

Top Strategic Priorities for Donor Support, 2024



Dr. Ross D. Zafonte President's Fund at Spaulding Rehabilitation

A vital source of flexible funding, the Dr. Ross D. Zafonte President's Fund enables our leadership team to meet the broad spectrum of Spaulding's emergent needs in the constantly evolving landscape of clinical care and biomedical research. The unrestricted resources from this fund ensure our clinicians, researchers, and staff can make the most of promising opportunities in rehabilitation medicine and science, and also respond effectively to unprecedented challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and staffing shortages.

RESEARCH

Schoen Adams Research Institute at Spaulding Rehabilitation

Home to Harvard Medical School's Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Spaulding is a leader in driving discovery in rehabilitation, bringing novel treatments to patients of all ages that much faster. At the Schoen Adams Research Institute—the hub of our research enterprise—our world-class team of scientists works to examine the underlying biological mechanisms of recovery, explore novel therapeutic strategies, and test innovative technologies. Philanthropic investment helps us recruit pioneering leaders in the field of rehabilitation research and accelerate scientific discoveries through high-risk, high-reward pilot and translational studies.

We have a few key research priorities that need funding urgently:

Discovery Center for Brain Injury and Concussion Recovery

Acquired brain injury is the second most prevalent disability in the U.S., affecting almost 13.5 million Americans. Spaulding's Discovery Center for Brain Injury and Concussion Recovery is dedicated to uncovering new and improved therapies to optimize recovery, productivity, and quality of life for patients with all forms of brain injuries. Researchers at this pioneering center are investigating innovative approaches in imaging, genetics, biomarkers, and neurostimulation, both independently and in concert, to inform and improve treatments throughout the care spectrum. Philanthropic funding will enable us to recruit an exceptional scientist to lead the center as well as advance our pioneering investigations.

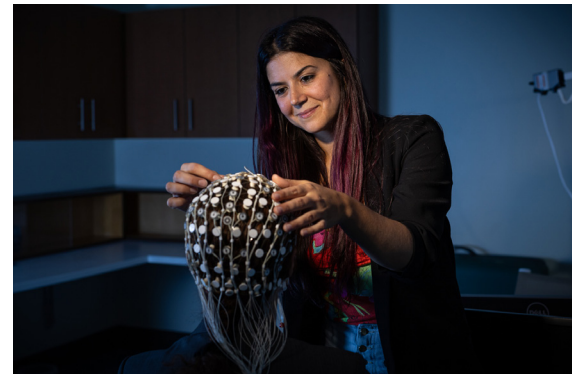
Discovery Center for Stroke Recovery

Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke. At the Discovery Center for Stroke Recovery, our innovative scientists are focusing on the long-term needs of stroke survivors, building new knowledge and testing novel strategies to advance patient recovery. Efforts of this groundbreaking center include the exploration of biomarkers to maximize therapeutic response, sophisticated neuromodulation treatments, and state-of-the-art robotics and assistive technologies. To ensure that this type of science can continue at this breakneck speed, our top philanthropic priority is the recruitment of a new director to provide leadership and oversight of the research enterprise in this area.



Research Accelerator

Often the most groundbreaking research is not publicly funded—that's where private support is crucial. Spaulding's Research Accelerator fund offers our rehabilitation experts opportunities to explore creative avenues of investigation and launch pilot studies that can be leveraged to secure other major sources of funding including the National Institutes of Health. Gifts to this fund provide our researchers with the flexible resources to be innovative, take risks, and pursue promising scientific leads.



Rehabilitation Outcomes Center at Spaulding (ROCS)

Outcomes research seeks to understand the end results—or outcomes—of healthcare practices or interventions so we can make more informed decisions and improve care. By studying healthcare systems in action, we capture a more comprehensive picture of the many factors that play a role over the course of a person's recovery. This information can help clinicians make more informed diagnoses and treatment decisions, compare effectiveness of different therapies, and ensure health equity among diverse populations. Donor support is needed to propel the work of the ROCS forward in three strategic areas of focus: people, projects, and promotion. Philanthropy will help us advance and sustain our team of rehabilitation experts; lead and cultivate groundbreaking science; and publicize and disseminate new knowledge and achievements to ultimately improve the quality of rehabilitation care.

CLINICAL

Pediatric Rehabilitation Program

Offering the latest in diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment, Spaulding's Pediatric Rehabilitation Program is specifically tailored to meet the needs of patients with permanent and temporary disabilities from infancy to young adulthood. Our pediatric team is also actively engaged in advocacy, education, and clinical research for children with special needs and works with families to help their children reach their full potential. At this critical time when many pediatric medical facilities across the country are closing their doors, Spaulding is committed to maintaining our vital services for these young patients and their families who would otherwise have nowhere else to go. With donor support, we can offset the costs of the program, many of which are not covered by insurance; fuel partnerships in clinical research specific to this unique patient population; and expand our efforts to educate and advocate for this vulnerable population.



Spaulding Outpatient Centers

Often, rehabilitation care doesn't end when you leave the hospital. That's why Spaulding is committed to providing seamless transitions along the continuum of care. With our 25 outpatient centers throughout Eastern Massachusetts, Spaulding is invested in the long-term and lasting recovery of the patients we serve, providing therapy where and when they need it. With an extensive array of services and programs, our skilled outpatient team can meet almost any rehabilitation need for patients of all ages. Demand for our outpatient offerings is at an all-time high, and we are looking for philanthropic support for capital expansion and renovation projects to ensure we can give our rapidly growing patient population the most advanced care in the locations that serve them best. In light of major healthcare staffing shortages, we are also looking to create a donor-supported Recruitment and Retention Program for outpatient therapists, which will support unique efforts to fill much-needed vacancies, enhance professional development, and celebrate noteworthy accomplishments.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers

Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers (SASC) is dedicated to providing people of all abilities unparalleled opportunities to participate in a wide variety of athletic and recreational activities. Over the past 20 years, SASC has grown into a vibrant 45-plus-sport, network-wide initiative with integrated research and educational components that make it a model for adaptive sports programming nationwide. Adaptive sports programs—even those as successful and clinically integrated as Spaulding's—are difficult to sustain because they are not reimbursed by insurance or supported by traditional government grants. Spaulding must therefore rely almost exclusively on philanthropic funding to ensure that every person in our growing community has access to SASC. Donor support would fuel three key areas of SASC's efforts: programming, research, and education/advocacy.



Center for Excellence in Nursing and Patient Care Services

Nurses are the bedrock of clinical care at Spaulding Rehabilitation. They are an integral part of the multidisciplinary rehabilitation team and provide unwavering support to our patients as they overcome daunting challenges each and every day. To respond to the increased demand for nursing expertise, the growing complexity of nurses' caregiving roles, and the importance of diversifying our nursing candidate pool, Spaulding established the network-wide Nurses as Leaders initiative in 2019. Building on this proud tradition of supporting nursing professional advancement, Spaulding is now proposing the establishment of a new Center for Excellence in Nursing and Patient Care Services under the leadership of our new Chief Nursing Officer Judi Cullinane, PhD, MSN, RN. Aimed at creating a unified hub for nursing leadership activities, the Center will foster strategies for nurses to actively contribute their expertise across the continuum of care, support educational pathways for nurses to grow professionally, and develop new opportunities for nurses to explore and innovate. With donor support, its ultimate goal will be to promote the significant role nurses play in the team-based approach of recovery and in shaping the future of rehabilitation care.

