



# HEALTHCARE **SUMMIT** **+ EXPO 2025**

*Promoting Excellence, Supporting Clinicians*

**New Orleans, LA • August 24-27, 2025**







CITY  
OF  
NEW ORLEANS  
PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, LA

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

● Welcome .....	2
● About Summit .....	4
● Summit Highlights .....	5
● Summit Awards .....	7
● Summit Staff .....	8
● Keynote Speakers .....	9
● Summit Sponsors .....	12
● Expo Schedule .....	13
● Expo Hall .....	14
● Summit Agenda .....	18
● Faculty List .....	32
● Poster Presentations .....	40
● Sponsor Symposiums .....	45
● Continuing Education.....	46
● Accreditation Statements .....	47

*Table of contents is not reflective of all program content.*

## **PHOTOGRAPHY, SOUND, AND VIDEO RECORDING IN PROGRESS**

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# WELCOME

## Dear Summit Attendees:

Welcome to Paralyzed Veterans of America's 13<sup>th</sup> Healthcare Summit + Expo! We are grateful that you've joined us here in New Orleans to experience the latest cutting-edge technology, leading science, and peer-recommended best practices in the field of spinal cord injury and diseases, like multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Research is one of the fundamental tenets of PVA's mission going back to our founding nearly 80 years ago, which made establishing the Healthcare Summit an easy decision. Over time, with the help of attendees like you, our dedicated sponsors, and our exceptional PVA team, we have developed it into one of the most dynamic and distinctive gatherings in this field.

I am honored to lead a nonprofit like PVA that continuously advocates for the clinicians who provide the best specialized care for our members. We know that the days and nights can be long and trying at times. We see you, and we are thankful you continue to provide the life-saving care that you do.

Our priority has always been to create an environment that enables clinicians to receive the tools they need to better serve their patients, regardless of who walks – or rolls – through the exam door.

I encourage you to spend the next few days learning as much as you can and getting to know your fellow attendees, whether they provide care within the Department of Veterans Affairs or at a community medical facility. I also urge you to connect with our sponsors and exhibitors and submit your paperwork to secure your continuing education units.

Thank you for being here. Your participation here matters, and the work you do to improve the quality of life of those living with SCI/D matters even more.

**SINCERELY,**

**Robert Thomas, Jr.**

National President and Chairman of the Board,  
Paralyzed Veterans of America







# ABOUT SUMMIT

## PVA Healthcare Summit + Expo

For nearly 80 years, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) has advocated for high-quality, specialized medical care for veterans living with spinal cord injuries and diseases such as multiple sclerosis (MS) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). This legacy of leadership is furthered through PVA's Healthcare Summit + Expo, the nation's only conference dedicated to advancing care for individuals with spinal cord injuries, MS, and ALS in one comprehensive event.

PVA's Summit brings together interdisciplinary professionals from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and private-sector healthcare systems for four days of dynamic learning, collaboration, and innovation. Attendees will gain insights into the latest breakthroughs in care, from cutting-edge research to emerging scientific advancements, equipping them with new techniques and knowledge that enhance patient outcomes.

Known for its holistic, team-based approach to improving care, PVA's Summit fosters connections across disciplines, encourages innovation in treatment, and advances every aspect of care, from daily rehabilitation to potential cures for paralysis. Since its inception, the event has awarded more than 2,800 scholarships to frontline clinicians and funded over 600 speakers, supporting a growing network of professionals dedicated to excellence in care in securing continuing education credits.





# SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

## Interdisciplinary Approach

Often individuals with catastrophic injuries or spinal cord-related diseases must manage secondary conditions that accompany paralysis. When care is not a coordinated team approach, those conditions can reduce quality of life and even become life-threatening. Thus, care for individuals with SCI/D requires a holistic approach. Collaboration among a multidisciplinary team of health professionals is critical.

For more than a decade, PVA's Healthcare Summit has promoted such an approach by convening physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, therapists, researchers, pharmacists, dietitians, and educators to present best practices and evidence-based models, share experiences and challenges with fellow peers, and exchange knowledge that advance SCI/D care.

## Network

PVA's Summit and Expo encourages learning, advancing science, and building relationships that improve overall patient care. The Summit also offers unmatched opportunities to expand knowledge and provide "take home" practices that will help every attendee immediately integrate care for their patients.

With more than 500 of the world's brightest minds together and dedicated to advancing the care of individuals with SCI/D, virtually every presentation highlights the latest developments in clinical practice, research, and emerging technologies. All attendees are encouraged to build a "lifeline" of resources by accessing their peers' specific areas of expertise and becoming a lifeline for others who share a commitment to optimizing care for the most vulnerable patient population.



# DOWNLOAD THE MOBILE APP!

**The app is the go-to resource for information about events, speakers, and more.**

It offers real-time schedule updates, sponsor symposium times and topics, and an expo floor plan for locating exhibitors/sponsors. Important notifications will be sent out via the app throughout the event.



- **Go-to Resource for Summit Information**
- **Interactive Expo Guide and Floor Plan**
- **Real-time Schedule Updates**
- **Notifications Throughout the Week**

Download Online at: <https://rb.gy/zim3s>  
or via the Apple Store  
or Google Play Store





# SUMMIT AWARDS

## Clinical Excellence Awards



Paralyzed Veterans of America established the Clinical Excellence Awards in 2013 to recognize clinicians for exceptional professional achievement, contributions and advocacy in SCI/D including MS and/or ALS healthcare. We selected six individuals who consistently seek to expand care for those who need it, are regularly accessible and available with compassionate care to their patients, are innovative in developing solutions for patients, and who reach their hand out to those coming behind them, mentoring and developing our next generation of caregivers.



**Elizabeth Carbonneau, LISW-CP**  
SCI/D Program Coordinator  
*VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System*



**William Scott Doerhoff, PT,  
DPT, MS, GCS**  
Physical Therapy Clinical Specialist  
*Central Arkansas Veterans Health  
Care System*



**Thomas M. Dixon, PhD, ABPP (RP)**  
Clinical Psychologist  
*Louis Stokes Cleveland VA  
Medical Center*



**Doug Ota, MD**  
Chief, SCI/D Service  
*VA Palo Alto Health Care System*



**Heather Pfleider, M.Ed., CTRS**  
Recreation Therapist  
*VA Boston Health Care System*



**Katelyn Murray, LCSW**  
Social Worker – SCI North  
*Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital*

# SUMMIT STAFF



## Summit Program Committee

- Kenneth Lee, MD  
*Committee Chair*
- Bill Lawson
- Jeri Muse, PhD, DAAPM
- Kimberley Monden, PhD
- Heidi Maloni, PhD
- April Conway, NP
- Colleen Counsell, MSN
- Jake Herzog, RN
- Angela Weir, RN
- Jodie Haselkorn, MD
- Huned Patwa, MD
- Maureen Jennings, DPT
- Alicia Sloan, MSW
- Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD
- Ryan Madjos, RN-CRRN
- Lauryn Wasil, OTR/L, AIT

## PVA Summit Task Force

- Lindsay Perlman, MPH  
*Summit Task Force Co-Chair*
- Hannah Buchholz, MBA  
*Summit Task Force Co-Chair*
- Noel Abizo
- Brad Coleman
- Shakira Douglas
- Jonathan Franklin
- Shyanne Hardy
- Jennifer Hill
- Jennifer Massey
- Rachel Nelms
- Kristina Packard
- Marisa Ramos
- Brianna Shriner
- Oname Thompson
- Angela Weir, RN
- Joyce Williams

## Conference Registration Desk Hours

Located at the Celestin Foyer Registration Desk

<b>Sunday, August 24</b> .....	12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, August 25</b> .....	7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, August 26</b> .....	9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, August 27</b> .....	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.





# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## Homer Townsend Keynote

### ANDREW H. HANSEN, PhD

“MADE to RECOVER – Practical Products  
Developed to Enhance Engagement and  
Reintegration of Veterans with SCI/D”



**Andrew Hansen** grew up on a farm in northern Iowa. After high school, he went on to earn degrees in biomedical engineering from the University of Iowa (BSE in 1995) and Northwestern University (MS in 1998, PhD in 2002). Andrew has worked for the VA since 2006, and at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System since 2009. His research and development interests are broad and include development and evaluation of rehabilitation technologies for Veterans with amputations and Veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders. Andrew co-founded the Minneapolis Adaptive Design & Engineering (MADE) Program with Dr. Gary Goldish in 2010. That program grew into a new VA Rehabilitation Research Development and Translation Center in October 2023 named the Rehabilitation & Engineering Center for Optimizing Veteran Engagement & Reintegration (RECOVER). Andrew is the Director of RECOVER and a Research Biomedical Engineer at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System. He is also a Professor of Rehabilitation Science and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Minnesota.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## Tuesday Keynote

### NORA FRITZ, PhD, PT

“Moving Forward: Novel Approaches to Assessing and Improving Function in Multiple Sclerosis”



**Dr. Nora Fritz** is an Associate Professor in the Physical Therapy Program, Department of Health Care Sciences and Department of Neurology at Wayne State University. She also serves as the Director of Research for the Department of Health Care Sciences.

