



**Cleveland Clinic Nevada State Appropriations Support
SB341: July 2023 – Dec. 2024**

Dear Chair Dondero Loop and Chair Monroe-Moreno,

We thank the Nevada Legislature and Governor Lombardo for their continued support of Cleveland Clinic Nevada (CCNV) through SB341.

The funding period, July 1, 2023 – Dec. 1, 2024, marked a period of significant advancement as we entered an era of new treatment options for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis.

This includes the [first fully-approved disease modifying](#) therapy proven to slow down the progression of Alzheimer's disease, as well as the first potential drug for secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (MS) – a form of the disease in which disability occurs.

These advancements were made possible through clinical research studies – the CLARITY trial (Alzheimer's) and HERCULES trial (MS) – for which we contributed to as Nevada's only trial sites.

The sooner these treatment options can begin, the better the outcome, so earlier detection is becoming even more critical. Our clinician-scientists were able to contribute to significant progress made in this area for Parkinson's disease (PD) and MS.

Most recently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a letter of support for the use of alpha-synuclein seed amplification assay as a biomarker – or indicator of disease – in PD clinical trials. The data used to make this determination came from the landmark Parkinson's Progressive Marker Initiative – a global observational study aimed at identifying indicators of PD progression to better predict disability and, ultimately, slow or prevent it – which is taking place right here in Nevada at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

In addition, as the field of MS made updates to the McDonald Diagnostic Criteria – the gold standard for diagnosing MS – the director of our MS program helped to bridge a knowledge gap in these criteria by championing a subcommittee that published a [complementary set of diagnostic guidelines](#) to better care for the atypical MS population of individuals under 18 and over age 50.

The progress made in earlier detection and treatment offers patients and families more hope than ever before. It also comes with a responsibility to educate them on these advancements to increase our ability to intervene in these disease processes earlier and improve overall patient outcomes. A responsibility we have embraced wholeheartedly with the support from SB341.

As you will see in the below report, the funds provided by SB341 played an important role in supporting the departments whose work is aimed at increasing Nevadans' access to innovative

approaches to research, treatment and educational, therapeutic and support options underway at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

From community roundtables to help local neurologists understand and increase their comfort level in prescribing new Alzheimer’s treatment options, to no-cost patient education programming aimed at supporting health and wellness across various brain diseases, and state-wide awareness and education campaigns on signs and symptoms of these diseases and the resources available in our communities, the teams supported by SB341 have collectively worked to address Nevada’s growing neurodegenerative population.

Having marked our 15th anniversary in Nevada this past July – a milestone that would not have been possible without the support of the Nevada legislature – we are encouraged by the progress we have made in the research, treatment and education of brain diseases.

As we embark on the next 15 years, we remain committed to caring for the patients and families of today, and tomorrow, through continued progress.



CLEVELAND CLINIC
**LOU RUVO CENTER
FOR BRAIN HEALTH**



2009-2024 - The First 15 Years - Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas-long

Click [here](#) to watch our 15th anniversary highlights video

Category	Funding Total
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department Manager • Program Manager (3) • Education Coordinator (3) • Outreach Coordinator (2) • Broadcast Engineer • Administrative Program Coordinator 	\$715,034.00
Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Associate • Project Manager • Research Coordinator 	\$104,727.02
Behavioral Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychologist • Senior Clinical Social Worker • Social Worker (3) 	\$628,655.80
Clinical Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurologist in Movement Disorders (2) • Neurologist in Multiple Sclerosis • Physician Assistant 	\$193,766.21

Leadership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center Director • Senior Director of Operations • Administrative Director 	\$167,396.32
Public Relations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Marketing and Communication • Corporate Communications Manager 	\$140,873.22
Volunteer Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Program Coordinator 	\$18,157.33
Total	\$1,828,177.55

Departments supported:

Education

Program Description

The education and community outreach team is dedicated to providing high quality education and training to those serving our patients and families, from medical providers and students, to various members and sectors of our community and unpaid family caregivers.

Key Initiatives:

- Hosted professional and community education events including seminar series, Neurology Roundtables, CME events for Medical Students, UNLV Clinical Neuropsychology Practicum, and hosting medical rotation and undergraduate students (neurology, internal medicine, physical therapy, undergraduate interns)
- Conducted a community assessment for Clark County residents living with dementia
- Developed resources and conducted outreach and educational opportunities tailored to divers and underserved populations in Nevada
- Maintained various lecture and seminar series in support of our Parkinson's Foundation Center of Excellence
- Supported advocacy for Alzheimer's and dementia awareness by advising policy, developing state plans to combat the disease, and collaborating with stakeholders to implement initiatives and monitor progress

Key Outcomes:

- Engaged with over 35,000 people across various activities:
 - Community outreach
 - Community education programs
 - Community engagement programs
 - Behavioral Health programs
 - Continuing Education
 - Healthcare Student Education

- Conducted 9 community cognitive screening events (re-instated post-pandemic pause)
- Conducted community awareness training with Harry Reid International Airport to inform team members who may encounter travelers with dementia or their companions with the goal of making the airport a more dementia-friendly location

Research

Program Description and Impacted Population

The research program at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health is focused on advancing care for neurodegenerative conditions through a robust portfolio of clinical trials of new therapies and observational studies, and communication of these results through peer-reviewed publications. While patients enrolled in our trials and studies may derive some direct benefit, the program has a broader impact beyond just those patients that enter our facility by expanding our understanding of these diseases.

