In 2022, Cures Within Reach funded Dr. Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown at Emory University School of Medicine to support a Phase I clinical trial repurposing a non-opioid approved addiction treatment, low-dose naltrexone, to treat chronic pain in patients with HIV. Currently, HIV patients with chronic pain are often treated with opioid therapies which can cause negative side effects including immune suppression. The goal of the trial is to improve patient quality of life through non-opioid therapies.

An anesthesiologist by training, Dr. McKenzie-Brown has dedicated her career to non-opioid treatments of chronic pain. As the longtime Director of the Emory Pain Center, she was selected to the expert committee for the FDA’s Opioids Action Plan in 2016. Her research and publications also include non-surgical low back pain treatment, chronic pain diagnosis, and integrative pain management.

Aside from research, Dr. McKenzie-Brown also exemplifies leadership and mentorship in academic medicine. As an alumnus of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Dr. McKenzie-Brown chaired a committee on the Alumni Council, allocating grants to student-led community-based projects including international service to Haiti. In 2021, she was elected to the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women at Drexel University College of Medicine, recognizing high-achieving women faculty at academic health centers.

Dr. McKenzie-Brown’s goal: to spearhead a "culture change" needed to overcome prescription opioid abuse, re-examining the way both patients and physicians consider pain management solutions.