with only ONE nay vote
- Bill passed through Assembly committee UNANIMOUSLY
- Rare Bi-Partisan Support and Popularity
- Advocate Participation doubled this year, including support from new researchers

Scan here to watch SCI family member and researcher Murray Blackmore's testimony before the Wisconsin Senate committee this past spring.





# Headline Patrol

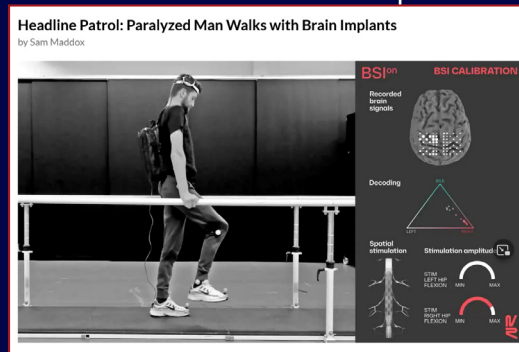
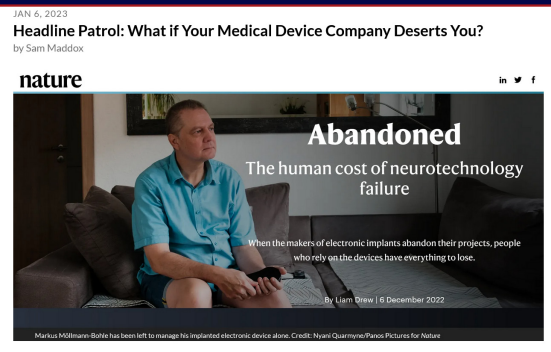
News headlines announcing breakthroughs in SCI research come with lots of oversell and very little nuance. We try to flip that script and educate our community on the implications, details and timelines behind the SCI stories that come across your feed.

Veteran SCI journalist and U2FP SAB Director Sam Maddox digs into these PR stories by getting past the hype. Education is a cornerstone of the U2FP mission and context is essential. The press often overstates the importance of research, while skirting critical details. We keep it real.

The most recent Headline Patrol: Paralyzed Man Walks with Brain Implants was our most popular newsletter ever, with over **1,100** opens!



The Headline Patrol series has been read nearly **8,000** times as of this writing



“Wow! What a refreshing take. It’s nice to see someone write the quiet part out loud.”  
 - Reader response

“Great job clarifying the effects of the device in this study. I sure appreciate you Sam.”  
 - Reader response

“Thanks for doing this! About 17 people texted or emailed me the news coverage and I wish I had had your discussion at the ready!”  
 - Reader response

“One more time you hit a home run. Thanks.”  
 - Reader response



# Workgroups

## Translation Neuromodulation Activity Based Therapy

As Matthew discussed at this past year's Symposium, keeping a healthy tension between all the stakeholders involved in delivering curative therapies is key if we want high quality recovery as soon as possible. And that means facilitating regular collaborative discussion so that different stakeholders can clarify and define their targets in order to more quickly meet the goal of restoring function after spinal cord injury. U2FP facilitates these meetings regularly (monthly or bi-monthly) to keep everyone motivated, sharp and on-target.



- **Translation:** 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.
  - a. The Translational Workgroup's submission to Society For NeuroScience accepted for presentation in November
  - b. Drafting a paper for publication later this fall commenting on the challenges in the discovery-to-treatment translational pipeline.
- **Neuromod:** 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.
  - a. Working to develop an Open Data Commons to share results from spinal cord stimulation studies
  - b. Plan to publish this fall on the results of our survey of experts in the field regarding consensus and feasibility of clinical measures.
- **Activity Based Therapy:** Our ABT Work group brings together SCI exercise experts from across the country. We believe rehab and exercise are necessary companions to curative interventions.
  - a. Surveyed ABT centers (with the University of Minnesota) and have submitted an LOI to fund a public health impact study on the effects of activity based exercise. (Letter of Intent submitted for grant consideration).
  - b. In partnership with Association of Neuro Activity Based Professionals (ANABP) hosted successful webinar with over 30 representatives from the ABT community.





## Doing A Lot with A Little: 2022 Financial Report

I'm Kathy Christopherson, U2FP's Financial Manager. Before coming to U2FP, I worked as an accountant, financial manager, controller and vice president of finance at holding companies that owned trucking firms, as well as insurance and real estate corporations. More recently, I have had financial leadership roles at non-profits in the Twin Cities area such as AccessAbility and The International Institute. I started out in the Navy as a medic and after using the GI bill, worked my way through the financial world. I have nearly 50 years of financial expertise, and have managed money for a wide range of organizations.

I'm proud to manage Unite 2 Fight Paralysis financial affairs. Rarely have I seen an organization do so much with so little, and continue to push to be more transparent, both fiscally and in the broad range of services that they provide to the SCI Community. I am very pleased that we are able to cover our growth with our ample reserves, thanks to our generous donors.

*Kathryn Christopherson*

## Financial Documents & Details



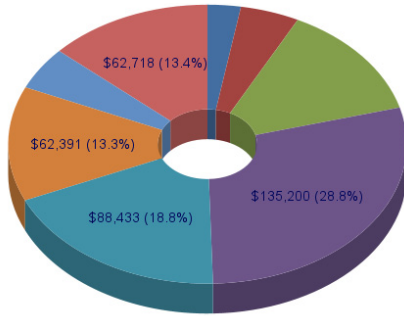
Scan here to view U2FP's 2022 financial documents as listed on our donation page: Audited Financial Statement, 990 Form, Guidestar Pro Report



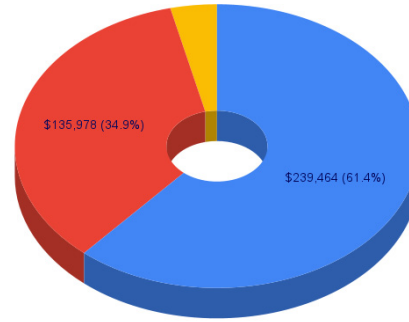


**We have a new address! Same building, just a different suite:  
528 Hennepin Ave. Ste 606, Minneapolis MN 55403**

**2022 Expenditures**



**2022 Revenue**



● Scientific Advisory Board ● Team U2FP ● Cure Advocacy Network ● Annual Symposium  
● Communications/Education ● Fundraising ● Other ● Administration

● Program Service Revenue ● Grants & Donations ● Investment Income

*\*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. We apologize for any oversight in listing donors. Please contact our office to update our records.*

## Special Thanks to our Donors!

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