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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
THE MAYDAY PAIN & SOCIETY FELLOWSHIP: COMMUNICATING SCIENCE & IMPROVING CARE

New Fellows to Join Community of Experts Advocating for the Pain Management Field

[Apply online](#) between April 16, 2026, and May 13, 2026

NEW YORK (April 16, 2026) – The MAYDAY Fund, a New York City private foundation dedicated to alleviating the incidence, degree, and consequence of human physical pain, announced today that it will begin accepting applications for the 2026 - 2027 *Mayday Pain & Society Fellowship: Communicating Science & Improving Care*.

The Fellowship will train 10-12 clinicians and researchers from the United States and Canada who are passionate about improving pain care and who are dedicated to building communications skills and strategies aimed at reducing human suffering from acute and chronic pain. These Fellows must already work on research and evidence-based approaches to advance what is known about pain and how best to care for it.

The application is available at www.maydayfellowship.org, and the application period will be open between Thursday, April 16, 2026, through Wednesday, May 13, 2026. The fellowship will launch with a workshop from Sunday, October 18, 2026 – Wednesday, October 21, 2026, in Washington, D.C.

"Chronic pain is an underestimated, complex problem that our society cannot afford to ignore," said Christina Spellman, Executive Director of The MAYDAY Fund. "The Mayday Fellowship gives clinicians, researchers, patient advocates, and people living with pain the communications tools to make themselves heard and create change in pain care, science, policy and beyond. These leaders have the potential to push forward long-awaited solutions that improve the lives of people with pain."

Since 2004, The MAYDAY Fund has supported a public engagement and leadership training program that has provided 120 Fellows with communication and public outreach skills. The vision behind the Mayday Fellowships is that, with tools to communicate more effectively, experts can help lead the conversation to share evidence-based science and practices in pain management to ensure better patient care.

In addition to the three-day workshop in Washington, D.C., the Fellows will receive follow-up support and coaching from communications experts from Burness, a social change communications firm.

The Fellowship is guided by a multi-disciplinary Advisory Committee, comprising leaders working in the United States and Canada. The full committee is:

- **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 requirements, the application and expectations, 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 Board of Directors 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.