Key Initiatives:

- HealthyBrains.org –Maintained this online platform to educate the public about reducing their risk for dementia through lifestyle modifications, as well as ongoing research opportunities and to create a trial ready cohort of individuals interested in participating in clinical research
- Multiple Sclerosis Trials: Grew MS clinical trials portfolio
- International Panel for Differential Diagnosis in Multiple Sclerosis: Dr. Le Hua led a global team of MS experts across in identifying best practices in diagnosing atypical presentations of the disease in those under 18 and over 50

Key Outcomes:

- 9 active MS trials with three currently enrolling
- Published key results of HERCLUES study
- HERCULES Trial:
 - First to demonstrate disability reduction in non-relapsing secondary progressive MS.
 - Results presented at ECTRIMS 2024; FDA approval expected in 2025.
- OPTIS Trial:
 - Focus on improving disease monitoring in NMOSD.
- JAMA Neurology publication of "Differential Diagnosis of Suspected Multiple Sclerosis in Pediatric and Late-Onset Populations"

Behavioral Health

Program Description

The Behavioral Health program at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health focuses on providing therapeutic and social work services to patients and their caregivers. The mental health therapy clinic is integrated as part of our comprehensive neurological care and provides evidence-based, psychotherapy services for patients living with neurodegenerative diseases (cognitive, movement, and neuroinflammatory disorders).

Clinical issues commonly addressed include adjustment to new diagnosis, anxiety/mood symptoms, chronic pain, and sleep disorders. The purpose of social work case management services for individuals living with neurological diseases is to help them access the specialized resources and support they need to manage their condition and improve their quality of life. Social workers in case management assess the unique needs of clients with neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, or multiple sclerosis, and develop personalized care plans. They coordinate services across healthcare providers, community resources, and support networks, ensuring patients and family caregivers receive comprehensive care.

Key Initiatives:

- Developed and executed new protocols for same-day social work, psychosocial support, or psychiatric emergencies
- Engaged with specialty clinics to provide therapy services (Huntington's clinic, Ataxia clinic)
- Offered multiple sessions of caregiver skills programs
- Facilitated shared medical appointments for patients living with dementia and their caregivers

Key Outcomes:

- Programs within the Behavioral Health department conducted a total of 374 sessions connecting with a total of 2,544 patients and caregivers
- Social work case workers assisted over 1,800 patients and caregivers during the funding period with many requiring multiple encounters
- Conducted 2,290 visits for therapy services

Clinical Operations - Movement Disorder Clinic

Program Description

The Movement Disorder Clinic at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health provides clinical care for patients with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders across Nevada, including underserved populations and caregivers.

Key Initiatives:

- Educational Seminars: Free monthly hybrid education series
- Music Therapy Expansion: Increased weekly therapy hours for group and individual sessions
- Integrated Wellness Sessions: Piloted mindfulness, exercise, and nutrition programming

Key Outcomes:

- 20 educational sessions, 1,000+ attendees, 95% satisfaction rate
- 850 individual and 500 group music therapy sessions; improved mobility, mood, and cognition

- Wellness sessions attracted 200 participants; reduced caregiver burnout and improved care engagement

Clinical Operations - Multiple Sclerosis Clinic

Program Description

The Mellen Program for Multiple Sclerosis at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health provides clinical care for patients living with multiple sclerosis and their family members across Nevada, including underserved populations and caregivers.

Key Initiatives:

- Continuing Medical Education (CME):
 - "Unveiling Comprehensive MS Care" (May 2024): Targeted at physicians and rehab specialists
 - Nurse Practitioner Erin Wilkinson was an invited speaker at ECTRIMS 2024 on Brain Reserve in MS
- Patient Education:
 - Pathway in MS Wellness Program: Collaborated with National Multiple Sclerosis Society on community program to empower, educate and equip people affected by MS to solve wellness challenges
 - MS FAQ Guide: Developed a comprehensive guide to commonly asked questions for living with MS to provide tailored patient support

Key Outcomes:

- Recognized as a Center for Comprehensive MS Care by National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Nevada’s first and only
- 65 attendees to Pathway in MS Wellness event in June 2024

Leadership

Program Description

Cleveland Clinic Nevada leadership continues to support Las Vegas’ growing Medical District through representation on numerous steering committees and advisory groups aimed at improving health care in southern Nevada as well as innovative ways to expand our care footprint. Currently, additional efforts aimed at cultivating relationships with healthcare entities across the state to explore collaborations and partnerships leveraging Cleveland Clinic’s intellectual capital are underway.

