# *The Edmond J. Safra Fellowship in Movement Disorders*

*Fall 2022*

EDMOND J. SAFRA
PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION

THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION
FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

## *Remembering Lily Safra*

1934 – 2022

The Michael J. Fox Foundation honors the extraordinary legacy of a world-class philanthropist whose support changed the course of Parkinson's disease research and care.

## IN TRIBUTE

# Lily Safra: The Visionary Whose Philanthropy Changed the World

> *"Lily has the vision to discern rare opportunities, and the generous spirit to realize them for others."*
>
> — Michael J. Fox

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) mourns the passing of its cherished friend and Board member Lily Safra. A world-class philanthropist, Mrs. Safra leaves a legacy of serving others through her unmatched generosity and immense compassion for humanity. As chairwoman of the Edmond J. Safra Foundation for more than 20 years, Mrs. Safra provided transformative support to hundreds of organizations around the world in the name of her late husband, Edmond J. Safra.

Edmond J. Safra lived with Parkinson's disease (PD), and Mrs. Safra was passionately invested in finding a cure. Guided by a deep understanding of the Parkinson's family experience, she became one of The Michael J. Fox Foundation's earliest and most important champions.

A seasoned and strategic philanthropist, Mrs. Safra was keenly aware of the opportunity to transform the Parkinson's experience through long-term commitments by the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, which has been a seminal partner to MJFF throughout our existence.

In 2020, MJFF honored Mrs. Safra's remarkable 20 years of leadership giving and strategic collaboration with the inaugural Edmond J. Safra Humanitarian Award. The award recognized her decades-long commitment to speeding a Parkinson's cure and bettering quality of life for people and families living with the disease.

# *Table of Contents*

# Our Global Network: Care Coupled with an Aim to Cure

*"Who's the best Parkinson's doctor?"* It's a question people and families often ask, whether they're recently diagnosed or have been living with disease for some time. And it's a good question, because seeing the right doctor is key to living as well as possible with Parkinson's disease (PD).

In any scenario, the "right" doctor for you will connect — listen, care and see you as a whole person, not just your diagnosis. In a disease as vexingly variable as Parkinson's, the right doctor also will be a true expert on PD, known as a *movement disorder specialist*.

Movement disorder specialists are neurologists who undertake specific training in Parkinson's. They see more people with PD and are better able to spot its nuanced direct and indirect effects. They can quarterback a care team and tailor a treatment plan to each person's unique symptoms and circumstance. And because Parkinson's is a disease that unfolds over decades, they are accustomed to evolving care over time, as needs change and as new treatments become available.

Here's the tricky part: Unfortunately, there aren't enough of these doctors to care for everyone with Parkinson's. Patients and families frequently experience unreasonable wait times and travel distances to access specialty care. Far too many give up on it altogether. Recognizing this vital need, in 2014 the Edmond J. Safra Fellowship in Movement

> *The Edmond J. Safra Fellowship has matured into a renowned funding opportunity and distinguished training pathway, making a global impact on the Parkinson's community.*

Disorders set out to expand the number and reach of movement disorder specialists around the world.

Edmond J. Safra Fellows not only provide the highest quality care today; they lead research to usher in a new era of Parkinson's care for the future. Their clinical practice informs their research goals, shaping their approach to the development and delivery of revolutionary and potentially life-changing therapies.

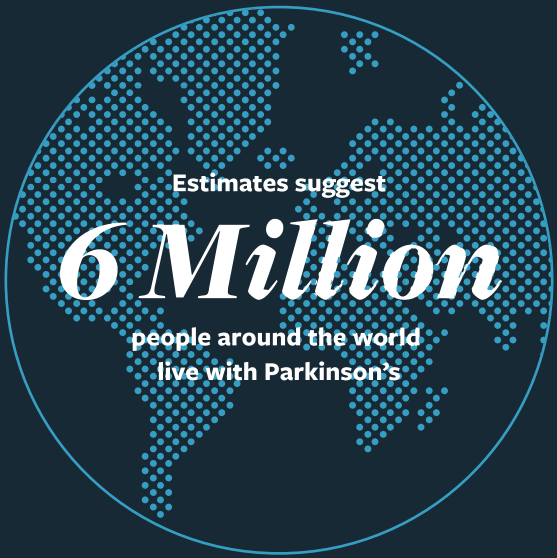
This publication explores the past, present and future of the Edmond J. Safra Fellowship. In the eight years since it began, the program has matured into a renowned funding opportunity and distinguished training pathway, making a global impact on the Parkinson's community. Five classes of 27 graduates form a growing but closely knit network, caring for people with Parkinson's around the world and fueling research momentum. With continued support, the program is poised for exponential growth and impact in coming years.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation is immensely grateful to the Edmond J. Safra Foundation for their partnership, vision and commitment to the Edmond J. Safra Fellowship in Movement Disorders. We also extend deep appreciation to the trainees, alumni and directors for their dedication to the Parkinson's community.

