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**MAYDAY FUND ANNOUNCES 2026-2027 WINNERS OF
THE MAYDAY PAIN AND SOCIETY FELLOWSHIP**

***Twelve pain experts selected to a fellowship program focused on
communications and advocacy for improved pain care***

NEW YORK (July 16, 2026) – The Mayday Fund has announced the selection of 12 experts in pain science and care to be Fellows of [The Mayday Pain & Society Fellowship: Communicating Science & Improving Care](#). The Fellows come from across the United States and Canada, with a wide range of expertise, including psychology, anesthesiology, patient advocacy, neuroscience and more.

The Fellows were selected from 32 applicants by a multi-disciplinary Advisory Committee, comprising leaders working on pain-related issues in the U.S. and Canada.

“The newest Mayday Fellows have fresh, unique ideas for the future of pain care. We at Mayday look forward to witnessing how the Mayday Pain & Society Fellowship will expand their communications skills to help them take these visions further to benefit people in pain across the lifespan,” said Christina Spellman, the Mayday Fund’s executive director. “The Fellowship will bring their expertise more directly to those who need these leadership skills more than ever in the field’s efforts to better manage both acute and chronic pain.”

During the workshop in Washington, D.C., from October 18-21, 2026, Fellows will learn skills to effectively communicate and advocate for the translation of scientific research and evidence-based best practices in pain care and management. Following the workshop, the Fellows will receive individualized, follow-up coaching to help them pursue their strategic advocacy goals.

The new class of Fellows will join more than 120 experts from the earlier classes of The Mayday Pain & Society Fellowship, which operated from 2004 through 2015 and relaunched in 2018.

“The Mayday Fund Board of Directors and Advisors sends congratulations to the newest class of Fellows,” said Spellman. “With decreased trust in science, the communications tools these Fellows acquire will help guide the pain field through this challenging time and into the next phases of pain care in the U.S. and Canada.”

The 2026-2027 Fellows are:

- **James R. Babington, MD**, Chief of Neurosciences, Swedish Edmonds; Program Medical Director, Medical Spine, Swedish Medical Group, Swedish Pain Services, Providence-Swedish

- **Vidya Chidambaran, MD, MS, MMM, FASA, FAAP**, Professor of Anesthesia, Vice Chief for Pain, Equity and Innovation, Edward E. Lowe, MD, Chair for Clinical and Translational Research in Anesthesia, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- **Lauren Harrison, PhD**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Stanford University School of Medicine
- **Brittany Knight, PhD**, Executive Director & CEO, United States Association for the Study of Pain
- **Sylvie Le May, RN, PhD, FCAN**, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Nursing, University of Montreal; Researcher, Azrieli Research Centre, CHU St. Justine's Pediatric Centre
- **Hélène Le Scelleur**, Canadian Armed Forces Veteran; Doctoral Candidate, Social Work (PhD Candidate); Doctoral Researcher; Chair of Advisory Council for Veterans, Chronic Pain Centre of Excellence, University of Ottawa, Chronic Pain Centre of Excellence for Canadian Veterans
- **Eugene Maida, MB BCh BAO, MBA, FRCPC**, Assistant Clinical Professor, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Department of Anesthesia, McMaster University; Program Director McMaster Chronic Pain Medicine Fellowship; Medical Director, Michael G DeGroote Pain Clinic, Hamilton Health Sciences
- **Sarah Nelson, PhD**, Assistant Professor and Attending Psychologist, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School
- **Tom Norris, BA, MPA**, Chronic Pain Support Group Facilitator, Board Certified Patient Advocate, American Chronic Pain Association
- **Melissa Pielech, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Brown University School of Public Health, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University; Pediatric Psychologist, Hasbro Children's Rehabilitation Services & Bradley Vista
- **Patricia Poulin, BA, MA, Ph.D. Psychology**, Psychologist and Clinician Scientist, The Ottawa Hospital; Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, The University of Ottawa
- **Naiyi Sun, MD**, Staff Anesthesiologist and Pain Physician, The Hospital for Sick Children; Assistant Professor, University of Toronto

The three-day workshop in Washington, D.C., this fall will be led by trainers and coaches from [Burness](#), a public interest communications firm that works with nonprofit organizations globally to highlight solutions that can be used to improve the human condition and advance social change.

The full Fellowship Advisory Committee includes:

- **Samina Ali, MD**, Professor, Pediatrics & Emergency Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta; Chair, Pediatric Emergency Research Canada (PERC); Western Canada Hub Lead, Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP); Research Director, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, University of Alberta; 2019 Mayday Fellow
- **Christine Chambers, PhD**, Professor, Departments of Psychology & Neuroscience and Pediatrics, Dalhousie University; Scientific Director, Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP); 2012 Mayday Fellow
- **Hance Clarke, MD, PhD**, Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine and Institute of Medical Science, University of Toronto; President, Canadian Pain Society; Staff Anesthesiologist, Director Pain Services Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network; Canada Research Chair – Chronic Pain, Mental Health & Substance Use; 2019 Mayday Fellow
- **Renee C.B. Manworren, PhD, APRN, FAAN**, Elizabeth C. Poster Endowed Professor and PhD Program Director, College of Nursing and Health Innovation, The University of Texas at Arlington;

2012 Mayday Fellow

- **Linda Porter, PhD**, Former Director, Office of Pain Policy and Planning, National Institutes of Health; Co-chair, Federal Pain Research Strategy and National Pain Strategy, Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee, National Institutes of Health
- **Gregory Terman, MD, PhD**, Emeritus Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine and the Graduate Program in Neuroscience, University of Washington; 2011 Mayday Fellow
- **Erin E. Young, PhD**, Associate Professor, Anesthesiology, Pain and Perioperative Medicine; Director, Clinician Scientist and Research Track; Medical Student Research Liaison, University of Kansas Medical Center; 2019 Mayday Fellow

For more details on the fellowship, please visit www.maydayfellowship.org.

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About The Mayday Fund

The MAYDAY Fund was established in 1992 to further Shirley Steinman Katzenbach's commitment to social and medical causes. The Directors of the Fund decided to adopt Mrs. Katzenbach's special interest in the treatment of pain as the Fund's mission. The name Mayday commemorates the date of her birth and is the international word signaling a cry for help, taken from the French "m'aidez" or "help me."

The MAYDAY Fund, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization since 1992, engages only in philanthropic grant activities defined by its mission targeting the alleviation of pain. It should not be confused with any other organization that uses a similar name or includes "mayday" in its representation.