As the director of the Neuroimaging and Neurorehabilitation Laboratory, Dr. Fritz's general research interests focus on understanding the interaction of cognition and mobility in individuals with neurodegenerative diseases. An overarching goal of this work is to pair clinical and neuroimaging measures to better understand these relationships and their potential role in prediction for rehabilitation success. The long-term goal of the laboratory aims to augment recovery of individuals with neurodegenerative diseases by developing neurorehabilitation techniques that enhance real-world function.

Her laboratory is currently funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers, TEVA, and the American Physical Therapy Association, Michigan.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## Wednesday Keynote

### ILEANA HOWARD, MD

“Tenacity and Resilience: What ALS taught us”



**Ileana Howard, MD** is the Medical Co-Director of the ALS Center of Excellence at the VA Puget Sound in Seattle, Washington, where she established and now oversees one of the busiest ALS programs in the Veterans Health Administration. In addition to her local responsibilities, she serves as the national Associate Director of Neurology for ALS in the Veterans Health Administration to provide oversight for the ALS System of Care, as well as establish and monitor adherence to national standards of care for Veterans with ALS. Dr. Howard obtained her undergraduate degree in chemistry at Smith College followed by a Fulbright fellowship to perform public health research in Spain. She attended Harvard Medical School, followed by an internal medicine internship at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation residency at the University of Washington. She was hired as a staff physician in the Rehabilitation Care Services department of the VA Puget Sound in 2008 and obtained dual board certifications in PM&R and Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Dr. Howard practices at the VA Puget Sound in Seattle, Washington and is a Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Washington. She has received local and national clinical excellence awards by the Paralyzed Veterans of America in recognition of her work to advance the care of Veterans with ALS. She served as an invited committee member for the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine workgroup which recently released the report “Living with ALS,” outlining recommendations to improve therapeutic development and enhance quality of life for persons and families affected by ALS. She has numerous publications and national presentations on the rehabilitative management of ALS.

# SUMMIT SPONSORS

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## Welcome Reception



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# EXPO SCHEDULE



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025 | 11:00AM - 7:30PM

TIME	EVENT
11:00am - 12:00pm	Vehicle Only Check-In
12:00pm - 3:00pm	Exhibitor Check-In
12:00pm - 5:00pm	Exhibitor Setup
5:00pm - 7:30pm	Welcome Reception (Expo Open)

## MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025 | 10:00AM - 3:30PM

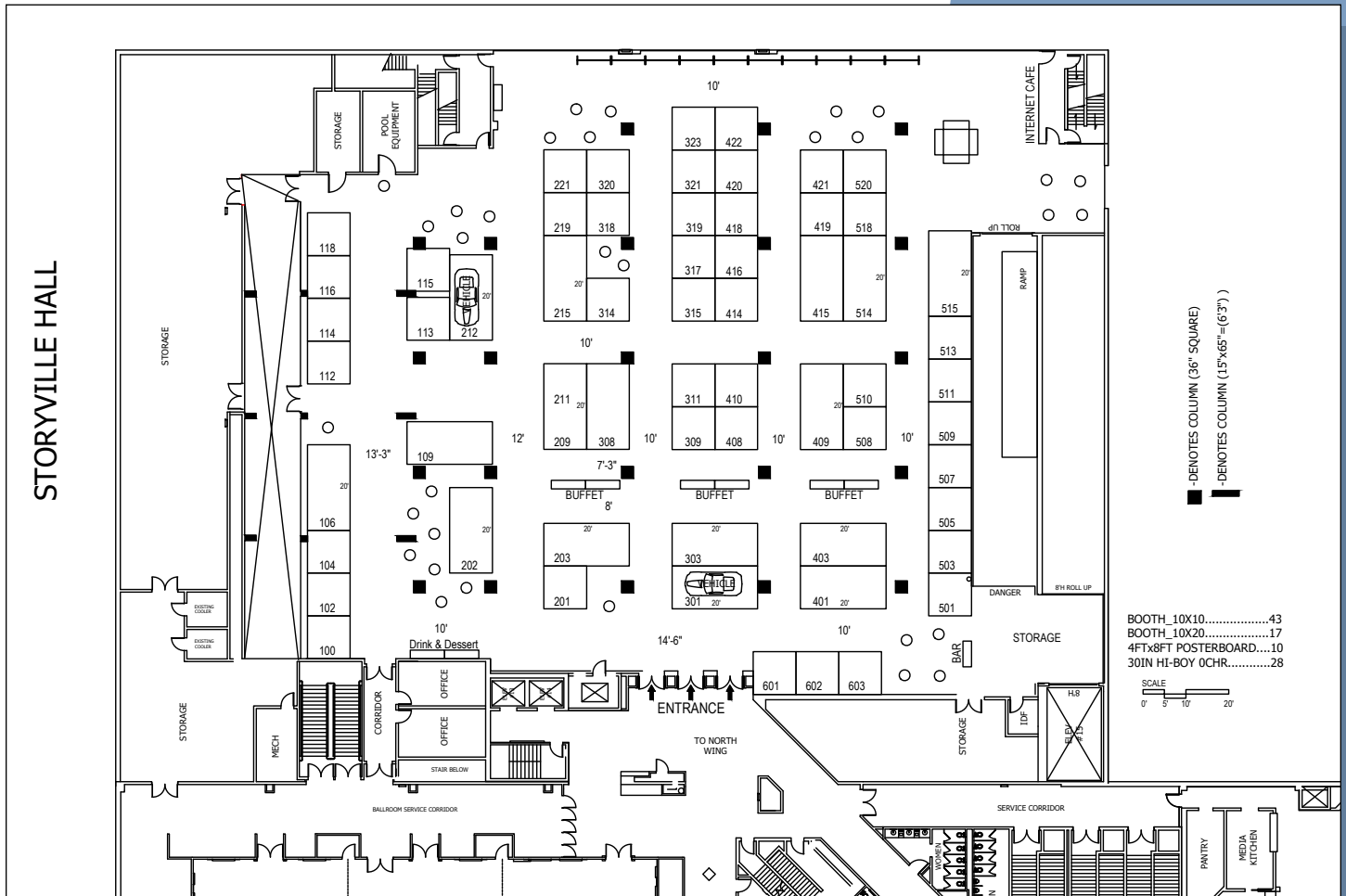
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break (Expo Open)
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch (Expo Open)
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break (Expo Open)
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Poster Viewing Cocktail Hour (Expo Open)