R.Do

Rachel Dolhun, MD
Senior Vice President, Medical Communications
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

# *A Movement Disorder Specialist Is Key to Living Well with Parkinson's*



Estimates suggest

***6 Million***

people around the world live with Parkinson's

**A movement disorder specialist is a neurologist with additional training in diagnosing and treating Parkinson's disease who:**

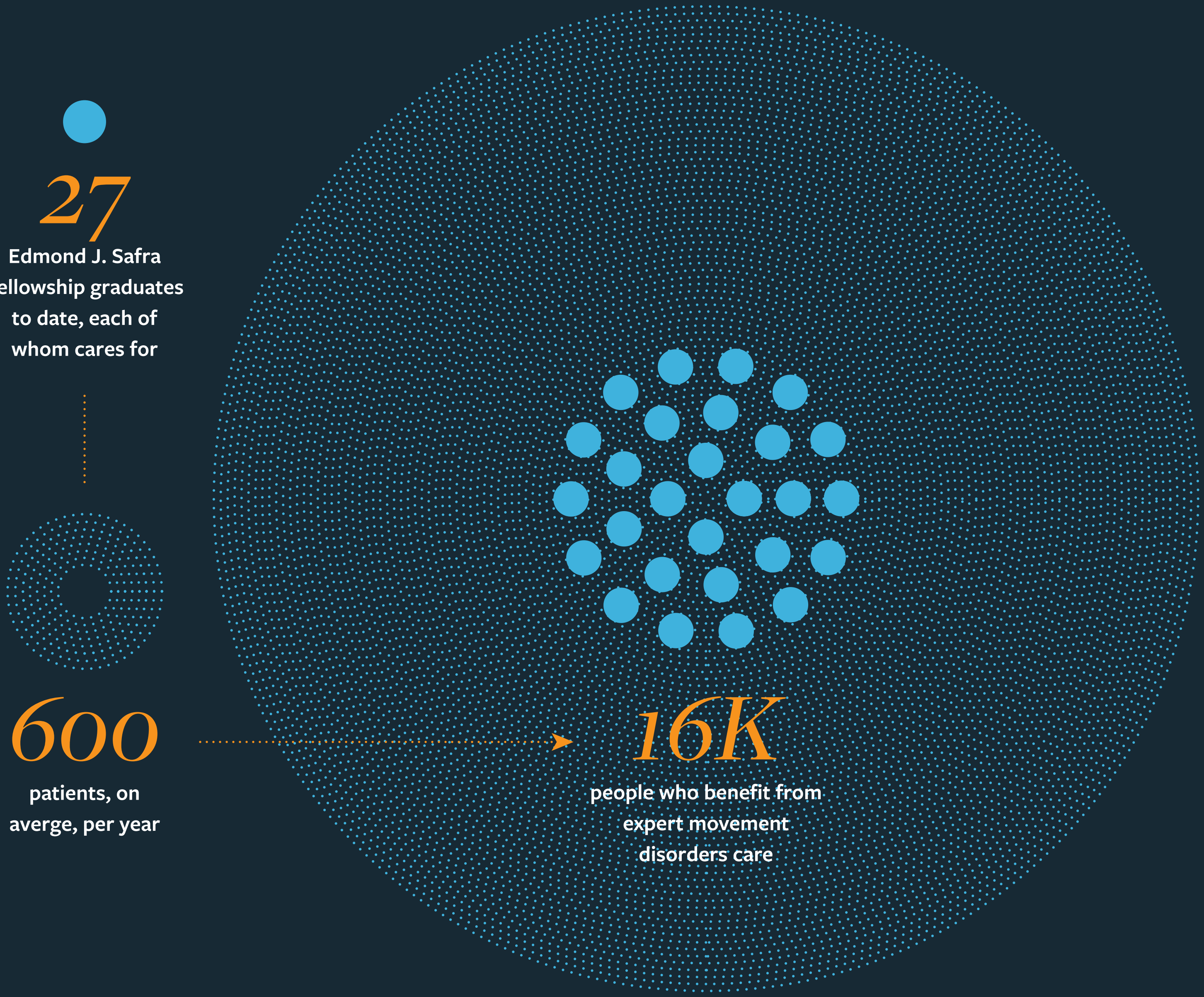
- Provides high-quality, personalized care
- Leads scientific advances
- Connects patients to clinical trials
- Incorporates the latest treatments and tools
- Educates the next generation of specialists
- Serves the local Parkinson's community

But there aren't enough movement disorder specialists.

*"There is so much we can do for those with Parkinson's disease to help them live happy, meaningful lives. I find it very fulfilling."*

*—Whitley Aamodt, MD, MPH; Class of 2021*

# *The Edmond J. Safra Fellowship is building a global base of movement disorder specialists to meet Parkinson's care and research needs around the world*



27

Edmond J. Safra Fellowship graduates to date, each of whom cares for

600

patients, on averge, per year

16K

people who benefit from expert movement disorders care

*"I am so moved that the Parkinson's community will benefit from this fellowship to support the rising need for Parkinson's specialists around the world."*

*– Claudette Cabrera-Ludwig, Parkinson's care partner, the United States*

# *The Edmond J. Safra Fellowship's Collaborative, International Network Enhances Parkinson's Care and Fuels Research Advances*

**2014**

Fellowship launches, funds training of five new movement disorder specialists each year

**2016**

MJFF hosts first annual fellowship event to foster collaboration across the global network

**2018**

First class graduates, takes next steps to meet Parkinson's community needs around the world

**2020**

Fellowship formalizes focus on diversity, equity and inclusion throughout training

