FORCENET
FORCE-BASED MECHANISMS

NEWSLETTER

BUILDING A SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY
by Greg Kawchuk, DC, PhD

We all need research funding. And more of it. Arguably though, we also need a community. A home. That place where investigators interested in force-based mechanisms can gather, share ideas and ultimately, create stronger, and more fundable, research proposals. Thinking about it, we might need a community like this more than we need funding!

Some might argue we have a community already, sort of, created through a loose network of hallway conversations at conferences, social media groups and even via letters to the editor. These are all great opportunities to build community, but they have their limitations. As we have experienced first-hand from the pandemic, conferences benefit only those who can travel – and have child care – and have funding – and time to attend. And while there are tangible benefits to conferences, the pithy hallway conversations we value are fleeting and benefit only a few. Similarly social media presence is not the forte of most scientists and many of the SoMe platforms are not global in their use or distribution. Letters to the Editor? While they act as an important record of discussion, they are

glacial in their response if the editors choose to publish them at all.

Considering all of this, a research community is more than a place to gather regularly or have discussions often. It is a place that is equitable in its availability to the whole force-based manipulations community while providing genuine opportunities to learn, train, connect and collaborate.

This is the inspiration driving ForceNet, a U24 project supported by NIH. While many will see the immediate role of ForceNet is to distribute funds to force-based researchers (do check out our Request for Proposals, RFP, in this newsletter), there is a bigger opportunity to come together and share our

expertise for the benefit of all. An opportunity where we can leverage these funds to not just complete valuable pilot studies, but to do something more. To build that community that provides pre-submission grant reviews from trusted colleagues, helps mentor our early career researchers, provides dissemination of the new knowledge we create and by the way…, also happens to have some funds to disperse.

This is the driving force behind ForceNet. A place where we all can benefit, even if we might not apply for, or receive, some of the available pilot funding outlined in this RFP. A place for all of us. Our community. A place to call home (that happens to have some funding).

Join ForceNET

➕ SIGN UP   🔗 LINKEDIN

🌐 WEBSITE   ▶️ YOUTUBE

🐦 TWITTER

ForceNET
FORCE-BASED MECHANISMS

VISION STATEMENT

ForceNET endeavors to bridge the knowledge gap between research in force-based mechanisms and outcomes relevant to patients and their clinicians.

MISSION STATEMENT

ForceNET exists to connect interdisciplinary force-based mechanisms (FBM) researchers and/or clinicians of diverse backgrounds to address notable gaps in mechanistic-related knowledge, create a platform for sharing and dissemination of this knowledge, financially support pilot research to address identified mechanistic knowledge gaps, and when appropriate, frame and integrate the new knowledge into a clinical context.

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COMING SOON - PILOT AWARD FUNDING

As part of this U24 grant (U24AT011969), the ForceNET network will be inviting inter-disciplinary applications for 1 year pilot awards (up to $50,000) to provide project support for new or established investigators interested in Force-based manipulation (FBM) mechanistic research.

ForceNET pilot applications must propose to support small-scale pilot projects to develop data, theoretical frameworks, or empirical methods, or support the development of novel or high-risk approaches requiring interdisciplinary collaboration. By definition, mechanisms reflect the actions of an intervention (biological or behavioral), and how those actions unfold. ForceNET anticipates posting the Request for Applications on our website in November 2022.

3 HIGH-PRIORITY AREAS

FBM Biomechanical Metric Development – to characterize and quantify the types of in vivo superficial or deep mechanical forces associated with FBM application using universally accepted scientific metrics and terminology.

FBM Neural Mechanosensory Transduction (physiological mechanisms)– to identify multiscale responses that underlie the physiological effects related to Force-Based Manipulations.

FBM Psychosocial/Contextual Mechanisms – to identify how contextual factors interact with therapeutic forces. Examples of psychosocial/contextual factors of interest include, but are not limited to: social touch, patient/clinician relationship for delivery of therapeutic forces, etc.