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 | 9:30AM - 3:30PM

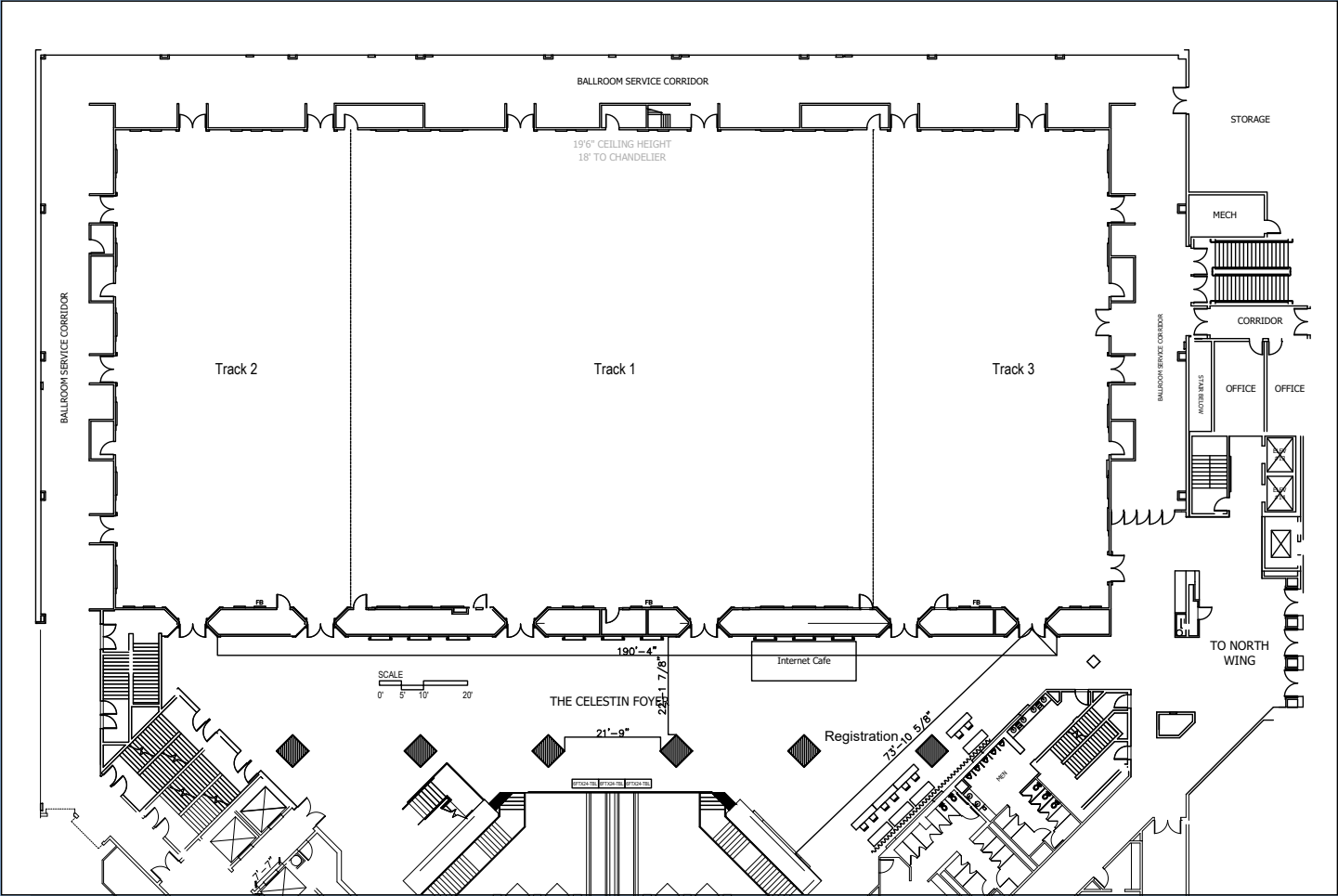
9:30am - 10:30am	Coffee Break (Expo Open)
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch (Expo Open)
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break (Expo Open)
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Exhibitor Move-Out

# EXPO HALL

## EXHIBIT HALL



# TRACK ROOMS/REGISTRATION AREA





# EXPO BOOTHS



## GOLD SPONSORS

Biogen*	403
First Nation Group	202
Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma America	203
NMEDA**	301
Onward Medical	303

## SILVER SPONSORS

Genentech	601
Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation	201
TG Therapeutics	603

## SUPPORTING SPONSORS

Permobil	419
Quantum Rehab	109

\* Also sponsoring Welcome Reception

\*\* Also sponsoring VIP Reception

## EXHIBITORS

AltimateMedical	215
Amneal	320
Amylior Inc.	321
ANEUVO	209
Augmental	309
Aurora Manufacturing	516
Avazzia, Inc.	510
Best Priced Products, Inc.	308
Bioservo AB	315
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation	418
Cionic	514
Coloplast	410
Ekso Bionics	420
Etac North America	515
Exokinetics	518
Harmar	414
Hollister Incorporated	106

# EXPO BOOTHS



Human Engineering Research Laboratories	323
H-Wave	415
ImproveAbility LLC	317
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.	100
Maxim Healthcare Services	416
Merz Therapeutics	319
National Cemetery Association	116
National MS Society	513
NATROX Wound Care	503
Neurolumen	409
North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium	118
Obi Robot - DESIN, LLC	104
Parable Health	422
Pentec Heath	102
Piramal Critical Care	508
Pisces Healthcare Solutions	507
Probed Medical USA Inc.	421
PVA Research and Education	Table

PVA Publications and Programs	Table
Quest Healthcare, A Division of Quest Products, LLC	408
QuickChange/UI Medical	314
Raz Design Inc.	112
Restorative Therapies	221
Sanofi	114
Smith & Nephew, Inc.	401
Solventum	505
Strolll	602
Sunrise Medical	115
Synapse Biomedical, Inc.	318
Tolt Technologies LLC	113
Tranquility Incontinence Products	311
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Suicide Prevention (SOP)	501
VA ALS System of Care	Table
VA MS Centers of Excellence	219
Vantage Mobility	212

# SUMMIT AGENDA





# SUMMIT AGENDA

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

TIME	PRECONFERENCE INSTITUTE TRACK 2: CELESTIN F-H	PRECONFERENCE INSTITUTE TRACK 3: CELESTIN A-C	PRECONFERENCE INSTITUTE TRACK 4: STRAND 12
12:00pm - 7:00pm	Registration   Celestin Foyer Registration Desk		
1:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>1:00pm-3:00pm (PC-251)</b> <b>SCI 101; ALS 101; MS 101:</b> <b>Nuts and Bolts of Understanding and Managing SCI&amp;D from onset to throughout life</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Lindsey Wooliscroft, MD James Orengo, MD Tommy Yu, MD, PhD  <b>Moderator:</b> April Conway, NP	<b>1:00pm-5:00pm (PC-253)</b> <b>Manual Wheelchair Essentials: Adjustment and Training to Improve Independence</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Lynn Worobey, PhD Rachel Hibbs, DPT, NCS  <b>Moderator:</b> Jeri Muse, PhD, DAAPM	<b>3:00pm-5:00pm (PC-254)</b> <b>VA Immersive: Defining a New Reality in Care Delivery and Experience</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Anne Bailey, PharmD Glen Graham, MD, PhD Evan Davis, CTRS  <b>Moderator:</b> Heidi Maloni, PhD, NP
	<b>3:00pm-5:00pm (PC-252)</b> <b>Interdisciplinary care: Improving Access via both In-person and Virtual MS Care</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Lisa McPeak, MD Alicia Sloan, MSW, LICSW Wendy Miller, RN  <b>Moderator:</b> April Conway, NP		
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Welcome Reception   Storyville Hall		

# SUMMIT AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 25	
TIME	EVENT
7:00am - 8:00 am	<b>Registration</b>   Celestin Foyer Registration Desk
7:00am - 8:00 am	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>   Celestin Hall Foyer
8:00am - 8:15am	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Robert Thomas <i>National President, Paralyzed Veterans of America</i> Carl Blake <i>Chief Executive Officer, Paralyzed Veterans of America</i>
8:15am - 9:00am	<b>Keynote Address</b> The Honorable Douglas A. Collins <i>Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>
9:00am - 10:00am	<b>Opening Keynote Address</b> <b>Homer Townsend, Jr. Memorial Lecture</b> <b>(2501) MADE to RECOVER – Practical Products Developed to Enhance Engagement and Reintegration of Veterans with SCI/D</b> Andrew Hansen, PhD
10:00am - 5:00pm	<b>Registration</b>   Celestin Foyer Registration Desk



# SUMMIT AGENDA

## MONDAY, AUGUST 25

TIME	TRACK 1 CELESTIN DE	TRACK 2 CELESTIN F-H	TRACK 3 CELESTIN A-C	TRACK 4 STRAND 12
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break   Storyville Hall			
10:30am - 12:00pm	<p><b>(90 min) (2502)</b> <b>Cracking the Spinal Cord Injury Code: 10 Principles, One Incredible Journey</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Abigail Ruppel, PT, DPT, NCS</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Kenneth Lee, MD</p>	<p><b>(90 min) (2503) Take Control Back Program: Implementation of an Interdisciplinary Comprehensive Neurogenic Bowel and Bladder Training Program</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Elizabeth Dominick PT, DPT, NCS Shelly Hsieh, MD Loriann O'Brien, MSN, RN, CRRN</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Juliet Pierce, RN</p>	<p><b>(90 min) (2504) Intravenous Medications for Veterans with Multiple Sclerosis: Practical and Logistical Issues</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Francesca Bagnato, MD, PhD Ahmad Toubasi, MD Heidi Maloni, PhD, NPD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jodie Haselkorn, MD</p>	<p><b>(90 min) (2505) Rehabilitation Reinvented: Tech-Driven Solutions for ALS Care</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Shane Chanpimol, PT, DPT, NCS Robert Hand, PT, DPT, NCS</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Huned Patwa, MD</p>
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch   Storyville Hall			
	Expo & Poster Viewing   Storyville Hall			
12:00pm - 12:45pm	<p><b>Sponsor Symposium (12:00pm)</b> <b>Track 3: Celestin A-C</b> <b>First Nation Group • Lunch Provided in the Room</b></p>			
12:15pm - 1:00pm	<p><b>Sponsor Symposium (12:15pm)</b> <b>Track 2: Celestin F-H</b> <b>MTPA • Lunch Provided in the Room</b></p>			