**2021**

Program expands to fund training of eight new specialists each year

**2022**

Research funding pilot launches to support recent graduates' scientific career trajectory (read more on page 15)

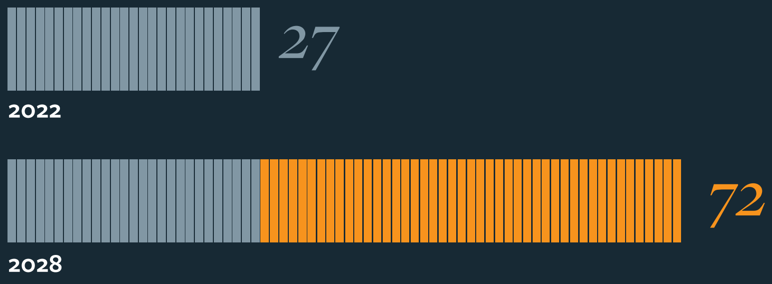
> *"It is an incredible honor to be the recipient of the Edmond J. Safra Movement Disorders Research Career Development Award. My research project aims to find a Parkinson's biomarker, which could have enormous impact on both diagnosis and tracking of disease in care and clinical trials."*
>
> *– Conor Fearon, BE, MB, PhD; Class of 2022*

# *Our vision for the Fellowship over the next several years is to:*

Nearly

## *Triple*

the number of graduates caring for people with Parkinson's across the world



Broaden the network by over

## *40%*

*28*
centers in 2022

*40*
centers in 2028

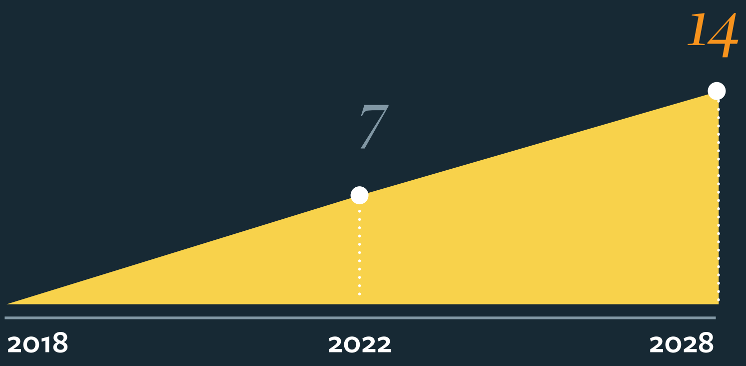
*10**
countries in 2022

*15*
countries in 2028

**Includes graduates who expand network beyond funded training centers*

## *Double*

the number of graduates working in underserved areas



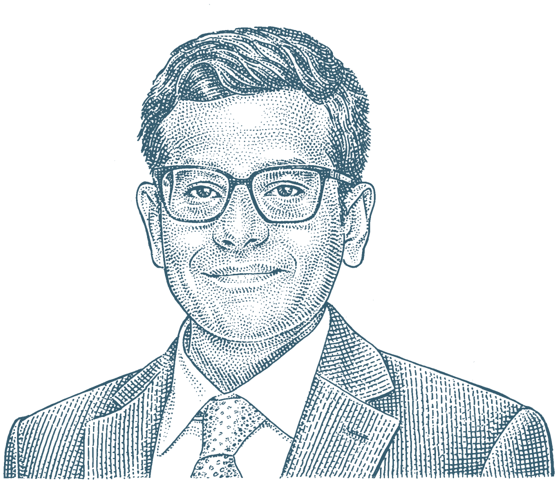
# *Recent Graduates*

## Class of 2022

# *Class of 2022*

## Aditya Boddu, MD

UAB (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
Birmingham, Alabama



### My Patients Show Me the Best Aspects of Humanity

The idea of “the brain pondering over the brain” has always intrigued me, even back in high school in India. And when I got to medical school, I found patients with neurological conditions to be the most interesting. With Parkinson’s disease, I love how the diagnosis rests on a good physical exam, more than 100 years after this kind of exam was first described. PD is not just a disease of the brain; it can affect the most personal aspects of a patient’s life, including vision, sense of smell, cognition and emotion. And the more time you spend with patients, the more you realize you can learn about life itself, seeing how they cope, how their families rally around them and even how important maintaining a sense of humor can be. In every patient encounter, I see some of the best aspects of humanity.

### Never Underestimate Simple Solutions

One of the joys of doing this work is knowing that there is always something you can do to improve a patient’s life. It’s especially emotional when someone comes in after deep brain stimulation, having regained abilities they’d lost. Often, these patients have been tremoring so intensely that they haven’t been able to write or eat on their own. Sometimes you find a good solution that isn’t nearly as dramatic but that still has a major impact. I had a patient who was a university professor, but because Parkinson’s caused drooling, he could no longer lecture, and he was really mourning the loss. In one visit, I suggested he try chewing gum. The next time he came in, he said, “That was such a valuable piece of advice!” There’s a huge role for therapies and medication and other advanced treatments, but if you think outside the box, you can find simple fixes that really work too.

