The Parkinson Research Foundation is a nonprofit health organization providing Parkinson’s Disease research, information and advocacy. PRF is an IRS recognized 501(c)3 organization and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The mission of the organization is to cure Parkinson's Disease and to improve the lives of all people affected by the disease.

To fulfill this mission, the Parkinson Research Foundation funds research, publishes scientific findings, provides funding for information and other services to people with Parkinson's, their families, health care professionals and the public. The Foundation also expects to be actively involved in advocating for scientific research and for the rights of people with Parkinson's disease.

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Working towards a cure while caring for the patient
The mission of the Center of Excellence is to support programs and services offered by USF to Parkinson patients and their caregivers primarily in the Tampa Bay area but also including the entire mid-Florida region. The PRF Center of Excellence provides clinical services, conducts clinical trials and supports basic research in Parkinson’s disease. The Center is located in the USF Health Carol and Frank Morsani Center for Advanced Healthcare in the heart of USF’s medical district on campus, with a physical street address of 13330 USF Laurel Drive. Inside this 194,000-square-foot facility, patients will find experts in all the major disciplines of medicine as well as an ambulatory surgery center, cutting-edge diagnostic imaging, a full service in-house pharmacy and much more.

To make an appointment with our experts at the PRF Center of Excellence (Dr. Theresa Zesiewicz or Dr. Sanchez-Ramos), call USF HEALTH: 888-USF-DOCS

The PRF supports the PRF Chapter serving the Tampa Bay region and all of mid-Florida. The primary goal of the PRF Chapter is to deliver the best care and information about Parkinson’s disease. The PRF Tampa Chapter organizes and presents patient conferences focusing on medical management and therapeutic interventions that improve the daily lives of patients. These include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, exercise, nutrition, and alternative approaches. Meetings and educational symposia are held every two months. For information contact: Lise Casady Phone: 813-974-8859 Email: lcasady@health.usf.edu

Juan Sanchez-Ramos, PhD, MD is Director of the PRF Center of Excellence at USF. Dr. Sanchez-Ramos is a Professor of Neurology at the University of South Florida in Tampa where he holds the Helen Ellis Endowed Chair for Parkinson’s Disease Research. He earned a PhD degree in Pharmacology & Physiology from the University of Chicago and a medical degree from the University of Illinois. He is board certified in Neurology and fellowship-trained in Movement Disorders. In addition to attending patients with Parkinson’s Disease and related movement disorders, he directs a basic research laboratory with active projects in neurodegeneration, neurotoxicology and adult stem cell biology. Dr. Sanchez-Ramos also serves as Executive Editor for PD Update.

Theresa Zesiewicz, MD is Director of Clinical Research at the PRF Center of Excellence. Dr. Zesiewicz is a Professor of Neurology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology. She earned her MD at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey and completed her residency at State University of New York in Brooklyn. She is fellowship-trained in Movement Disorders and has 15 years experience as an expert in Parkinson’s Disease and related disorders. Dr. Zesiewicz has written 6 books and numerous peer-reviewed articles in Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders. She is a member of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology, and a reviewer for the National Medical Board in Neurology.

Larry Hoffheimer, Chairman and Founder of PRF, has been a practicing healthcare attorney in Washington, DC since 1972. Prior to that he was a federal prosecutor with the United States Department of Justice. During the course of his career he has represented numerous voluntary health agencies (VHAs) and healthcare delivery professionals. Many of his VHA clients were devoted to finding the cause and cure for neurological disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis, head injury, Parkinson’s disease, etc. He formed and led the advocacy effort that resulted in the Congressional Resolution and Presidential Proclamation declaring the 1990s as the Decade of the Brain. Larry founded the National Foundation for Brain Research which provided enhanced visibility for neurological disorders. Larry was asked by the National Parkinson Foundation to serve as its Washington Counsel where he became a leader in the lobbying effort to pass the Morris K. Udall Bill, which provided $100,000,000 for research into the cause and cure for Parkinson’s disease. He was elected President of the Parkinson Foundation of the National Capital Area during which time the PPACA raised more than $2 million for important medical research. In 2003, Larry formed the Parkinson Research Foundation and moved to Sarasota, Florida where he directs the activities of the PRF.

Lise’ Casady, MSCN, ARNP-C Lise’ is board certified as an Adult Nurse Practitioner. Lise’ earned her Bachelors Degree in Nursing from University of Tampa, and her Masters in Nursing at the University of South Florida. Lise’ has spent most of her career caring for patients with a wide range of neurological illnesses, including Parkinson’s Disease. She has worked as Nurse Practitioner in the Department of Neurology at USF Clinics since 2006. She recently joined Dr. Theresa Zesiewicz and Dr. Juan Sanchez-Ramos in the Parkinson’s Research Foundation Center of Excellence at USF. She has lectured both locally and nationally and is active in her community. She has authored several publications and has been sub-investigator on several clinical trials. She has received several honors such as Nurse of the Year at Tampa General Hospital, Physician’s Medical Staff Award, and Outstanding Contribution to Spinal Cord Injury Nursing.

Kelly Sullivan, MSPH is an Associate in Research at the University of South Florida and a PhD candidate in epidemiology. She has collaborated with Dr. Zesiewicz for many years. As a neuro-epidemiologist, she has been involved with movement disorders research design, implementation and analysis. She has authored numerous manuscripts about Parkinson’s disease and related movement disorders.