# SUMMIT AGENDA

## MONDAY, AUGUST 25

TIME	TRACK 1 CELESTIN DE	TRACK 2 CELESTIN F-H	TRACK 3 CELESTIN A-C	TRACK 4 STRAND 12
1:30pm - 3:00pm	<p><b>(45 min) (2506)</b> <b>Building a safer tomorrow: Reducing risk in patient handling and mobility for SCI/D populations</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Pauline (Tony) Hilton, DrPH, RN, MSN Margaret Arnold, PT Jonathon Acierno, RN Jaime Grave, RN</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Colleen Counsell, MSN</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2508)</b> <b>Home-based intervention via video-conferencing: Advancing Spinal Cord Injury Research</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Dora Ifon, PhD Ashraf Gorgey, MPT, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Kimberley Monden, PhD</p>	<p><b>(90 min) (2510)</b> <b>Preventing Neurodegeneration and Disability Progression in Multiple Sclerosis</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Lindsey Wooliscroft, MD Rebecca Spain, MD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lindsay Perlman, MPH</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2511)</b> <b>Mind in motion: cognition and behavior in ALS</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Brittany Vazquez, PsyD Ashlyn Mitchell, PsyD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jake Herzog, RN</p>
	<p><b>(45 min) (2507)</b> <b>Power wheelchair footplate pressure profiles during wheelchair operations: implications for wheelchair user safety</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Melissa Alcorn, PhD Kath Bogie, DPhil, FAIMBE Joseph Lerchbaker, BSE</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Colleen Counsell, MSN</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2509)</b> <b>Implementation of Fire Readiness Education Program among Wheelchair and Scooter Users</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ziwe Li, MSOT</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Kimberley Monden, PhD</p>		<p><b>(45 min) (2512)</b> <b>Navigating Complex Conversations in ALS</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mandi Bailey, BS Jill Brittain, BS Melinda Cavanaugh, PhD, LCSW Beth Whittington, MD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jacob Herzog, RN</p>
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break   Storyville Hall			

# SUMMIT AGENDA

## MONDAY, AUGUST 25

TIME	TRACK 1 CELESTIN DE	TRACK 2 CELESTIN F-H	TRACK 3 CELESTIN A-C	TRACK 4 STRAND 12
3:30pm - 5:00pm	<p><b>(45 min) (2513) Issues Beyond Access: A Retrospective Look at Prescription and Utilization Barriers for Home-Use Exoskeletons</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Cassandra Hogan, PT, DPT, NCS Kathryn Fitzgerald, PT DPT, NCS</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Bill Lawson</p>	<p><b>(2515) Scientific Paper Lightning Round</b> <b>(3:30pm-3:45pm)</b> Promoting neurological recovery in acute and chronic traumatic spinal cord injury models with Trk agonist. <i>Arthur Sefiani, PhD</i></p> <p><b>(3:45pm-4:00pm)</b> PAK1 inhibition with Romidepsin attenuates H-reflex hyperexcitability after spinal cord injury. <i>Sierra Kauer, PhD</i></p> <p><b>(4:00pm-4:15pm)</b> A Clinical Translational Study: Gene Variants as Determinants of Phantom Limb Pain Development, <i>Philip Effraim, MD, PhD</i></p> <p><b>(4:15pm-4:30pm)</b> Key determinants of neurological recovery following acute traumatic cervical spinal cord injury. <i>Julio Furlan, MD, PhD, FC</i></p> <p><b>(4:30pm-4:45pm)</b> Colonoscopy Complications in Persons with Chronic Spinal Cord Injury. <i>Michelle Trbovich, MD</i></p> <p><b>(4:45pm-5:00pm)</b> Tracking Choroid Plexus Volume Changes in Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis: A Longitudinal Imaging Study of Neuroinflammation. <i>Naghme Abbasi Kasbi, MD</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2516) Summary of the International Symposium on Gait and Balance in Multiple Sclerosis: Sleep and Function</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Izzy Abbas Mark Manago PT, PhD Nora Fritz, PT, DPT, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lauryn Wasil, OTR/L, AIT</p>	<p><b>(45 min)(2518) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis estimated prevalence cases from 2022 to 2030, data from the national ALS Registry</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Paul Mehta, MD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ryan Madjos, CRRN</p>
	<p><b>(45 min) (2514) Accessing Technology: High Impact Solutions for those with Complex Injuries</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> James Gardner, OTR/L, ATP</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Bill Lawson</p>		<p><b>(45 min) (2517) The effect of cardiovascular comorbidities on clinical outcome in multiple sclerosis</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Francesa Bagnato, MD, PhD Heidi Maloni, PhD Ernest Aucone, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lauryn Wasil, OTR/L, AIT</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2519) A Provider's Guide for Acute Care Health Outcome Improvement for ALS Patients</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Joyce Boyd, DNP, AGNP Ileana Howard, MD James Wymer, MD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ryan Madjos, CRRN</p>
5:00pm - 6:30pm	<p><b>Poster Viewing   Storyville Hall</b> <i>Refreshments Provided</i></p>		<p><b>MS (MSCoE) Network of Care Meeting (5:15-6:45pm)</b> <i>Open to all</i></p>	<p><b>ALS System of Care Meeting (5:15-6:45pm)</b> <i>Open to all</i></p>

# SUMMIT AGENDA

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

TIME	EVENT			
7:00am - 8:00am	Continental Breakfast   Celestin Foyer			
8:00am - 8:15am	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Lindsay Perlman, MPH, <i>Director Research and Education, Paralyzed Veterans of America</i>			
8:15am - 9:30am	<b>(2520) John M. Whitaker Memorial Lecture</b> <b>Introduction</b> Anza Memon, MD <b>Moving Forward: Novel Approaches to Assessing and Improving Function in Multiple Sclerosis</b> Nora Fritz, PT, DPT, PhD <i>Associate Professor, Physical Therapy Program and Department of Neurology,            Director of Research, Department of Health Care Sciences Wayne State University</i>			
9:30am - 5:00pm	Registration   Celestin Foyer			
9:30am - 10:30am	Coffee Break   Storyville Hall			
TIME	TRACK 1 CELESTIN DE	TRACK 2 CELESTIN F-H	TRACK 3 CELESTIN A-C	TRACK 4 STRAND 12
10:30am - 12:00pm	<b>(45 min) (2521)</b> <b>Sleep apnea's effect on cardiovascular function in individuals living with spinal cord injury (SCI)</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Julia Coschignano, BSc Julio Furlan, MD, PhD  <b>Moderator:</b> Kenneth Lee, MD	<b>(90 min) (2523)</b> <b>Effective pressure relief for clients using complex power wheelchairs: Barriers and potential solutions</b>  <b>Speaker:</b> Amber Ward, OTR/L  <b>Moderator:</b> Maureen Jennings, DPT	<b>(90 min) (2524)</b> <b>The Revised Diagnostic Criteria for Multiple Sclerosis</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Francesca Bagnato, MD, PhD Suma Shah, MD  <b>Moderator:</b> Heidi Maloni, PhD, NP	<b>(90 min) (2525)</b> <b>Managing Complex ALS: An Interdisciplinary Round Table</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Ileana Howard, MD, Shane Chanpimol, PT, DPT, NCS Diane Kaliris, PT, DPT, NCS Samuel Talisman, OTD, OTR/L Sarah Kiefer Luhring Leah Darling, LCSW Christine Brown, PhD Maria Switzer, RDN  <b>Moderator:</b> Huned Patwa, MD
	<b>(45 min) (2522)</b> <b>Diaphragm Pacing and Colostomies in SCI: Optimizing These to Improve Care and Quality of Life</b>  <b>Speaker:</b> Raymond Onders, MD  <b>Moderator:</b> Kenneth Lee, MD			