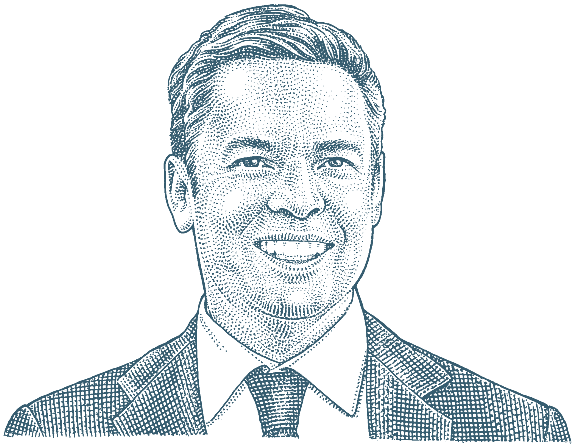
### The Time Is Now

Next year I’ll be joining the University of Arkansas in Little Rock as an assistant professor of neurology, focused on patients with PD and other movement disorders. Fellowship helped me grow into a confident Parkinson-ologist and movement disorder specialist. I enjoy impressing upon medical students and residents why they should go into the field of movement disorders. And I always tell my patients that if you must have Parkinson’s disease, the best time is now. The quest for a cure is strong, and research-wise, we’re approaching it from so many different angles. That’s why I truly believe that we’ll develop something to slow or stop the progression of Parkinson’s during my lifetime.

# *Class of 2022*

## Conor Fearon, BE, MB, PhD

Toronto Western Hospital
Toronto, Canada



### Movement Disorders Is Unlike Any Other Field of Medicine

Unlike many of my peers, I came into medicine — and neurology — with a background in electrical engineering. During my residency, I used my engineering skills, working with EEG (a test that detects abnormalities in brain waves or electrical activity) to analyze gait and freezing in people with Parkinson's disease to try to understand what is happening in the brain while patients are walking. It's the kind of approach that can be used across the range of movement disorders to get a broader view of a poorly understood problem.

### An Art and a Science

I always knew I'd end up applying my technical and analytical skills to medicine. But what surprised me, and what really drew me in, was the art of diagnosing movement disorders — the clinical exam. As a movement disorder specialist, you gain so much information from the delicate process of the physical exam. That's what initially caught my attention, and it still does. As medicine has evolved and become more and more test based, what we do in movement disorders stands apart: We follow patients clinically to understand their journey, interacting with them closely and getting to know them. That collaboration is what brings out our understanding of the disease. I think it's unlike any other field of medicine in that way.

### Merging the Clinical and the Analytical

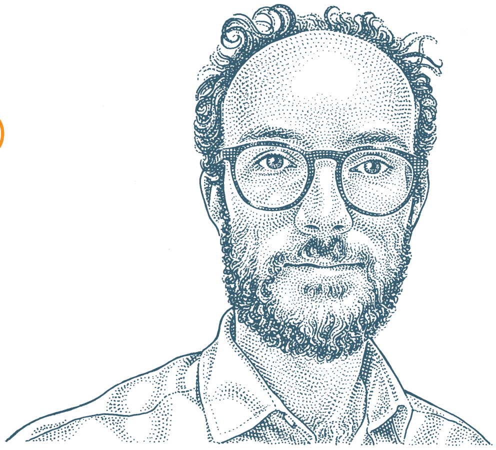
I love applying analytical methods to the clinical aspects of movement disorders. When you do it the right way, measuring things like how a person's gait or eye movements change over time can offer clues that make it possible to diagnose Parkinson's at an early stage. I've also been involved in a study where patients wear devices that can measure how they respond to a dose of medication and how that response changes over time. By using analytical methods and applying them to clinical symptoms, you can understand them more deeply; ideally, the analytical and the clinical complement one another.

### An Extraordinary Network

Next year, I'll go back to Ireland, where I grew up, went to medical school and found the mentors who drew me into neurology. I'll be taking a position as a consulting neurologist at the Dublin Neurological Institute (DNI), where I'll do academic work as well as quite a bit of clinical work in movement disorders. I'm excited that the DNI has the first deep brain stimulation clinic in Ireland — things are really moving over there in the field now.

# Eoin Mulroy, MB BCh BAO

UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology
London, England



## Offering a Caring Ear to Patients Is Important

I was always interested in neurology. But after medical school at University College Dublin, I met an inspiring mentor during my early clinical years. He took me under his wing and I found my place within the realm of movement disorders. Besides the focus on the patient and the doctor-patient interactions, what I love about the field is how you can take the details from what you see in the clinic and make them the basis for your research. That's not very common these days, taking inspiration from the hundreds of patients you see coming through your door.

## A Person, Not a Disease

For movement disorders especially, I think it's personal interaction with doctors that makes a huge difference to patients. In surveys we've done with patients, longer in-person visits are clearly very valuable to them, and I personally also find those visits more rewarding. Over and over, I'm struck by how important it is to spend time with patients and see them as people and not as a disease.

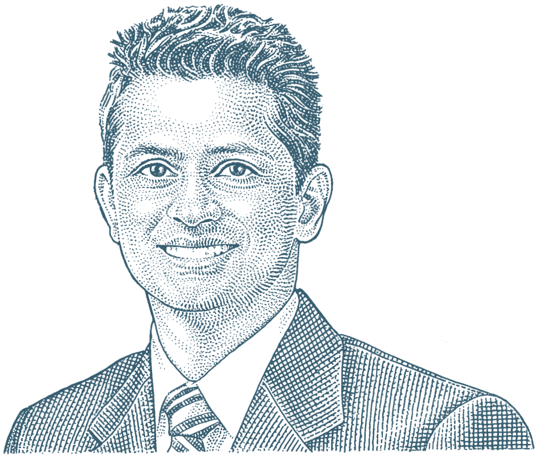
## No Limit to Where We Can Go

There has been a major shift in the last 20 years, with strong and astute clinicians who see hundreds of patients to academics who see fewer patients and who focus on research and basic science. But the people in the trenches sorting out patients' everyday problems have something to contribute to research, too, in terms of making sure that what we're studying has the most relevance to clinical practice.

