2018 Annual Report
Transforming lives through innovative and effective research for female pelvic floor disorders
The mission of the Pelvic Floor Disorders (PFD) Research Foundation is to transform the lives of women through the support of innovative and effective research that advances the prevention, treatment and cure of female pelvic floor disorders.

“This was truly an exceptional opportunity for me as a fellow and the peer support program was a personally rewarding project, as I was able to interact with patients in a different way and see the impact that the program had on their lives.”

Annetta Madsen, MD
2015 Foundation Fellow Research Award Recipient
Every contribution to the PFD Research Foundation builds a stronger future for female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery and is a great way to honor the work and passion of those we respect.

A total of $90,409 in contributions was raised by individuals and corporate supporters in 2018.

This year, 325 individuals contributed to support the PFD Research Foundation, representing 16 percent of the AUGS membership.

Source of Funds

Corporate and Partner: 28%

Individual: 72%

Corporate and Partner contributions: $25,000
Individual contributions: $65,409
Total: $90,409

Grant Dollars awarded by year

- 2006: $114,000
- 2007: $164,000
- 2008: $185,000
- 2009: $185,000
- 2010: $192,000
- 2011: $240,000
- 2012/2013: $195,000
- 2014: $145,000
- 2015: $110,000
- 2016: $75,000
- 2017: $75,000
- 2018: $50,000

Recent Grant Recipient AUGS Abstract Presentations
The PFD Research Foundation, together with the June Allyson Foundation, has awarded more than $1.7 million in grants to American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS) members since 1997. The Foundation serves the medical profession by supporting promising, innovative research regarding the causes, prevention, treatment and cure of pelvic floor disorders.

In 2018, the Foundation’s research funds were made available to qualified OB/GYN and urology fellows and junior faculty to pursue their research. The goals of this research grant program are to support the completion of research projects which will lead to publications and presentations at PFD Week (AUGS’ Annual Scientific Meeting) and to support the development of junior researchers in the field who will go on to obtain additional funding for future research on pelvic floor disorders.

In 2018, the Foundation offered the following grants:

**PFD Research Foundation Fellow Research Award**
A two-year grant awarded to a fellow for clinical/patient-oriented, educational, or lab-based/basic science research.

**June Allyson Memorial Fund Research Award**
A two-year grant awarded to a fellow for lab-based/basic science research.

### Foundation Grant Recipients

**PFD RESEARCH FOUNDATION FELLOW RESEARCH AWARD**

Anne C. Cooper, MD  
Women & Infants Hospital  
*Optimization of Spontaneous Trial of Void (OPTION): A Prospective Cohort Study with Nested Randomized Controlled Trial*

**JUNE ALLYSON MEMORIAL FUND RESEARCH AWARD**

John R. Ogorek, MD  
Emory University  
*A Genome-Wide Pilot Study Assessing DNA Methylation Patterns in the Urine of Women With Overactive Bladder*

Help support the PFD Research Foundation—Make a donation today!  
The PFD Research Foundation has awarded more than $1.7 million in grants to AUGS members. We are proud to share the success of our grant recipients and how their research is advancing prevention, treatment, and the cure of female pelvic floor disorders.

In 2015, the PFD Research Foundation Fellow Research Award was presented to Pedro Antonio Maldonado, MD, for his project *Effects of Ospemifene and Vaginal Estrogen on the Vaginal Wall Before and After Injury*.

**Overview of Study and Results**

Decreasing levels of estrogen in the postmenopausal period results in regression of the vaginal epithelium, many of whom manifest clinically as vulvovaginal atrophy (VVA). Concerns regarding effects of systemic estrogen on cardiovascular events and breast cancer have led to the development of selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMs) to alleviate adverse effects of estrogen on certain target tissues such as the breast and endothelial cells. Further, oral agents are sought to avoid unpleasant application of local estrogen gels, creams, and rings that may carry risks of possible systemic absorption. In these funded studies, first, we evaluated the effects of vaginal conjugated estrogens (Premarin), ospemifene, or both on the lower urinary tract and vaginal wall. We found that both vaginal estrogen and ospemifene exerted positive effects on vaginal epithelial growth, but that the combination was extraordinarily effective relative to each agent alone.