# SUMMIT AGENDA

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

TIME	TRACK 1 CELESTIN DE	TRACK 2 CELESTIN F-H	TRACK 3 CELESTIN A-C	TRACK 4 STRAND 12
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch   Storyville Hall Poster Viewing			
12:00pm - 12:45pm	Sponsor Symposium: Track 2, Celestin F-H Onward Medical • Lunch Provided in the Room			
1:30pm - 3:00pm	<p><b>(45 min) (2526)</b> <b>Content Validity of a New Nutrition Knowledge Questionnaire for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injuries/ Disorders</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Rena Steinger-Chadwickm, MPH Sherri Lavela, PhD, MPH, MBA</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jake Herzog, RN</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2528)</b> <b>Loneliness Among People with Spinal Cord Injury: A Longitudinal National Survey Study</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Susan Robinson-Whelen, PhD Heather Taylor, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Kimberley Monden, PhD</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2530)</b> <b>Improving the detection of myelin and axonal injury in multiple sclerosis</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Ahmad Toubasi, MD Francesca Bagnato, MD, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Angela Weir, RN</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2532)</b> <b>Mind and Body: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Physical Activity for Veterans with ALS</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Shane Chanpimol, PT, DPT, NCS Ashlyn Mitchell, PsyD Christine Brown, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lindsay Perlman, MPH</p>
	<p><b>(45 min) (2527)</b> <b>Penicillin Allergy Assessment and Oral Amoxicillin Challenge Protocol on an Inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Unit</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Kristin Myers, PharmD, BCPS Daniel McPartlin, PA</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jake Herzog, RN</p>	<p><b>(45 mins) (2529)</b> <b>Perceived Burdensomeness and Thwarted Belongingness Among Persons Living with a Spinal Cord Injury or Disorder</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Kelsey Berryman, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Kimberley Monden, PhD</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2531)</b> <b>Novel small molecules show promise in treating multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Michael Levin, MD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Angela Weir, RN</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2533)</b> <b>Ready for Research: Advancing the Science of ALS in the Veterans Health Administration</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Ileana Howard, MD Ashley Lee, MS</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lindsay Perlman, MPH</p>
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break   Storyville Hall			

# SUMMIT AGENDA

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

TIME	TRACK 1 CELESTIN DE	TRACK 2 CELESTIN F-H	TRACK 3 CELESTIN A-C	TRACK 4 STRAND 12
3:30pm - 5:00pm	<p><b>(45 min) (2534)</b> <b>Development of a Wheelchair Seating Assessment Tool</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Rachel Hibbs, DPT, NCS, ATP/SMS Juli Harrison, OTD, OTR/L, ATP</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Maureen Jennings, DPT</p>	<p><b>(2536) Scientific Paper Lightning Round</b> <b>(3:30pm-3:45pm)</b> Backward is the Way Forward: Preliminary Effectiveness of a Backward Walking Intervention in Multiple Sclerosis. <i>Nora Fritz, PT, DPT, PhD</i></p> <p><b>(3:45pm-4:00pm)</b> Exploring Factors Affecting Respiratory Function in Multiple Sclerosis. <i>Amani Assiry, MsRT</i></p> <p><b>(4:00pm-4:15pm)</b> A systematic review on sleep disorders in individuals living with spinal cord injury. <i>Julio Furlan, MD, PhD</i></p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2537)</b> <b>Choose VA: The Choice for Comprehensive Lifelong Excellence in MS Care</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mitchell Wallin, MD, MPH Bethany Ferguson, LCSW-C, CCM Francesca Bagnato, MD, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Alicia Sloan, MSW</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2539)</b> <b>ExciFlex: effective mobile health technology to accelerate healing of pressure injuries and decrease wound infection</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Kath Bogie, DPhil, FAIMBE</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Colleen Counsell, MSN</p>
	<p><b>(45 min) (2535)</b> <b>Enhancing Safety and Efficiency in Wheelchair Transfers Through Caregiver Training and Innovation</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Shantanu Satpute, PhD Alicia Koontz, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Maureen Jennings, DPT</p>	<p><b>(4:15pm-4:30pm)</b> Oral health problems in individuals living with spinal cord injuries and disorders. <i>Sherri Lavela, PhD, MPH, MBA</i></p> <p><b>(4:30pm-4:45pm)</b> Interpersonal Violence Against People with Spinal Cord Injury: Results of a Qualitative Study. <i>Susan Robinson-Whelen, PhD</i></p> <p><b>(4:45pm-5:00pm)</b> The Role Environmental Factors in Explaining Pain Interference Among People with Spinal Cord Injuries. <i>Martin Forchheimer, MPP</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD</p>	<p><b>(45 mins) (2538)</b> <b>Thinking Outside the Clinic Box</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Bethany Ferguson, LCSW-C, CCM Carey DeLuca, CRNP, FNP-C, AGNP-C Brittany Vazquez, PsyD Shane Chanpimol, PT, DPT, NCS Laura Elton, LCSW</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Alicia Sloan, MSW</p>	<p><b>(45 min) 2540)</b> <b>Enhancing Remote Home Assessments: Integrating 3D Modeling Technology for Advanced Practice</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Jaewon Kang, PhD, MSOT</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Colleen Counsell, MSN</p>

# SUMMIT AGENDA

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

TIME	EVENT
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Poster Viewing (Cocktail Hour–Cash Bar)   Celestin Foyer
5:15pm - 6:15pm	VA SCI Staff Meeting   Track 1 – Celestin D-E
6:30pm - 8:30pm	PVA Healthcare Appreciation Reception   Elite Hall, Level 1



# SUMMIT AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

TIME	TRACK 1 CELESTIN DE	TRACK 2 CELESTIN F-H	TRACK 3 CELESTIN A-C	TRACK 4 STRAND 12
7:00am - 8:00am	Continental Breakfast   Celestin Foyer			
8:00am - 8:15am	Welcome Remarks Kenneth Lee, MD, <i>Program Chair</i>			
8:15am - 9:00am	PVA Advocacy / Clinical Excellence Awards <i>Angela Weir, RN, Director of Medical Services, Paralyzed Veterans of America</i>			
9:00am - 10:00am	(2541) Keynote Address Tenacity and Resilience: What ALS taught Us Ileana Howard, MD			
10:00am - 2:00pm	Registration   Celestin Foyer			
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break   Celestin Foyer			





# SUMMIT AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

TIME	TRACK 1 CELESTIN DE	TRACK 2 CELESTIN F-H	TRACK 3 CELESTIN A-C	TRACK 4 STRAND 12
10:30am - 12:00pm	<p><b>(45 min) (2542)</b> <b>What can multi-omics tell us? Integrated approaches to provide a deeper understanding of secondary health conditions after SCI</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Letitia Graves, PhD, RN Kath Bogie, DPhil, FAIMBE</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Bill Lawson</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2544)</b> <b>Spirituality is everybody's business</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Catherine Wilson, PsyD, ABPP Ashley Lee, MS Martin Forchheimer, MPP</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jennifer Massey, BHA</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2546)</b> <b>Complex Seating and Multiple Sclerosis: Interface Pressure Mapping to Optimize Access to Assistive Technology</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Malcolm Reed, OTR/L Roxeanne Segina, MS, CCC-SLP</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jodie Haselkorn, MD</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2548)</b> <b>Bringing specialized care closer to SCI/D Veterans: A Hub/Spoke collaboration for annual exams using Telehealth</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> April Jones, RN, BSN, CRRN Melissa Mendelson, LCSW</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> April Conway, NP</p>
	<p><b>(45 min) (2543)</b> <b>The Effect of Design on Long-Term Care Outcomes</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mark Lichter, AIA Mark Thompson, AIA</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Bill Lawson</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2545)</b> <b>Addressing Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs): Underlying in Patient Care</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Cynthia Rolston, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jennifer Massey, BHA</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2547)</b> <b>Diet and MS: What we know and what we're learning</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Brooks Wingo, PhD, FACRM Meghan Taylor, MAEd, MS, RDN</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jodie Haselkorn, MD</p>	<p><b>(45 min) (2549)</b> <b>Osteomyelitis CDC Surveillance Definition in SCI, National Survey results and understanding what is needed</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Swapna Johnson-Kunjukutty, MD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> April Conway, NP</p>
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch   Storyville Hall			

# SUMMIT AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

TIME	TRACK 1 CELESTIN DE	TRACK 2 CELESTIN F-H	TRACK 3 CELESTIN A-C	TRACK 4 STRAND 12
1:30pm - 3:00pm	<p>(45 min) (2550) <b>A healthcare provider educational curriculum to manage loneliness in persons with spinal cord injuries/disorders</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Marissa Wirth, MPH Sherri Lavela, PhD, MPH, MBA</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jeri Muse, PhD, DAAPM</p>	<p>(90 min) (2552) <b>Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Spinal Cord Injury &amp; Disorder (SCI/D) Updated Inpatient Nurse Staffing Methodology Calculator</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Christa Reckner, RN, CRRN Kevin Sojourner, RN, Jeanni Leonard, MSN, RN</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ryan Madjos, CRRN</p>	<p>(90 min) (2553) <b>IMPACT-MS: A Novel Cognitive Remediation Program to Enhance Functional Outcomes in Veterans with Multiple Sclerosis</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Anza Memon, MD Nora Fritz, PT, DPT, PhD Kyrstina Mariouw, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Heidi Maloni, PhD, NP</p>	<p>(45 min) (2555) <b>Zero Harm: Using simulation to identify needs in treating and preventing pressure injuries</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Annabella Prince, RN Debra Bartoshevich, MSN Renada Rochon</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lauryn Wasil, OTR/L, AIT</p>
	<p>(45 min) (2551) <b>Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) treatment for Depression and Pain in SCI/D, MS and ALS</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Christina Hughes, MD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jeri Muse, PhD, DAAPM</p>		<p>(45 min) (2554) <b>Overview of Diagnosis and Treatment of Eye Movement Disorders in Multiple Sclerosis</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Alessandro Serra, MD, PhD</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Heidi Maloni, PhD, NP</p>	<p>(45 min) (2556) <b>Online Training Course for Clinicians in Adaptive Cycling</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Rachel Hibbs, DPT, NCS</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lauryn Wasil, OTR/L, AIT</p>



