

# CHARCOT-MARIE-TOOTH (CMT) DISEASE



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Dr. Herrmann is Chief of the Neuromuscular Division and Director of the Peripheral Neuropathy Clinics and Cutaneous Innervation Laboratory at the University of Rochester. Clinically, his interests are in the diagnosis and care of patients with various types of peripheral neuropathy with a particular interest in inherited neuropathies like CMT.

His current research focuses on new gene identification for inherited neuropathies, development of novel neuropathy outcome measures and biomarkers, and experimental therapeutics. He is the URM's principal investigator of the NIH-sponsored Inherited Neuropathy Consortium Rare Disease Clinical Research Center.



## *Helping people with hereditary neuropathies*

More than 2.8 million people worldwide suffer from Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease (CMT), a group of more than 70 progressive, inherited disorders that affects the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord.

Patients living with CMT experience varying degrees of pain, numbness, weakness, loss of balance, foot drop, and difficulty walking. Because there is a lack of awareness in the medical community—and the symptoms of CMT may vary from patient to patient—receiving a diagnosis may be a lengthy process. These factors can also take an emotional toll on CMT patients.

At the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC), our physicians and scientists lead worldwide efforts to understand neuromuscular diseases and develop targeted therapies. That's why patients around the world come to us for neuromuscular care.

Our renowned collaborative approach to research will help us identify new ways to track inherited neuropathies, identify their genetic cause, and expand clinical trials to develop new treatments. We also seek to increase awareness for patients, physicians, and the community through educational offerings and community outreach, and focus on training the next generation of physicians and researchers to better diagnose and treat peripheral neuropathies.

Another important goal is to develop an Interdisciplinary Inherited Neuropathy Center to serve as a hub for hereditary neuropathy care and research. The Center would provide same day access—in one location—to a range of specialists and services, including an on-site CMT neuropathy expert, physical therapist, occupational therapist, orthotist, nutritionist, and rehabilitation specialist.

***With your support, we can better understand CMT's genetic cause, discover effective treatments, and provide the care and educational outreach that CMT patients need.***

# Your gift will help us *improve health for generations of families*

Your contribution will allow us to advance educational and training efforts in peripheral neuropathy, and to turn scientific insights into the medical breakthroughs that impact people across the nation and around the world.

## MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND CARE

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You can further our national and international collaborations and partnerships by supporting our globally recognized research and care, and the multidisciplinary teams that make it happen. Your support will lead to new treatments, diagnostics, and model care for patients with inherited neuropathies.

## ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

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Endowed professorships honor acclaimed leaders who perform groundbreaking research, mentor junior faculty, and attract and retain talented residents and medical students. They are among the most coveted and defining rewards that a faculty member can receive, recognizing and fostering excellence. Your professorship support for peripheral neuropathy specialists will have a lasting effect on the innovative care provided by our faculty and trainees.

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

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You can raise awareness of CMT and inherited neuropathies by supporting an annual visiting lectureship or outreach and educational offerings for support groups and community physicians, leading to better recognition and understanding of inherited neuropathies and their manifestations.

## FELLOWSHIPS FOR EARLY-CAREER SCIENTISTS

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Fellowships support aspiring scientists, while providing research training and mentorship in the laboratory setting, who conduct in-depth research that propels treatment and care. Support at this level can help the best and brightest, early-career researchers fund promising science that may be too cutting-edge to attract external funding from traditional avenues of support like the National Institutes of Health (NIH); work that is vital to scientific discoveries and advances.

## PILOT PROJECTS/SEEDS FUNDS

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Gifts for seed funding are “risk capital” and allow scientists to shift the direction of their research to follow promising leads or new ideas, propelling scientific discoveries in new ways. You can help initiate pilot research studies at URMC for specific peripheral neuropathies and CMT, including research projects that can meet particular project goals meaningful to patients and families.

## TECHNOLOGY FUND

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Your support of a technology fund will help us provide the latest technology and state-of-the-art equipment to train our residents and help our patients. One example is telemedicine. Many of our patients find it difficult to travel for their care. Telemedicine allows them to receive the care they need—care that is not widely reimbursed via insurance at this time.