Congratulations to our 2026 ASNR Award Winners!

During each ASNR Annual Meeting, we celebrate the achievements of ASNR members by presenting outstanding leaders and early-career professionals with awards to recognize their contributions to neurorehabilitation. In addition to honoring new Fellows of the American Society of Neurorehabilitation (FASNR) and the finalists for our Presidential Abstract Award and our Fletcher H. McDowell Abstract Award, we are excited to announce two new awards that will be presented for the first time during our upcoming Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California, March 25-27, 2026. Learn more about our awards and this year's recipients below.

Fellow of the American Society of Neurorehabilitation (FASNR)
The title of Fellow of the American Society of Neurorehabilitation is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of neurorehabilitation and to ASNR. This year, we are pleased to recognize three individuals who are each worthy of this prestigious distinction.

Teresa Jacobson Kimberley, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FASNR
Dr. Kimberley is Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Director of the Brain Recovery Laboratory at the MGH Institute of Health Professions, as well as Core Faculty at the Center for Neurotechnology and Neurorecovery and a research associate at Harvard Medical School, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Throughout her career, Dr. Kimberley has made important contributions to neurorehabilitation through her research on neuromodulation, motor recovery, and the neurophysiology of movement disorders. She is a leader in the field who has conducted multiple high-profile, federally-funded clinical trials, including pioneering work using vagus nerve stimulation paired with rehabilitation to improve post-stroke motor recovery. Her findings have advanced our understanding of brain plasticity and the mechanisms that underlie motor impairments. Beyond her research, Dr. Kimberley has had lasting impacts on the field through her exceptional leadership, mentorship, and advocacy for women in rehabilitation.

For over a decade, Dr. Kimberley has been an active member of ASNR, contributing to our vibrant and welcoming community, and her efforts and accomplishments have helped advance ASNR's mission. She has served as a member of the Program Committee, shaping the diverse programming at our Annual Meetings. In addition, Dr. Kimberley has been a valued role model and mentor for many ASNR Members, and she recently presented in an ASNR webinar on mentorship. We appreciate Dr. Kimberley's generosity in sharing her experiences, knowledge, and insights with our community, and we are pleased to recognize her with the prestigious honor of being named a Fellow of ASNR.

Mindy Levin, PT, PhD, FASNR

Dr. Levin is Professor in the Physical Therapy Program within the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy at McGill University.

Research conducted by Dr. Levin has shifted how we think about movement deficits in people with various neurological disorders, and her work has guided evidence-based approaches to enhance function in everyday life in these populations. She has also developed new tools to measure motor control deficits, and these tools are being successfully applied in clinical settings. Spanning the translational pipeline from studies on fundamental neurophysiological and motor control principles to the development of new interventions and technologies in robotics and virtual reality, Dr. Levin's research has sparked productive interdisciplinary collaborations and helped to bridge rehabilitation research with other relevant disciplines.

She has made substantial contributions to the field through her rigorous science, extensive editorial service, excellence in mentorship, and the leadership and establishment of multiple international professional societies in the field. Dr. Levin has also been involved in numerous local, national, and international health and health research policy meetings, committees, and expert panels, driving advances in policy to better support individuals with neurological conditions.

Dr. Levin joined ASNR in 2010, and she has been an active member of the society for over fifteen years. She is a regular attendee at our Annual Meetings, and she has been highly engaged in mentorship and supporting early career professionals in neurorehabilitation. We are delighted to present Dr. Levin with the title of FASNR for her many contributions to the field.

Sangeetha Madhavan, PT, PhD, FASNR

Dr. Madhavan is Professor, Director of the Brain Plasticity Laboratory, and Associate Head of Faculty/Student Affairs and Community Engagement in the Department of Physical Therapy at University of Illinois at Chicago where she is also Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives in the College of Applied Health Sciences.

Her research program has enhanced our understanding of the recovery of lower limb motor function and walking after stroke, potential biomarkers of recovery, and how priming-based approaches may support neurorecovery. In particular, Dr. Madhavan is a leader in integrating non-invasive neuromodulation approaches to explore and drive neuroplasticity.