"Progress for the sake of progress is the ideology of a cancer cell"





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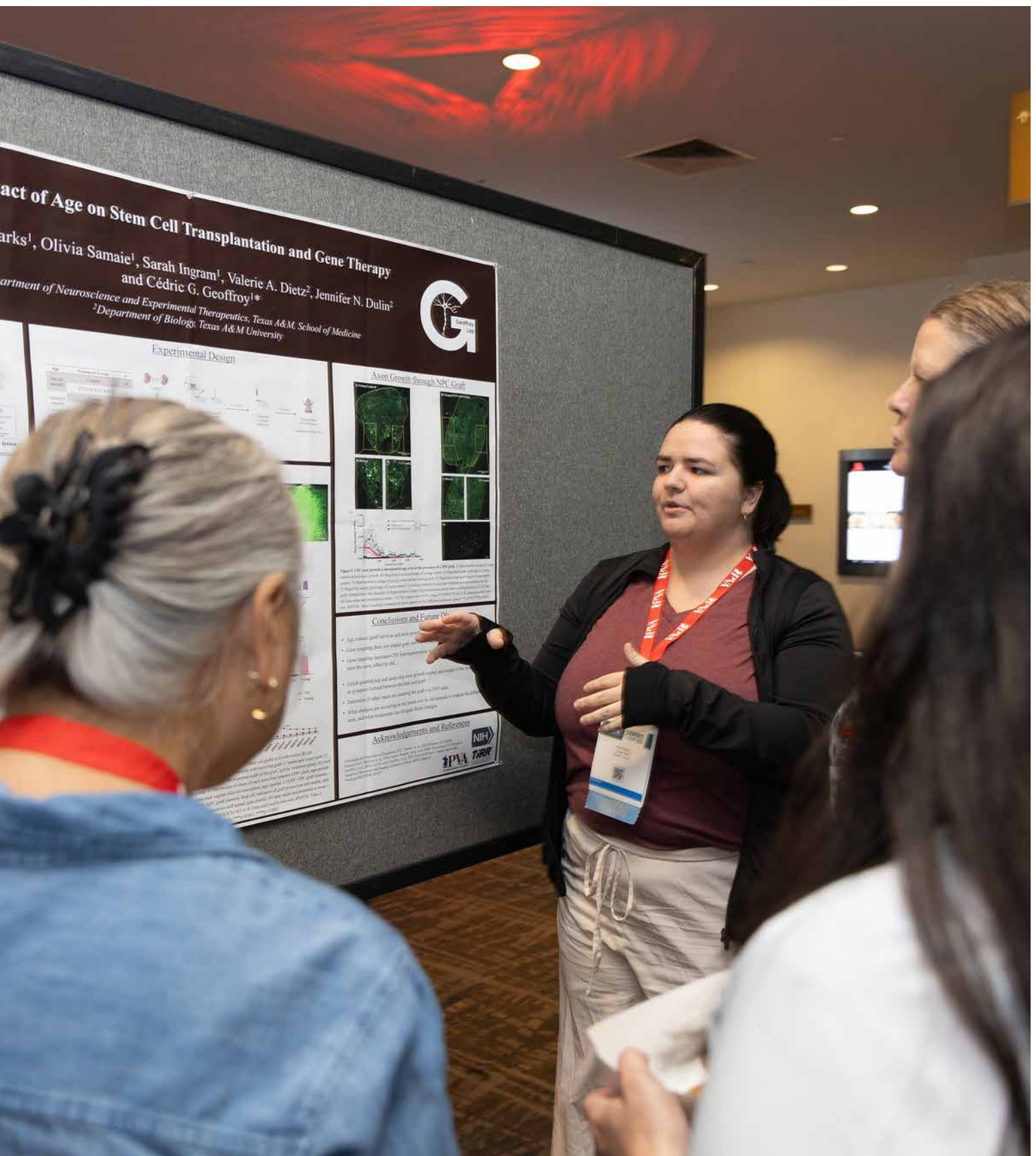
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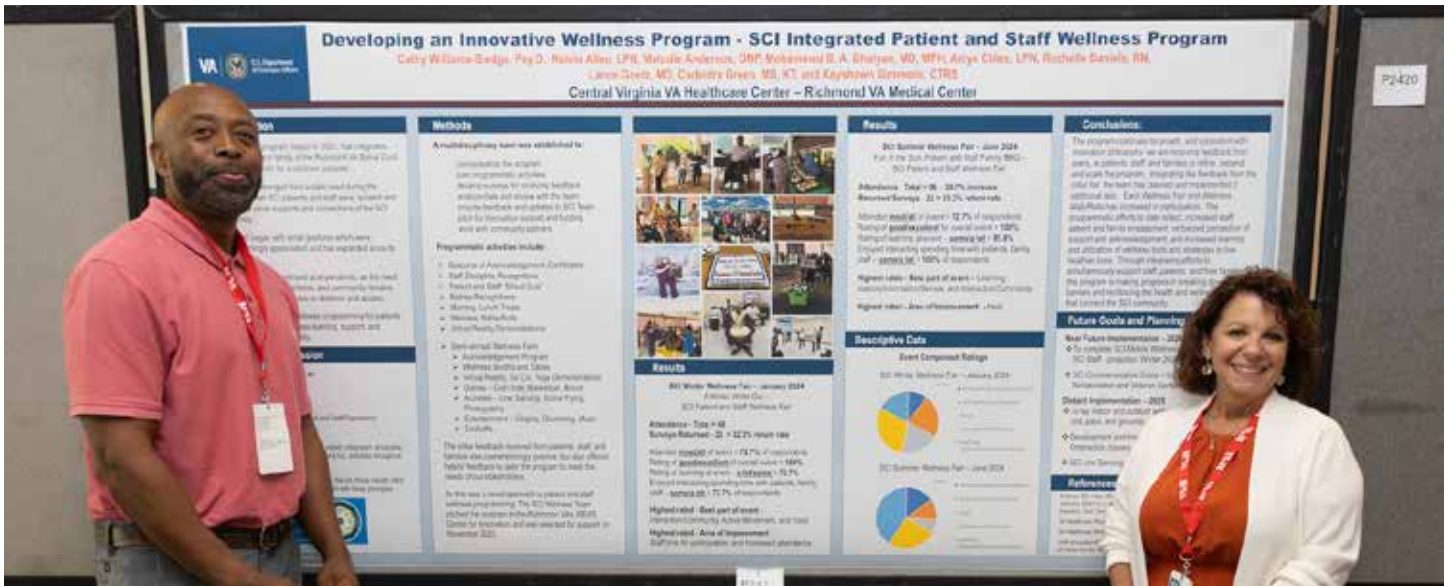


# POSTER PRESENTATIONS





# POSTER PRESENTATIONS



## P2501: Reducing Compassion Fatigue using Unit-Based Intervention

Staci Stark, RN, VA, NCHCS  
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## P2502: Tim Lowrey ALS Panels: Bringing Lived Experience into Undergraduate and Graduate Health Science Classrooms

Tim Abeska, JD  
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## P2503: Early Detection of Kidney Dysfunction using Cystatin-C in Spinal Cord Injury Patients

Andrew Grossman, MMS, PA-C  
Bruce W Carter Miami VAMC  
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## P2504: Increased independence in persons with impaired hand function by using power-enhancing glove assistive technology

Malin Regardt, OT  
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## P2505: Impact of vascular risk on cognitive functioning in Veterans with multiple sclerosis.

