

## External Review Committee (ERC) Convenes in Houston



Mission Connect's first onsite review of science was held in 2003. For more than 20 years, the ERC's expert and unencumbered guidance has ensured that Mission Connect is funding the most robust, well-designed, and promising research.



Michelle LaPlaca, PhD

Eight members of Mission Connect's External Review Committee convened in Houston on April 12 through 14 at the Hotel Intercontinental in the Texas Medical Center. During this two-day meeting, thirteen Mission Connect Principal Investigations presented their research outcomes before the ERC. These 2-year projects launched in 2021 with Mission Connect funding. This was the first in-person review hosted by Mission Connect following virtual reviews in 2020 thru 2022 due to COVID restrictions on travel.

### ERC Members in Attendance

Larry Benowitz, PhD  
W. Dalton Dietrich, PhD  
C. Edward Dixon, PhD  
Candace L. Floyd, PhD  
Michelle LaPlaca, PhD  
Phillip G. Popovich, PhD  
Yang (Ted) Teng, PhD, MD  
Pamela VandeVord, PhD

On the final day of the review, TIRR Foundation board members joined the meeting to learn first-hand about the state of Mission Connect's research portfolio. We were pleased to learn that the investigations reviewed were deemed a good investment by Mission Connect and that the quality and productivity of the research taking place within Mission Connect is excellent.



(left to right) Larry Benowitz, PhD, W. Dalton Dietrich, PhD, C. Edward Dixon, PhD, Ted Teng, PhD MD, and Matthew Rasband, PhD



Candace L. Floyd, PhD and Larry Benowitz, PhD



Pamela VandeVord .PhD and Michelle LaPlaca, PhD