If you're only focusing on big data or intricate genetics, you may not be asking the questions that matter to the individual sitting right in front of you. That's why clinical research feels so important to me, and it's the kind of research I plan to do — research based on questions I formulate from seeing my patients and trying to solve their problems. As an Edmond J. Safra Fellow, I've loved having the ability to sculpt my own path. To my mind, when you do research using astute observation of patients in the clinic as the basis for discovery, there's no limit to where you can go.

# Chintan Shah, MD

Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas



### A Fascination with the Brain

I grew up with a brother who had epilepsy (uncontrolled seizures). I always thought it was a mysterious disease, and it spurred me to want to know more about the brain. So at college at University of Texas, Austin, I majored in neurobiology, where dissecting the brain was my favorite class — I've always wanted to know how it works and why something might go wrong.

### With This Work, Every Day I Go Home Happy and Satisfied

In medical school at Texas Tech in El Paso, I saw how neurologists evaluating patients with Parkinson's disease were able to spend a lot of time with their patients, relying on exams and careful observation to pick up subtle cues for an accurate diagnosis. To me, that's the foundation of neurology. I felt like I could see myself doing that every day and going home feeling intellectually fulfilled and emotionally satisfied.

Through my training and as a fellow, I've realized that when you treat someone with a chronic progressive condition like PD, you are a part of their journey. It goes beyond their disease — you learn about their profession, interests and hobbies. Bonding that way, at that level, helps me individualize their treatment so they can do what they enjoy in life.

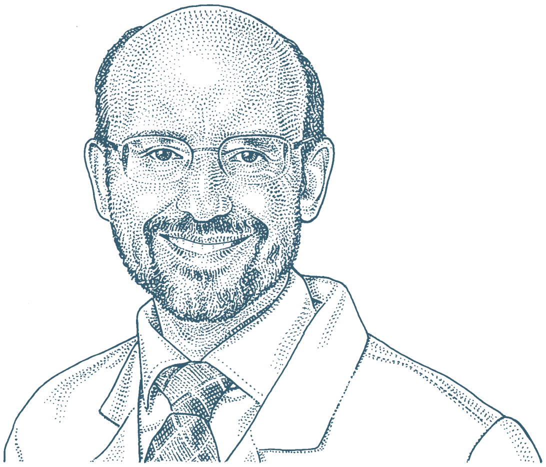
### Long-lasting Relationships with Patients

When I started my fellowship at Baylor, I met with my mentor, Joseph Jankovic, and we talked about the emergence of genetics in movement disorders and the importance of genetic testing. While there is not a lot of evidence about the impact of genetics in terms of diagnosis of PD, I believe it's important for patients to have that kind of testing if they want it. The results can tell you at least something about prognosis, familial risk, the best treatment options — and may make some patients eligible for gene-targeted clinical trials.

Next year, I'll be joining Houston's Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, a large, multispecialty private practice, as the only movement disorder specialist. I'll be providing state-of-the-art therapies like focused ultrasound, deep brain stimulation and genetic testing. Usually, things like genetic testing are easier to do in an academic setting. But one of my goals is to take what I've learned and share it with patients in a private practice setting — making it more accessible. I look forward to building long-lasting relationships with my patients. That's what's important to me.

# Jon Toledo Atucha, MD, PhD

Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological
Diseases at University of Florida Health
Gainesville, Florida



## Always Interested in the Research Side of Things

I grew up in Bilbao, Spain, and my father was a pathologist, so I was drawn toward medicine early on. But I've always been interested in the research side of things. During my neurology residency in Pamplona, I did neurophysiological recordings in people with Parkinson's to see how certain brain signals correlate with motor symptoms. By better understanding brain circuitry, I hope we can devise new deep brain stimulation therapies to better treat symptoms. In 2011, as a post doctoral researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, I worked on imaging and biomarkers and how they predict disease. During my fellowship, I learned about deep brain stimulation and programming and clinical presentation of movement disorders.

## Everything Is Related

There tends to be a separation between movement disorders and cognitive neurology, but these fields are intricately linked. I worked in a brain bank in Japan, and when we looked at the brains of people who had Alzheimer's disease, they often also had Lewy body pathology, which can cause symptoms similar to those in PD. At the same time, many people with Parkinson's had brain pathology similar to that found in Alzheimer's. The point is, when you study brain cells from people who have movement disorders versus dementia, most of the time you find multiple and overlapping pathologies. As doctors, we routinely make clinical distinctions among the different disorders. To better understand what is really happening and to develop more tailored treatments, it's crucial to understand how the brain is affected by multiple things — there's no one answer that explains everything.