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## P2506: Exploring the use of MRI and DXA as measures of adiposity in multiple sclerosis research

Meghan Taylor, MAEd, MS, RDN  
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## P2507: MitoQ for Fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis: A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial

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and OHSU  
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## P2508: Exploring the Association of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors and Multiple Sclerosis

Afsaneh Shirani, MD, MSCI  
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## P2509: Sleep-Related Breathing Disorders in Para-Athletes Compared with Non-Disabled Athletes: A Systematic Review

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## P2510: Linking Wearable Sensor Data to Upper Extremity Function in Cervical Spinal Cord Injury

Cole Hagen, BS  
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## P2511: Diagnostic Optimization of Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) in a Spinal Cord Injury Unit (SCI)

Beatriz Restrepo, MD  
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## P2512: Examination of chronic pain interference in adults with spinal cord injury

Deanna Tuttle, MS  
Shriners Children's Chicago  
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# POSTER PRESENTATIONS



**P2513: Mammography Experiences of Women Veterans with Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders**

Christine Macri, MSN, RN, CMSRN  
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**P2514: Improvements seen in wheelchair users after using a disability-centered fitness facility for one year**

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**P2515: Addressing potentially inappropriate medication use and polypharmacy in SCI practice**

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**P2516: Motor evoked potentials and voluntary activation of upper limb muscles in chronic cervical SCI**

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**P2517: Considerable person-to-person variation seen in eating window of Veterans with paraplegia and obesity**

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**P2518: Apolipoprotein E in the Risk of Developing Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy and Neurological Diseases: A Review**

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**P2519: Association of Social Determinants of Health in Transverse Myelitis Clinical Outcomes at a Population Level**

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**P2520: Xerostomia in SCI, a James A. Haley VAMC QI project and implications for veteran research.**

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P2417



# Virtual Reality Immersion to Enhance Stimulation-Induced

Kevin M Fogliano<sup>1</sup>, Lisa M Lombardo<sup>1</sup>, C. Eric Heidom<sup>1,4</sup>, Michael J Fu<sup>1,2,4</sup>, Ronald J. ...  
 [1] Loughlin Strokes Cleveland, [2] Medical Center [3] Kent State University [4] Case Western Reserve University [5] Mersin

## Learning Objectives

- \* Describe the issues individuals with SCI experience with achieving appropriate exercise
- \* Describe novel virtual reality
- \* Discuss the role virtual reality immersion can have in exercise paradigms
- \* Explore the benefits of functional neuromuscular stimulation

## Background

- SCI can result in motor/sensory impairment, sedentary lifestyle, muscle atrophy and increases risk of cardiovascular disease (1)
- Exercise can decrease this risk. Functional Neuromuscular Stimulation (FNS) is one option to increase exercise intensity (2)
- Increased activity in higher brain centers (central command) has a role in the exercise cardiovascular response (3)
- Virtual reality gaming (VR) provides an immersive environment which can be combined with exercise to augment the central command response
- We developed a VR immersion system to combine with FNS exercise to amplify cardiovascular response

## Methods

Commercially available exercise equipment were adapted for individuals with paralysis. FNS was delivered via a custom 8-channel surface electrode which utilizes real-time handle (rowing) or angle (cycling) position to initiate muscle contractions to perform the exercise. VR games for rowing and cycling were developed that used real-time feedback of heart rate to provide an immersive experience. Data from 2 SCI participants with VR rowing (HR), rowing power, and individual effort were collected.

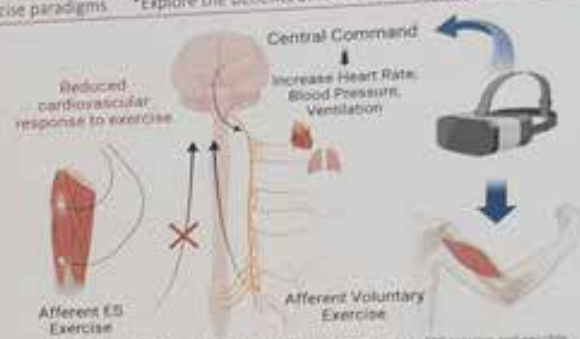


Figure 2. Graphic demonstrating the reduced cardiovascular response to FNS exercise and possible VR intervention. Created in BioRender.



Figure 3. Participant cycling (a) and rowing (b) with FNS and VR. Visual of VR cycling (c) and rowing (d) games.



Figure 1. Preliminary VR rowing study protocol.

## Results

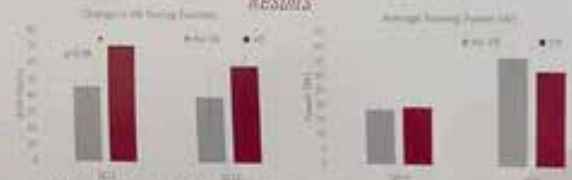


Figure 4. Average increase in HR from resting. VR was found by averaging final 30 sec of each bout.



Figure 5. Average rowing power (Watt) and normalized on Command power (Watt).





# **FIRST NATION** GROUP





# SPONSOR SYMPOSIUMS

**MONDAY, AUGUST 25**

## **First Nation Group**

**12:00pm, Track 3**

**Strategic Interventions for ALS: A Time-Sensitive Approach**

**Speakers:**

**Terry Latkovic**, Vice President, Sales + Business Development, First Nation Group

**Stacy Jewell**, Patient Solutions Director, First Nation Group

**Matt Luther**, Regional Sales Manager, First Nation Group

**Sean Mellor**, BSRT, RRT, Vice President, Sales + Customer Success, ABM Respiratory Care

## **Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma America, Inc.**

**12:15pm, Track 2**

**RADICAVA ORS®: A Proven Treatment Built on Experience**

**Speaker(s):**

**Jeffrey Rosenfeld PhD., MD, FAAN**

Professor of Neurology

Associate Chairman, Dept of Neurology

Director, Neuromuscular ALS/MND Program

Medical Director, The Center for Restorative Neurology

Loma Linda University School of Medicine

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 26**

## **Onward Medical**

**12:00pm, Track 2**

**Empowering Independence: Early real-world experience with the ONWARD ARC-EX System**

**Speakers:**

**Sean Sciara**, Vice President of Marketing, ONWARD Medical

**Dr. Candace Tefertiller**, PT, DPT, PhD, NCS, Executive Director of Research and Evaluation & Helen Phillips Levin Endowed Chair of Research, Craig Hospital, Denver, CO

**Dr. Jenny Kiratli**, PhD, Director of SCI Clinical Research, Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders Center, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, California



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

## 2025 PVA Healthcare Summit + Expo

### Live Conference

August 24 – August 27, 2025

New Orleans, LA

### Continuing Education Information

This continuing education activity is provided by AffinityCE and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). This activity provides continuing education credit for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, certified rehabilitation counselors, registered dietitians, and speech-language professionals. A statement of participation is available to other attendees.

**Course Registration Link:** <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=821000&>

**CE Information:** <https://www.summitpva.org/continuing-education>

### Learning Objectives

At the end of this activity, participants should be able to:

- List the clinical benefits of utilizing the VA healthcare system for life-long integrated MS care.
- Describe the disciplines and clinical roles common to a multidisciplinary ALS team.
- Identify the cognitive changes commonly observed in multiple sclerosis (MS) patients, focusing on declines in mental processing speed, complex attention, memory, and executive functions.
- Describe the role of neuropsychology in the care of individuals with ALS
- Recognize that people with significant hand function impairment have options to maximize the force and coordination of hand use in everyday activities.
- Analyze the role of neuropsychological assessment in evaluating cognitive functioning and identify the impact of vascular burden on cognitive decline.
- Describe how VA partners with military and community non-profit groups and industry to educate and support Veterans with MS, along with their families and caregivers
- Discuss current roles and future opportunities for health care providers, particularly in spinal cord injury (SCI) and dysfunction, multiple sclerosis (MS), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

# ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

## Disclosures

AffinityCE staff, PVA staff, as well as planners and reviewers, have **no relevant financial relationships** with ineligible companies associated with the content of this activity to disclose.

**Faculty disclosures** are provided for viewing and online access at <https://www.summitpva.org/continuing-education> prior to the launch of the program to participants and stated prior to the start of each presentation.

## Mitigation of Relevant Financial Relationships

AffinityCE adheres to the ACCME's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. Any individuals in a position to control the content of a CME activity, including faculty, planners, reviewers, or others, are required to disclose all relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies. All relevant financial relationships associated with the content of this activity for faculty when present, have been mitigated by the peer review of content by non-conflicted reviewers prior to the commencement of the program.

## Physicians



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AffinityCE and PVA. AffinityCE is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of up to 22.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Physician Assistants



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## Nurse Practitioners



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# ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

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## Occupational Therapists



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AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of up to 22.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Occupational Therapists should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Nurses



Continuing Nursing Education is provided for this program through the joint providership between PVA and AffinityCE. AffinityCE is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC). This activity provides a maximum of up to 22.50 contact hours of continuing nursing education credit.