Key Initiatives:

- Community Leadership Efforts:
 - Las Vegas HEALS
 - ACHE – Meet the Chief
 - Medical District Steering Committee
 - Clark County Medical Society
 - Symphony Park Planning Committee

- Strategic Planning and Expansion of services:
 - Diversification of clinical services
 - Expansion of imaging hours and access
 - Collaborations and partnerships with local hospitals including UMC
 - Advisory services in northern Nevada

- Recruitment and Retention of Professional Staff:
 - New hires for Neuropsychology and Cognitive Disorders
 - Fellowships
 - Emerging Scientist Awards

- Operations:
 - Continuous improvement efforts
 - Energy savings

Key Outcomes:

- Announced expansion of services with Cleveland Clinic Nevada concierge medicine and executive health programs, set to open in 2025 and 2026, respectively
 - Concierge – Business plan approved, space identified, permits submitted for construction in 2025, recruitment underway
 - Executive Health – enterprise leadership endorsement, space identified
 - Imaging Access and Expansion – additional patient care hours (out to 8:30pm, 5 days per week)
- Successfully recruited a Cognitive Neurologist, 2 Neuropsychologists, and an Advance Practice Practitioner for the Women’s Alzheimer’s Prevention and Research Center

Public Relations and Marketing

Program Description

The public relations and marketing team raises awareness for the services available at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, including no-cost community support and educational programming and advancements in research and treatment, through news media, social media and various patient-facing publications, to help connect the community we serve with the health information they seek. The efforts from this department serve patients and prospective patients of the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, media, donors, community partners and government officials.

Key Initiatives:

- State-wide Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Campaign: Led initiative to promote Nevada’s inaugural MS Week made possible by Sb-286, “The David Humm” bill in collaboration with Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop and Clark County

- AHEAD Study campaign: Led state-wide education and awareness campaign for the continued study of new Alzheimer's drug, lecanemab, through the AHEAD study to recruit study participants
- Breaking Barriers Community Roundtable: Co-led collaboration with the Nevada Office of Minority Health & Equity (NOHME) and the National Institute of Health's 'All of Us Bus' to host a community roundtable discussion on the importance of diversity in clinical research
- National Brain Health Awareness Survey: Collaborated with Parade Magazine on a national brain health awareness survey to understand American's understanding of brain health issues
- New Research: Promoted newly-published research to advance our understanding of brain disorders, including Alzheimer's, chronic traumatic encephalopathy and multiple sclerosis, at leading conferences including: American Academy of Neurology, Alzheimer's Association International Congress, European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis
- New Thinking About Thinking Magazine: Continued publication of bi-annual patient-facing Magazine, New Thinking About Thinking, to educate new and existing patients on the no-cost programming and research opportunities available at then Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

Key Outcomes:

- Coordinated State-wide sign lighting activation, illuminating Welcome to Las Vegas and Reno's 'Believe' sign orange – the official color of MS Awareness, garnering 43 placements in Nevada media totaling more than 6 million audience impressions
- Grew AHEAD study recruitment by 1,050% from 2 to 23 participants, positioning the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health as one of the top enrolling AHEAD sites in the country and connecting Nevadans with access to the latest treatments
- Grew Instagram page (@CCNevadaKMA) by 1,500 followers
- Distributed three issues of New Thinking About Thinking Magazine reaching a combined audience of 60,000
- Total media placements secured during funding period:
 - National consumer media:73
 - Neurology trade media: 27
 - Nevada media: 447

Volunteer Services

Program Description and Impacted Population

The Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health relies on its dedicated volunteers to enhance the patient and caregiver experience, while addressing the diverse needs of cognitive health, movement disorder, and multiple sclerosis patients. From greeting and assisting patients in the lobby to supporting physical, occupational, and music therapy programs, volunteers play an essential role in creating a welcoming, therapeutic environment. Their contributions significantly improved operational efficiency and patient experience, with

over 3,300 hours dedicated to supporting care for more than 42,000 patients who visited our campus. Patients, caregivers, and visitors to the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in downtown Las Vegas all benefit from the services of the Volunteer Services program.

Key Initiatives:

- Lobby Volunteers: Greet and assist patients and visitors, serving as ambassadors for brain health
- Volunteer Librarians: Curate educational resources on brain health and neurodegenerative conditions
- Physical Therapy Volunteers: Support therapists and patients in rehabilitation activities
- Music Therapy Volunteers: Assist the Music Therapist in fostering emotional connections through music

Key Outcomes:

- 35 volunteers contributed 3,330 hours (45 hours weekly)
- Supported care for over 42,000 patients
- Distributed 10,000–11,000 flowers through the Lynne Ruffin-Smith Charitable Foundation
- Enhanced lobby services, patient assistance, and therapeutic programs