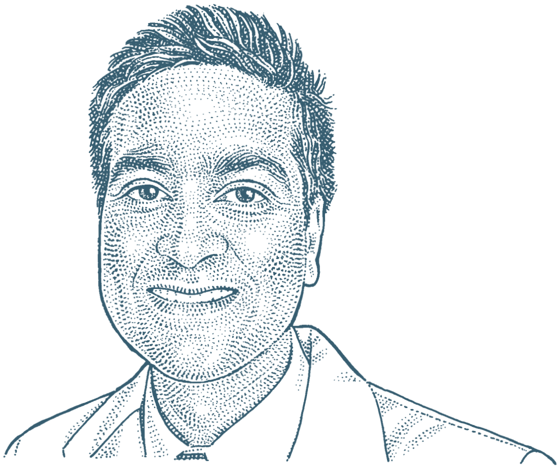
## Collaboration Is Key

Next year, I'll be scientific director at the Nantz National Alzheimer's Center at Houston Methodist Hospital. I'll be seeing patients with movement disorders and dementia and continuing my research. We are getting better at identifying the different neurodegenerative conditions that cause both movement disorders and Alzheimer's, and there are several new treatments in the pipeline. I love how, in the U.S., the National Institutes of Health (NIH) supports the science of movement disorders and how other neurodegenerative diseases, aside from Alzheimer's, have become more of a priority. We are at a new stage with NIH promoting collaborations between different institutions and with more sharing of research and data. I'm optimistic because I think that can advance science faster.

# *Class of 2022*

## Pavan Vaswani, MD, PhD

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



### I Craved a Deeper Purpose

There's an old adage that when it comes to neurology, it's "diagnose and adios!" — meaning that with many conditions, there's not much you can do. But that's not true with movement disorders. There are lots of treatments available now and many in the pipeline that can make a huge difference in patients' lives. That's one reason I was drawn to this field.

I went to college at the University of Washington in Seattle to major in computer science or engineering, but found myself craving a deeper sense of purpose. I realized I liked the direct approach of medicine and helping patients. What I've found valuable about treating people with movement disorders is the chance to get to know them and their families longitudinally, not just as their doctor but as part of a broader care team.

### The Power of Touch

Starting with the hands-on clinical exam to make a movement disorder diagnosis, you develop a different relationship with patients. There is something that feels really important to me about being hands-on with a patient, say, when evaluating their symptoms. It's not just looking at a brain MRI or other test results. To really understand the diagnosis, you must get to know the patient in a meaningful way.

### The Promise of Early Diagnosis

In my research, I've been looking at prodromal testing — before PD motor symptoms appear — specifically looking at sense of smell, which can decrease dramatically, sometimes years or more before motor symptoms and diagnosis. If we want to develop a treatment that truly changes the course of disease, we must be able to diagnose PD early on.

### Connecting During COVID

I completed my entire fellowship during COVID. But with the Edmond J. Safra Fellowship webinars featuring field leaders and online networking opportunities, I've had camaraderie with and the chance to learn from peers and mentors around the world. Still, there's nothing like meeting together in person, and I'm thrilled things are opening up.

Next year, I'll be an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Center (PADRECC) at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, one of six centers nationwide that cares for veterans with Parkinson's and other movement disorders. Early research and trials on deep brain stimulation (DBS) took place at these centers, but we haven't had an active DBS program at the Philadelphia VA for a long time. I'm excited to help start it up again, with a rich history backing me.

# The Inaugural Edmond J. Safra Movement Disorders Research Career Development Awards

Launched in 2022, with support from the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, this competitive research funding opportunity aims to support the early career development and research trajectory of recent Edmond J. Safra Fellowship alumni. Awardees were chosen based on the strength of the investigator, clarity of path to scientific independence and potential impact of the proposal. Each awardee receives a $50K grant to support a two-year project.

## Conor Fearon, BE, MB, PhD

### Class of 2022

Consulting Neurologist;
Dublin Neurological Institute; Dublin, Ireland

Combining his expertise in electrical engineering and movement disorders, Fearon aims to develop quantitative, noninvasive biomarkers to diagnose and track Parkinson's and related parkinsonisms through analysis of eye movements and pupillary changes.

## Anne Weissbach, MD

### Class of 2020

Junior Group Leader, Movement Disorders Unit;
the Institute of Neurogenetics in Lübeck; Lübeck, Germany

Building upon a well-established line of research, Weissbach aims to find unique electrophysiological brain signals of monogenic Parkinson-dystonia syndromes and correlate signals with clinical symptoms. She also aims to broaden remote testing capabilities, making research participation more accessible.

# *Fellowship Directors*

## Class of 2022

> *"The fellowship has been invaluable in increasing the pool of movement disorders physicians and, ultimately, access to care."*
>
> — Nabila Dahodwala, MD, MS

## Kailash Bhatia, MD

UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology; London, England

Kailash Bhatia is professor of clinical neurology at the Institute of Neurology, UCL Queen Square, London. He is a clinical academic with research interests in a range of movement disorders, merging clinical, genetic and electrophysiological methods to describe clinical phenotypes and pathophysiology. Bhatia has authored over 700 peer-reviewed publications and several books including the tome *Marsden's Book of Movement Disorders*, a recipient of the best book in Neuroscience award by the British Medical Association in 2013. He is the co-chief and founding editor of the *Movement Disorders Clinical Practice* (MDCP) journal. Bhatia has trained over 40 fellows from half a dozen countries and is proud to have mentored two Edmond J. Safra Fellows in Movement Disorders to date.

