

CURES WITHIN REACH RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: LEADING A "CULTURE CHANGE" AGAINST OPIOID ABUSE

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.



PROFILE

- Dr. Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown is driving a culture change against prescription opioid abuse, through research and academic leadership.
- Dr. McKenzie-Brown is actively involved in medical education, serving as an examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiology and ACGME accreditation board.

CWR FUNDING

- This \$70,000 **Phase I clinical trial** is testing an approved non-opioid treatment for chronic pain in HIV patients plus additional funds for the engagement of community-based organizations.
- Dr. McKenzie-Brown and this trial represent two of Cures Within Reach's communities:
 - **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
 - **Neurology**



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Cures Within Reach leverages the speed, safety and cost-effectiveness of testing approved therapies for new indications, driving more treatments to more patients more quickly.

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