

August 27, 2023

Dear Ms. Bonnell,

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Bonnell Foundation: Living with cystic fibrosis, for the generous gift to the University of Michigan Comprehensive Pancreas Program. Your donation of \$5,000 will help support conducting a pilot study entitled “***Role of home-based transcutaneous electrical acustimulation for treatment of pain in patients with chronic pancreatitis***”.

Abdominal pain is a common symptom reported by individuals with cystic fibrosis, whose symptoms often arise from multifactorial etiologies, which pose a challenge with successful treatment. A subset of individuals with cystic fibrosis have pain due to chronic pancreatitis, which can be debilitating and difficult to treat. A provocative research observation is that acupuncture may relieve pain in patients with chronic pancreatitis. Transcutaneous Electrical Acustimulation (TEA) is a new noninvasive “acupuncture-like” therapy, which uses the principles of acupuncture but requires no needles and allows self-treatment at home. **The aim** of this research study is to determine if TEA reduces pain in individuals with chronic pancreatitis in the cystic fibrosis community and the general population. Eligible study participants will have the following characteristics: chronic pancreatitis (due to cystic fibrosis and other causes), abdominal pain, and age 18-75 years old.

Funds from the Bonnell Foundation: Living with cystic fibrosis, will specifically support a pilot study of 10-20 participants who will receive TEA. The TEA intervention involves self-treatment at home for 30 minutes twice a day for 4 weeks. This has been shown to be effective in reducing abdominal pain due to other gastrointestinal conditions but has not been tested in chronic pancreatitis. **Results from this pilot study** will serve as feasibility data to support a subsequent, larger randomized control trial. If TEA is effective in reducing pain in chronic pancreatitis, this may serve as an alternative, non-pharmacological, and opioid-free treatment of pain, with a better safety profile compared to other available options.

Sincerely,

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