## Nabila Dahodwala, MD, MS

University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Nabila Dahodwala is associate professor of neurology at the University of Pennsylvania. Her clinical interests include Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders. Her research interests involve access to care, disease prevention and health promotion, disparities and health equity, and global health and risk communication. Dahodwala leads several projects that study patient, physician and health system-level barriers to high-quality care for individuals with neurodegenerative diseases. She is the site principal investigator and serves on the Steering Committee and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force for MJFF's Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI) study. Dahodwala also participated in MJFF's Technical Advisory Group to study the economic burden of Parkinson's disease.

# *Class of 2022 Fellowship Directors*

## Susan Fox, MB, ChB, MRCP(UK), PhD

Toronto Western Hospital; Toronto, Canada

Susan Fox is head of the Division of Neurology at University Health Network and Sinai Health Systems. She holds the Krembil Family Chair of Neurology and is a professor of neurology at the University of Toronto. She is associate director of the Movement Disorders Clinic at Toronto Western Hospital. Fox is Chair of the Pan-American section of the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (MDS) and past chair of the evidence-based medicine committee. Her research interests are in pre-clinical models of Parkinson's disease and translational studies of novel pharmacological therapies for Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders such as dystonia. She has published widely in the field and is a regular speaker at national and international conferences.

## Christopher W. Hess, MD

Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at University of Florida Health; Gainesville, Florida

Christopher W. Hess is assistant professor of neurology at the University of Florida College of Medicine where he serves as movement disorders fellowship director and medical director. He also directs the Veterans Affairs (VA) Parkinson's Disease Consortium Center at the North Florida/South Georgia VA Medical Center. Hess received his medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and completed his neurology residency and fellowship in movement disorders and clinical motor physiology at the Neurological Institute of New York at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University. He has published journal articles and book chapters on a variety of topics, including movement disorders neurophysiology and methods of tremor analysis, neuroimaging in movement disorders, invasive and noninvasive brain stimulation in Parkinson's disease and substance abuse in movement disorders. His current research interests include the use of wearable devices in movement disorders.

## Joseph Jankovic, MD

Baylor College of Medicine; Houston, Texas

Joseph Jankovic is professor of neurology, Distinguished Chair in Movement Disorders, and founder and director of the Parkinson's Disease Center and Movement Disorders Clinic (PDCMDC) at the Neurology Department of Baylor College of Medicine. Jankovic is the recipient of many awards, including: the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Movement Disorders Research Award, First National Parkinson Foundation Distinguished Service Award, Huntington's Disease Society of America Guthrie Family Humanitarian Award, Tourette Syndrome Association Lifetime Achievement Award, Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Distinguished Service Award, Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation Award and Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Neurotoxin Association. He served on MJFF's Executive Scientific Advisory Board. Jankovic published over 1,200 original articles and over 60 books, is included among "Highly Cited Researchers" and has been ranked the leading expert in the world in movement and in botulinum toxins according to expertscape.com.

## Anthony Lang, MD, FRCPC

Toronto Western Hospital; Toronto, Canada

Anthony Lang is a professor and previous director of the Division of Neurology at the University of Toronto. He holds the Jack Clark Chair for Parkinson's Disease Research and the Lily Safra Chair in Movement Disorders. He is the director of the Edmond J. Safra Program in Parkinson's Disease, the Rossy Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Program and the Morton and Gloria Shulman Movement Disorders Clinic at Toronto Western Hospital. He is one of the most highly cited investigators in the field of movement disorders. His distinctions include Officer of the Order of Canada, Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and Honorary Member of the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (MDS). His awards include the inaugural MDS Pan-American Section Leadership Award, the Weston Brain Institute International Outstanding Achievement Award and the Dean's Lifetime Achievement Award for Global Impact from the University of Toronto.

# *Class of 2022 Fellowship Directors*

## David G. Standaert, MD, PhD

UAB (University of Alabama at Birmingham); Birmingham, Alabama

David Standaert is the John N. Whitaker Professor and Chair of the Neurology Department at the UAB Heersink School of Medicine and a senior member of the faculty of the Division of Movement Disorders. His interest in Parkinson's disease and disorders of movement began during his neurology residency at the University of Pennsylvania and fully developed during his fellowship training at Massachusetts General Hospital. Standaert served as a member of the faculty of Harvard Medical School until relocating to UAB in 2006. He continues to see patients weekly in clinic, and serves as program director for the NIH-funded Alabama Morris K. Udall Center of Excellence in Parkinson's Disease Research, a large project examining the role of neuroinflammation in the pathophysiology of Parkinson's.

> “I would not have been able to seek a clinician-researcher path in the field of movement disorders without the training and mentorship provided by the Edmond J. Safra Fellowship.”

— **Christine Kim, MD**

Edmond J. Safra Fellowship Class of 2018
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Columbia University; New York, New York

# *Fellows*

The Edmond J. Safra Fellowship is currently supporting 13 movement disorder specialists in training at top-tier medical centers around the world.

