

ASIA Early Career Webinar Foundation Funders: Craig H. Nielsen Foundation



Naomi Kleitman, PhD
Sr. Vice President

*I use she/her pronouns
I have no financial conflicts to disclose*



Why Learn about Foundations?

Diversify your portfolio, add flexibility

- May accept more “risk” for new ideas—build preliminary data
- Trainees—may include non-US citizens

Foundations may offer insight and experience with the people your research is meant to help

There are different types of Foundations

- Private grant-making—money from one/few, sources;
Mostly support other nonprofit orgs; IRS rules limit what/how we fund
- Public charities—(hospitals, schools...) support from multiple sources including private foundations, government, general public. May give to individuals, other organizations, or may provide direct services

About Our Founder – Craig H. Neilsen

- American entrepreneur, known for his uncompromising demand for excellence, generosity, and ability to inspire those around him
- 1985—motor vehicle accident → severe cervical SCI
- Established the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation in 2003 to improve the quality of life for people living with SCI



- For more information: chnfoundation.org



The Craig H. Nielsen Foundation

- An endowed, private foundation
 - The largest private funder of SCI research, rehabilitation, clinical training and programs in the U.S. and Canada
- Funds research *and* programs to improve quality of life for those affected by and living with SCI
 - Grant funding is ~\$35 million/year
 - 3 portfolios have annual peer-reviewed competitions
- What we look for:
 - Impactful programs and innovative research with a clear potential to improve quality of life
 - Projects that fill gaps, take new directions, move toward implementation



Our Values – Inspired by Craig H. Nielsen

We use our Values as a lens in making decisions:

Leadership

Lead by example

Inclusion

Expand opportunity

Excellence

*Rigor, Transparency
Transformation*

Collaboration

*Share knowledge
and resources*

Creativity

*Take bold steps, push
boundaries*

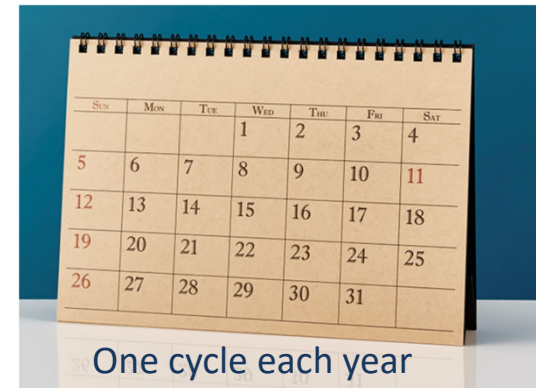
We Fund Grants to U.S. and Canadian Nonprofit Organizations

Research: from cells to psychosocial

- SCI Research on the Translational Spectrum (**SCIRTS**)
- Psychosocial Research (**PSR**)

Programs: nonprofit/community activities and resources

- Creating Opportunity & Independence (**CO&I**)



Education—(these compete every 3-4 years)

- SCI Medicine Fellowships (**SCIMF**) – specialty rehab training in SCI medicine
- Neilsen Scholarship Program (**NSP**) – support for students with SCI

Strategic Grants: Invited programs to meet specific needs

May include funding to/co-funding with other funders

—e.g., PVA, Wings for Life, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

Neilsen Foundation Research Grants

SCIRTS: to improve restoration of function after SCI

- Advance the treatment of acute and chronic SCI
- Cells, animal models, pilot clinical trials
- Encourage new approaches, fill gaps in translation, take risks
- Enabling studies; to enhance, not to replace, federal support



PSR: behavioral, social, psychological, and other factors that benefit quality of life for people living with SCI

- Aging, caregiving, health behaviors/fitness, employment, independent living, self-management, and technology access



Grant Categories: 2yr Pilots: 3yr Senior Grants/PSR Studies; 2yr Postdoc Fellowships

See chnfoundation.org for details and a searchable database of funded grants

Neilsen Foundation Program and Education Grants

CO&I: underwrites programs to benefit people living with SCI

- Specific projects, ongoing programs, and capacity building
- Promote inclusion, participation and equity
- Arts, sports and recreation; Education; Independent living; Employment, Assistive technology; Rehabilitation



SCI Medicine Fellowships: *129 SCIM Fellows supported since 2006*

- Specialty clinical training in accredited (ACGME) SCI rehabilitation programs

Neilsen Scholarship Program: *272 students 150 graduates since 2014*

- Selected institutions; scholarships for students with SCI
- Support for student needs in and out of the classroom

Application Process: Letter of Intent (LOI); Full Grant Application (FGA)

Use our website, chnfoundation.org, to access Application Guides, key dates, application forms and contact information



Letter of Intent
Submission



Applications Invited



Full Grant Application
Submission



Awards announced

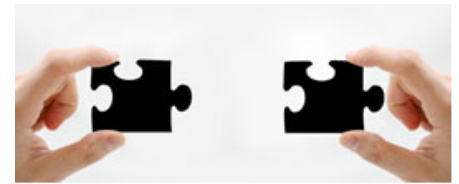
Our Program Officers are happy to help via webinars or individual appointment

(Education portfolios start with invitation, not Letter of Intent)

A bit of advice – Are you a good fit?

Understand a foundation's mission, vision, values

- Does the type of funding and organization's eligibility fit?
- Does your work fit our funding strategy?
 - That's what short Letters of Intent are for
 - Build the relationship; contact staff with questions
 - How will success be leveraged? What are next steps?
- Use your/our time wisely
 - You don't need to describe SCI to us! Focus on what you'll do
 - Be clear—show why and how it will have impact
 - Write for the semi-expert (and expert). Show feasibility, your capabilities, research rigor, and what success looks like. Make it concise and readable!
- Follow the instructions, timeline, procedure in the Application Guide



Bring us your new ideas

- SCIRTS: LOI cycle opens in April; due in June
 - Postdocs, \$100k/year for up to 2yr
 - Pilots, up to \$200k/year for 2 yr
 - Senior Grants, up to 3 years, total cost \$800k
- PSR: LOI cycle opens in January; due in February
 - Postdocs, \$100k/year for up to 2yr
 - Pilots, up to 2 years, total cost up to \$300,000
 - Studies & Demonstration Projects, up to 3 years, total cost up to \$550,00
- CO&I: LOI cycle open during January
 - Funding 1 or 2 years; budgets \$25k-\$200k (max is \$125k/year)