From examining neural mechanisms of lower limb motor recovery to developing and evaluating practical interventions to enhance rehabilitation of walking through clinical trials, Dr. Madhavan's

research has had meaningful impacts in both the scientific and clinical realms. Further, her studies on telerehabilitation and teleneuromodulation have the potential to address major barriers to providing sufficient high-quality rehabilitation to individuals with neurological conditions around the world.

Within ASNR, Dr. Madhavan has made substantial contributions through six years of service on the Program Committee, developing programming and bringing ASNR initiatives to life. To support the next generation in neurorehabilitation, she has mentored diverse trainees and participated in ASNR's Virtual Mentoring Program. In addition, Dr. Madhavan is a strong advocate for women in neurorehabilitation. She has played a key role in establishing and chairing the Women in Neurorehabilitation Special Interest Group (SIG) within the World Federation for Neurorehabilitation (WFNR), which is a valuable community for women in the field. We are happy to highlight Dr. Madhavan's contributions to science, leadership, mentorship, and service by awarding her the title of FASNR.

Visionary Innovator in Science, Translation, and Education (V.I.S.T.E.) Award

The V.I.S.T.E. Award is presented annually in honor of Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD, who was a tireless advocate for neurorehabilitation and ASNR. Dr. Viste was highly active in ASNR, serving on committees and leading the organization as President. ASNR honors his memory by presenting this award annually to an individual in recognition of their scholarly achievements and contributions to knowledge in neurorehabilitation. This award will be presented for the first time at ASNR 2026.

Steven Kirshblum, MD
Dr. Kirshblum is Chief Medical Officer of Kessler Foundation and Co-Director of the Foundation's Tim & Caroline Reynolds Center for Spinal Stimulation, Center for Spinal Cord Injury Research, and Derfner-Lieberman Laboratory for Regenerative Rehabilitation Research. He is also Chief Medical Officer and Director of Spinal Cord Injury Services at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, and Chief Academic Officer for Select Medical Hospital's Rehabilitation Hospital Division. In addition, Dr. Kirshblum is project co-director of the Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury Model System, Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and Program Director of the Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Fellowship Program.
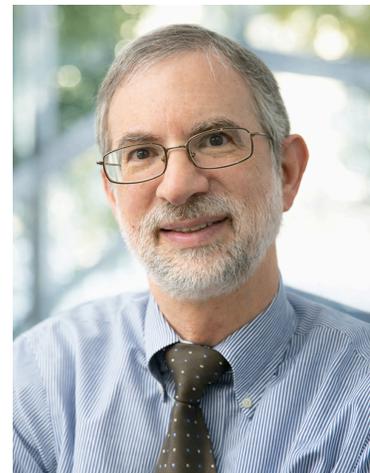
An internationally recognized expert in SCI rehabilitation and research, Dr. Kirshblum's career embodies scholarly excellence, clinical impact, and educational leadership. His research has shaped how clinicians characterize SCI severity, predict rehabilitation outcomes, and guide clinical practice. In particular, Dr. Kirschblum's contributions to developing the International Standards for Neurological Classification of SCI and the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) Impairment Scale have had lasting global impacts on SCI care, research, and prognosis.

Scientifically, he has advanced clinical outcomes research and pioneered rehabilitation interventions that integrate bioengineering and other advanced therapeutic approaches to address functional deficits affecting mobility, respiration, bladder and bowel function, and upper-extremity use. He is dedicated to translating these advances into real-world rehabilitation practice for people living with SCI. .

Beyond his research, Dr. Kirschblum has contributed substantially to advancing knowledge in neurorehabilitation through his service in various professional organizations and education. Over the years, he has invested substantial time and effort in training clinicians and clinician-scientists in neurorehabilitation and physical medicine and rehabilitation. We are looking forward to presenting the inaugural V.I.S.T.E. Award to Dr. Kirshblum for his important contributions to the generation and dissemination of new knowledge in neurorehabilitation.

Rising Investigator in Science and Innovation for Neurorehabilitation (Rising Star) Award
The Rising Star Award will also be presented for the first time at this year's Annual Meeting. This award is for individuals at the Instructor or Assistant Professor level who have shown exceptional potential to become a leader in the field of neurorehabilitation.

David Lin, MD
Dr. Lin is a physician-scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. Combining clinical expertise in neurology, neurointensive care, and neurorehabilitation with rigorous training in neuroscience, engineering, and motor control, Dr. Lin's unique background has already positioned him to meaningfully advance the field.