## Class of 2023

**Sergio Andrés Castillo-Torres, MD**

Fleni Hospital; Buenos Aires, Argentina

*Fellowship Director: Marcelo Merello, MD, PhD*

**Stephen Joza, MD, PhD**

McGill University/Montreal Neurological Institute; Montreal, Canada

*Fellowship Director: Ronald Postuma, MD, MSc*

**Poornima Jayadev Menon, MB BCh BAO, LRCP & SI, MRCPI, DTMH**

Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital; Paris, France

*Fellowship Director: Jean-Christophe Corvol, MD, PhD*

**Andrea Sujung Yoo, MD**

Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center; New York, New York

*Fellowship Directors: Susan Bressman, MD, and Rachel Saunders-Pullman, MD, MPH, MS*

**Jun Yu, MD, MS**

Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at University of Florida Health; Gainesville, Florida

*Fellowship Director: Christopher W. Hess, MD*

*Jun secured a one-year grant to study neuromodulation in dystonia, a movement disorder and potential Parkinson's symptom. He will complete fellowship in 2024.*

# Class of 2024

**Laura Armengou García, MD, PhD**

Toronto Western Hospital; Toronto, Canada

*Fellowship Directors: Susan Fox, MB, ChB, MRCP(UK), PhD, and Anthony Lang, MD*

**Milan Beckers, MD, PhD**

Radboud University Medical Centre; Nijmegen, the Netherlands

*Fellowship Directors: Bastiaan Bloem, MD, PhD; Bart Post, MD, MSc, PhD; and Bart van de Warrenburg, MD, PhD*

**Stephen Berger, MD, PhD**

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Baltimore, Maryland

*Fellowship Director: Alexander Pantelyat, MD*

**José Ricardo López Castellanos, MD**

Emory University; Atlanta, Georgia

*Fellowship Director: Stewart Factor, DO*

**Francesca Magrinelli, MD, PhD**

University College London; London, England

*Fellowship Director: Kailash Bhatia, MD*

**Leila Saadatpour, MD**

Cleveland Clinic; Cleveland, Ohio

*Fellowship Director: Hubert Fernandez, MD*

**Christina Swan, MD, PhD**

Rush University; Chicago, Illinois

*Fellowship Director: Katie Kompoliti, MD*

**Rebecca Williamson, MD**

University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Fellowship Director: Nabila Dahodwala, MD, MS*

# *Class of 2025 Fellowship Centers*

The program recently selected eight international centers, five of which are new to the fellowship network, to train the eighth fellowship class.

Each center will now identify a candidate to begin two years of training in July 2023.

### Charité – Universitätsmedizin

Berlin, Germany

*Fellowship Director: Andrea Kühn, MD*

### Northwestern University

Chicago, Illinois

*Fellowship Director: Tanya Simuni, MD*

### University of Calgary

Calgary, Canada

*Fellowship Director: Justyna Sarna, MD, PhD*

### University of Rochester

Rochester, New York

*Fellowship Director: Jamie Adams, MD*

### University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

Los Angeles, California

*Fellowship Directors: Mark Lew, MD, and Xenos Mason, MD*

### University of Texas Health Science Center

Houston, Texas

*Fellowship Director: Mya Schiess, MD*

### University of Tübingen

Tübingen, Germany

*Fellowship Director: Thomas Gasser, MD*

### Westmead Hospital and University of Sydney

Sydney, Australia

*Fellowship Director: Victor Fung, MBBS, PhD*

---

## Credits

Fellow Biographies as told to Paula Derrow.

Illustrations by Nancy Januzzi

> “We’re grateful to be working together to increase the number of highly specialized neurologists who can help patients live better with Parkinson’s disease and speed progress toward a cure.”

— **Michael J. Fox**

THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION
FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

As the world's largest nonprofit funder of Parkinson's research, The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to accelerating a cure for Parkinson's disease and improved therapies for those living with the condition today. The Foundation pursues its goals through an aggressively funded, highly targeted research program coupled with active global engagement of scientists, Parkinson's patients, business leaders, clinical trial participants, donors and volunteers. In addition to funding $1.5 billion in research to date, the Foundation has fundamentally altered the trajectory of progress toward a cure. Operating at the hub of worldwide Parkinson's research, the Foundation forges groundbreaking collaborations with industry leaders, academic scientists and government research funders; creates a robust open access data set and biosample library to speed scientific breakthroughs and treatment with its landmark clinical study, PPMI; increases the flow of participants into Parkinson's disease clinical trials with its online tool, Fox Trial Finder; promotes Parkinson's awareness through high-profile advocacy, events and outreach; and coordinates the grassroots involvement of thousands of Team Fox members around the world.

**michaeljfox.org**

michaeljfoxfoundation
@michaeljfoxorg
@michaeljfoxorg
michaeljfox

michaeljfox.org
1 800–708–7644

EDMOND J. SAFRA
PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION

Edmond J. Safra, one of the 20th century's most accomplished bankers and a devoted philanthropist, established a major charitable foundation to ensure that individuals and organizations would continue to receive his assistance and encouragement for many years to come. Led for more than twenty years by his beloved wife Lily, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation draws continuing inspiration from Mr. and Mrs. Safra's values and priorities, supporting hundreds of organizations and programs in more than forty countries around the world. Its work encompasses four areas: education; science and medicine; religion; and humanitarian assistance, culture, and social welfare. The Foundation has provided significant funding for Parkinson's disease research and patient care at dozens of hospitals and institutes in places as varied as Natal (Brazil), Toronto, New York, Grenoble, Paris, London and Jerusalem.

**edmondjsafra.org**