The next experiments were designed to study the impact of these agents on vaginal wall injury. During pilot experiments, it became clear that we underestimated the number of animals needed because we needed to optimize the surgical injury model and the time course. Thus, we chose to study vaginal estrogen first, and would complete ospemifene studies as time and funds allowed. In these experiments, we found that vaginal estrogen administered in the immediate postoperative time period resulted in dramatic improvement of the vaginal epithelial layer, but that the underlying stromal compartment was adversely affected by vaginal estrogen.

**Future Expansion of Current Research**

Current studies in the lab will focus on the broader question of whether vaginal estrogen differentially alters healing in the early menopause vs late menopause. Work regarding ospemifene and injury is not as high a priority given the superior effects of vaginal estrogen relative to ospemifene.

**Other Research Projects**

Since completing my fellowship in FPMRS and moving institutions, my research areas of focus have been primarily clinical in nature. I am investigating perceptions of pessary use in Latina women through use of focus groups, assessing the effect of Spanish translation on patient satisfaction and comprehension during the informed consent process, and examining patient versus provider priorities in informed consent for gynecologic and urogynecologic surgeries. I am also working on securing funding for a grant proposal examining the prevalence of symptomatic pelvic floor disorders in gynecologic cancer survivors in Texas and the U.S.

**Publications**


“I feel honored and privileged to be a recipient of the PFD Research Foundation Grant. The award has given me the opportunity to fine-tune my skills in research design, data analysis and interpretation, and project organization/planning. I have used this experience to further explore my research interests and prepare for future projects. It has been an invaluable experience that will benefit my research career for years to come.”

Pedro Antonio Maldonado, MD
PFD Research Foundation
Notable Donors

PFD Research Foundation Legacy Circle
The PFD Research Foundation is known for providing research support to advance the science of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS). Our success is a direct result of the dedicated group of individual and corporate donors that have supported the Foundation over the past eight years.

To recognize the efforts of our dedicated individual donors we have created the Legacy Circle. The Legacy Circle is the most prestigious level of recognition by the Foundation, as it acknowledges those who have given over $25,000 in cumulative donations or designated the Foundation in their estate planning.

The term legacy was specifically chosen because of its meaning to reflect anything handed down from a predecessor, either a gift or a significant contribution to history. Without the legacy of these donors, the PFD Research Foundation would not have experienced continued success.

Legacy Circle Members

Linda Brubaker, MD, MS
University of California, San Diego
San Diego, CA

Andrew P. Cassidenti, MD
St. Joseph’s Hospital
Orange, CA

Vincent Lucente, MD, MBA, FACOG
The Institute for Female Pelvic Medicine
Allentown, PA

2018 PFD Research Foundation Donor of the Year Award
The PFD Research Foundation presents the Donor of the Year Award to an individual in recognition of commitment to the Foundation’s mission of transforming the lives of women through the support of innovative and effective research that advances the prevention, treatment, and cure of female pelvic floor disorders.

Cheryl B. Iglesia, MD
MedStar Washington Hospital Center and Georgetown University School of Medicine
Washington, DC

Dr. Iglesia has been an incredible supporter of the Foundation. We recognize her for both her financial support and her fundraising work. Her cumulative donation total is more than $20,000.
The work of the PFD Research Foundation in female pelvic floor disorders research is made possible through the generous support of the following individuals. We are grateful for their continued generosity and commitment to the prevention, treatment, and cure of female pelvic floor disorders. (Recognized gifts from January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018)

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Your contribution to the PFD Research Foundation builds a stronger future for Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery and honors the work and passion of those we respect.

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