

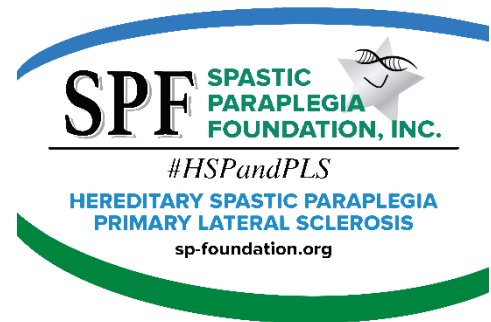
PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spastic Paraplegia Foundation Announces Unprecedented Surge in Research Proposals — Far Exceeding Available Funding

[November 17, 2025] The Spastic Paraplegia Foundation (SPF) is proud to announce that our 2025 Research Grant Cycle has received **a record-breaking 36 proposals**, representing researchers and institutions from around the world. These proposals collectively total **\$4,873,576** in requested funding — a clear and powerful sign that the scientific community is eager to accelerate discovery in **Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia (HSP)** and **Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS)**.

This extraordinary response demonstrates both the momentum building in the field *and* the urgent need for resources to support high-quality research. While SPF is deeply grateful to our donors for helping us raise **\$1,100,437 million** to date during the 2025 cycle, we are only able to fund a portion of the impactful work proposed.

After thoughtful review, the SPF Board of Directors has approved an initial allocation to support **six research grants for 2025**, totaling approximately **\$839,000**.

(1) Dr. Ikjae Lee, MD MSc, Columbia University, New York, NY / “Extension of the PLS Natural History Study” \$150,000.

(2) Dr. Florence Rage, Institute of Molecular Genetic of Montpellier, France / “Decoding Neuronal Network Dysfunction and Extracellular Vesicle Signatures in Primary Lateral Sclerosis” \$150,000.

(3) Dr. Rahul Sachdeva, University of Kentucky Research Foundation, Lexington, KY / “Noninvasive Spinal Cord Neuromodulation to Enhance Motor Function in Individuals with Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia”, \$150,000.

(4) SP-CERN “Bridge”, Darius Ebrahimi-Fakhari, M.D., Ph.D., The F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center, Boston Children’s Hospital, Boston, MA / “Bridge Funding to Sustain and Expand Operations of the Spastic Paraplegia Centers of Excellence – Research Network (SP-CERN)” \$150,000.

(5) To Cure A Rose (TCAR) Rare Labs, Austin, TX / SPAST (SPG4) “Frameshift, Nonsense Mediated Decay Verification, and HiBit-Tag High Throughput Small Molecule Screening Assay”, \$89,000.

(6) Dr. Liang Oscar Qiang, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA / “Combination Therapy for HSP-SPG4: Repurposed FDA Drug, BpV-Mediated Regeneration, and Activity-Based Rehabilitation”/ \$150,000.

These funded projects represent some of the most promising investigations in clinical research, translational science, drug discovery, disease modeling, and therapeutic development for HSP and PLS. We are excited to partner with these scientists and look forward to sharing updates as their work progresses.

Unfortunately, **all the high-quality proposals could not be funded** — not because they lacked scientific merit, but because resources simply did not stretch far enough. Together, we can fuel the discoveries our community urgently needs.**

This gap highlights a crucial reality: ****The scientific community is ready.**

The ideas are ready.

The momentum is real.

But without increased financial support, transformative research will remain unfunded.**

SPF is committed to changing that — and we need your help.

Every donation, whether large or small, goes directly toward funding the research that has the power to change lives. With more support, we could immediately move additional proposals forward — proposals that may hold the next breakthrough in gene therapy, biomarkers, drug repurposing, or symptom relief.

****This is a pivotal moment.**

Because of the exceptional volume and quality of submissions this year, SPF is looking ahead to a Second Round of Research Funding immediately after the start of the 2026 calendar year. This follow-on cycle will allow us to revisit many of the strong proposals that could not be supported in the initial round and to continue advancing the most promising scientific pathways.

As we approach the season of giving, SPF's **End-of-Year and Giving Tuesday campaign** aims to raise an additional **\$600,000** to help fuel the Second Round of Research Awards. Every contribution — large or small — directly supports cutting-edge science and brings us closer to the therapies and cures our community urgently needs. We encourage donors, patient families, and research partners to stay closely connected with SPF in the coming months as we prepare for this next round of awards. With your continued support, we can dramatically expand the number of projects funded and accelerate progress toward meaningful treatments and cures.

To support research and help SPF fund more vital proposals during our Year End Campaign, please visit:
<https://sp-foundation.networkforgood.com/projects/260277-2025-end-of-year-and-giving-tuesday-campaign>

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