

CURES WITHIN REACH RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: ANSWERING THE GOLDEN QUESTION IN SEVERE LIMB TRAUMA

In 2019, Cures Within Reach funded **Dr. John Elfar** at the **Pennsylvania State Medicine** and **Hershey Medical Center** and his pivotal clinical trial investigating a generic multiple sclerosis drug, 4-aminopyridine (4AP), to diagnose severed vs crushed nerve damage for patients with acute peripheral nerve injuries. In early 2022, he received a **\$2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health** for the larger confirmatory clinical trial.

Now at **University of Arizona** as the Chair of its Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Dr. Elfar is continuing his clinical interests in sports, hand and upper extremity surgery, and orthopedic reconstructive surgery. His research has been licensed to Solaxa, a public benefit company he co-founded that is working to develop treatments to restore sensation, movement and function after acute peripheral nerve injury. In addition, Dr. Elfar is studying if 4AP can be used for wound healing and tissue regeneration.

His goal: to expand the role of orthopedic surgeons in bringing research from bench to bedside in order to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and overall quality of life for orthopedic patients.



PROFILE

- An orthopedic trauma surgeon, Dr. John Elfar is spearheading ground-breaking research for patients with peripheral nerve injuries.
- Dr. Elfar studied and trained at Harvard Medical School, University of Cincinnati, and University of Rochester before positions at Penn State, Hershey Medical Center and now at University of Arizona.

CWR FUNDING

- This **\$50,000 pivotal clinical trial** tested a generic multiple sclerosis drug, 4-aminopyridine, to diagnose severed vs crushed nerve damage in limb trauma patients.
- Dr. Elfar and this trial represent three of Cures Within Reach's communities:
 - **Veterans**
 - **Mid-Atlantic**
 - **Neurology**