## Physical Therapists



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AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of up to 22.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physical Therapists should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Social Workers

This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886551225-1163) for 17 continuing education contact hours.

## Rehabilitation Counselors



This activity has been submitted to the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) for 22.50 contact hours.



# ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

## Speech-Language Professionals



**ASHA CE**  
**APPROVED PROVIDER**

**AffinityCE**

Intermediate Level

Up to 2.10 ASHA CEUs

At the end of this activity, speech-language professionals (SLP) should be able to:

1. Define Cognitive Supported Learning (CSL) in the context of Spinal Cord Injury in Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation.
2. Discuss the SLP and interdisciplinary team role in supporting the care of individuals with ALS
3. Explain the challenges related to having complex conversations with veterans and caregivers.
4. Recognize through challenging case studies solutions that help individualize and optimize care.
5. Describe the importance of effective interdisciplinary communication and role sharing.
6. Identify how participation in educational and research activities related to MS can enhance one's own healthcare experience and lead to new opportunities to change behavior and practice in the MS community.
7. List the clinical benefits of utilizing the VA healthcare system for life-long integrated MS care.
8. Review the pathophysiological and cognitive mechanisms of fatigue in multiple sclerosis.
9. Implement best practices in the management of SCI, MS, and ALS.

## Pharmacists



AffinityCE is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. This knowledge-based activity will provide a maximum of up to 17.75 contact hours for participants completing all CPE activities. UANs are provided for each session. Participant CE records will be electronically communicated to CPE Monitor. There is no cost to participate in this activity.

## Pharmacist Learning Objectives

- Discuss the indications and methods for monitoring of each IV medication approved for neuroimmunological conditions
- Describe the potential treatment sequencing strategies for highly effective therapies in the management of multiple sclerosis

# ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

- Summarize advances in the development of novel approaches to identify persons at increased risk for recurrent secondary health conditions.
- Discuss the impact of treatment delays on the efficacy of therapeutics to promote functional recovery after spinal cord injury.
- Discuss the role of pharmacologic non-pharmacologic interventions to slow MS progression.
- Assess the clinical potential of a novel therapeutic in relation to preclinical safety testing, including influence of pharmacokinetic parameters on drug efficacy and patient safety.
- Review best practices in management of SCI, MS, and ALS.
- Discuss proposed approaches to slow MS progression including immunomodulation, remyelination, and neuroprotection with antioxidants and other agents.
- Describe the importance of effective interdisciplinary communication and role sharing.
- Explain the association between cognitive decline in MS and its impact on functional status, community engagement, and quality of life.
- Describe adverse effects of loneliness on health outcomes in the general population
- Explain the public health burden of ALS.
- List the clinical benefits of utilizing the VA healthcare system for life-long integrated MS care.

## Dietitians



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AffinityCE and PVA. AffinityCE is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AffinityCE designates this live activity for a maximum of up to 22.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Dietitians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Psychologists

AffinityCE is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AffinityCE maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This activity provides up to 9 hours of CE Credit. The instructional level of this activity is intermediate. The cost to participate in these CE sessions is included in the registration cost for the Program.

# ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

- Identify the relation of loneliness to psychological and physical health outcomes among people with SCI and its impacts beyond more objective measures of social relationships
- Identify behavioral and emotional changes frequently associated with ALS and implement behavioral management strategies to adapt to the changes
- Describe the benefits of VA care to address the unique psychosocial challenges faced by the Veteran population and how to assess for eligibility and refer patient to appropriate VA services to address these needs.
- Identify behavioral and emotional changes frequently associated with ALS and implement behavioral management strategies to adapt to the changes
- Explain the role of modifiable, comorbid factors like poor sleep, depression, and fatigue on cognitive functioning.
- Describe common mental health and cognitive challenges veterans with ALS encounter when attempting to perform PA.
- Describe the two types of memory difficulties observed in ALS
- Describe how VA partners with military and community non-profit groups and industry to educate and support Veterans with MS, along with their families and caregivers

## **Other Professionals**

All other health care professionals completing this continuing education activity will be issued a statement of participation indicating the number of hours of continuing education credit. This may be used for professional education CE credit. Please consult your accrediting organization or licensing board for their acceptance of this CE activity.

## **Commercial Support**

No commercial support was provided for this activity.

## **Participation Costs**

The cost to participate in these CE sessions is included in the registration cost for the program.

## **CME Inquiries**

For all CME policy-related inquiries, please contact us at [ce@affinityced.com](mailto:ce@affinityced.com).

## **How to Earn CE Credit**

### **2025 Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Healthcare Summit + Expo**

1. Go to [pva.cds.affinityced.com](https://pva.cds.affinityced.com).
2. Select the activity “2025 Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Healthcare Summit + Expo.”
3. Enter an e-mail address and password to begin setting up your profile. Select “I Forgot My Password” if you need to reset the password you set up.
4. Verify, correct, or add your information.
5. Proceed to complete activity evaluations for each session you attended.
6. After evaluating all attended sessions, you must complete the Overall Evaluation to download your CE certificate.

# ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS

7. Upon completing your evaluations, you can download your CE certificate. Your CE record will also be stored here for later retrieval.
8. Participants who have requested and consented to ASHA CE credit reporting must complete CE evaluations **no later than September 27, 2025**, to comply with ASHA policies.
9. Participants claiming Pharmacist CE credits will need to supply their Date of birth and NABP number. Pharmacist CE records will be electronically communicated to CPE Monitor.
10. The Web site is open for completing your evaluation for 30 days after the event, until September 27, 2025.
11. After the Web site has closed, you can come back to the site at any time to download your certificate, but you will not be able to add any evaluations.

Please send any customer service requests to [cds\\_support+PVA@affinityced.com](mailto:cds_support+PVA@affinityced.com).





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[firstnationgroup.com/patientsolutions](https://firstnationgroup.com/patientsolutions)





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**NEW DATA**  
FROM A RECENT PUBLICATION



**Please Join Us While At The 2025 Paralyzed Veterans Of America (PVA) Summit And Expo For A Presentation About RADICAVA ORS®**

**WHEN**

**Monday, August 25, 2025**

**12:15 – 1:00 PM**

Registration begins at 12:00 PM

**WHERE**

**Track 2: Celestin F-H**

**Hyatt Regency New Orleans**

601 Loyola Ave

New Orleans, LA 70113

**Please stop by MTPA Booth #203 for more information about RADICAVA ORS® and additional details about this MTPA-sponsored event.**

*This activity will be held during the PVA Healthcare Summit. It is not part of the official scientific program of the PVA Healthcare Summit. This is a non-CME event sponsored by Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma America, Inc.*

**Food and beverage is provided by PVA.**

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## ONWARD Medical will be at the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Healthcare Summit + Expo with ARC<sup>EX</sup>!

ONWARD ARC<sup>EX</sup> is the first system FDA-cleared for non-invasive spinal cord stimulation for people with spinal cord injury.

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Scan this QR code to learn more about ARC<sup>EX</sup> and fill out the webform to submit your questions.

\*The ARC<sup>EX</sup> System is intended to deliver programmed, transcutaneous electrical spinal cord stimulation in conjunction with functional task practice in the clinic to improve hand sensation and strength in individuals between 18 and 75 years old that present with a chronic, non-progressive neurological deficit resulting from an incomplete spinal cord injury (C5-C8 inclusive). Cleared for use only in the United States.  
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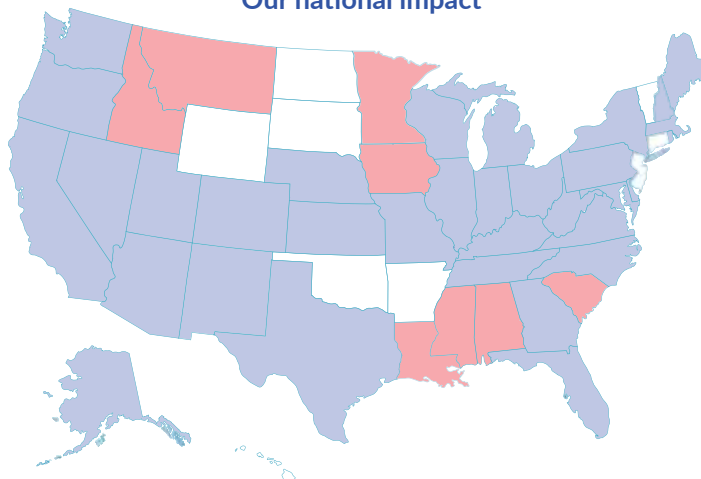
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**See you next year in Las Vegas, Nevada**

**August 30–September 2, 2026**