As an early-career faculty member, he has demonstrated excellent research productivity. His research program combines detailed clinical observation and quantification of movement during stroke recovery with rigorous neuroimaging and neurophysiology, resulting in innovative new methods and generating translational insights.

He launched a landmark natural history study on the recovery of upper extremity motor function after stroke that has enrolled over 250 patients and follows recovery across the full continuum of care using quantitative outcome measures. The study has united traditionally separate disciplines, including neurology, PM&R, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology, into an innovative, learning health system model.

Dr. Lin's role in developing new models for multidisciplinary neurorehabilitation care and training has the potential to be transformative. He founded and directs the MGH Neurorecovery Clinic, an innovative program that integrates a wide range of clinical disciplines. This clinic is inspiring the development of similar programs elsewhere.
His commitment to education is demonstrated through leadership roles in clinical and postdoctoral research fellowship training activities, as well as mentorship of a diverse and

interdisciplinary group of trainees and junior investigators. In recognition of Dr. Lin's scientific rigor, clinical innovation, collaborative leadership, commitment to mentorship, and potential to continue to advance neurorehabilitation, we are pleased to present him with our inaugural Rising Star Award.

Abstract Award Finalists

From the pool of submitted abstracts, ASNR selects finalists for two annual abstract awards. To be considered for the awards, an individual must be a student, resident, post-doctoral fellow, or a clinician within five years of training, and they must be the senior author on the abstract.

The ASNR Presidential Award is given to the finalist with the best basic science abstract. It was created to encourage early-career clinicians and investigators enrolled in training programs relevant to neurorehabilitation to engage in rigorous basic science research. The recipient will receive a $500 stipend.

The Fletcher H. McDowell Award is presented to the finalist with the best clinical science abstract. The award honors Dr. McDowell, a physician, scholar, champion of neurorehabilitation, and one of the founders of ASNR. It was established to recognize early-career clinicians and investigators enrolled in training programs relevant to neurorehabilitation who are conducting high-quality clinical research.

The six finalists will present their abstracts during our ASNR 2026 oral abstracts session. A panel of judges will determine the winners of these awards based on their oral presentations.

- **Sara Dyslin**

Current Position: PhD Candidate in the Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience at Georgetown University

Abstract Title: Lesion-Based Evidence That Top-Down Connections From the Language Network Support Posterior Visual Word Form Area Function

- **Daria Pressler, PT, DPT**

Current Position: PhD Student, in the Department of Rehabilitation, Exercise, & Nutrition Sciences at the University of Cincinnati

Abstract Title: Predicting Musculoskeletal Adverse Events During Moderate- to High-Intensity Gait Training in Chronic Stroke Using Baseline Clinical Characteristics

- **Aravind Nehrujee, PhD**

Current Position: Postdoctoral Fellow at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Abstract Title: Acute Intermittent Hypoxia Augments Ankle Strength in People with Multiple Sclerosis
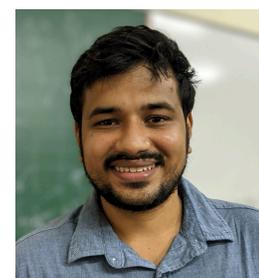
- **Margaux Lafitte, PhD**

Current Position: Researcher in the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the University of Tsukuba

Abstract Title: Effect Of EMG-Triggered Robot-Assisted Rehabilitation Targeting The Shoulder Joint On Muscle Synergies In Chronic Stroke Survivors With Moderate-To-Severe Upper-Limb Motor Dysfunction

- **Hunter Hayes**

Current Position: M.S. Student in the Biorobotics Laboratory at the University of California, Irvine

Abstract Title: Electroencephalogram Beta-Frequency Band Is Associated With Proprioceptive Processing And Recalibration Of Passive Finger Movements

- **Jessica Bath, PT, DPT, PhD**

Current Position: Physical Therapist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science at the University of California, San Francisco

Abstract Title: Differential Rehabilitation Effects in Parkinson's Freezing of Gait: A Meta-Analysis of Postural Control, Cognitive, and Mood Domains

We look forward to celebrating all award winners during our 2026 ASNR Annual Meeting, and we hope you will join us in Long Beach for the meeting!