



20
22

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

THAT INVESTS IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IMPACTED BY RARE DISEASE



Dear Uplifting Athletes Community,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible support of our community. We have come together to invest in the lives of those impacted by rare diseases, and I am proud to say that we continue to make great strides in achieving our mission.

One of our key focuses has been building a community that is not only aware of the challenges faced by those with rare diseases but is also invested in making a positive difference in their lives. We believe that by coming together and working towards a common goal, we can create a brighter future for the rare disease community.

This past year, we have strategically expanded our approach to meet the evolving needs of the community. This includes continuing to build partnerships with new organizations, relaunching our Uplifting Experiences program, and setting a strategic plan that will map the future steps of Uplifting Athletes over the next three years.

We recognize the importance of investing in the future of rare disease research and we proudly funded another nine researchers in 2022 and provided them \$180,000 in research grants through our Young Investigator Draft.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our community. I want to thank each and every one of you for your ongoing commitment to our mission. Your generosity, dedication, and passion have made a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We remain steadfast in our commitment to utilizing the platform of sports to build a community that invests in the lives of people impacted by rare diseases, and we are confident that with your support, we will continue to drive meaningful change.

Thank you again, and I look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Sincerely,

Rob Long
Executive Director
Uplifting Athletes

OUR NEW MISSION

Harness the power of sport to build a community that invests in the lives of people impacted by rare diseases.

OUR NEW VISION

No person impacted by a rare disease feels alone and everyone is inspired with hope for the future.

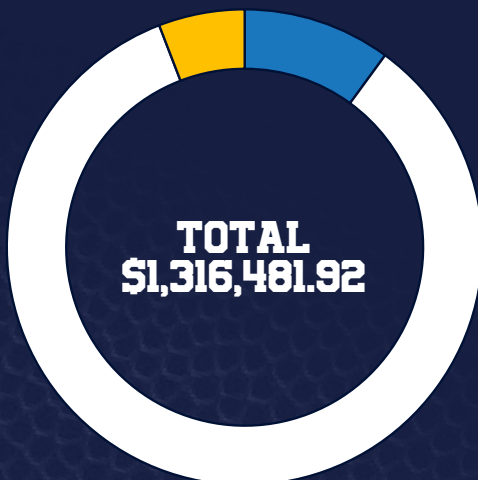
OUR HISTORY

Built on the vision of one person and pulling from his family's rare disease experience as the foundation, former Penn State University football player and student Scott Shirley founded Lift For Life® in 2003 before launching Uplifting Athletes in 2007.

Since day one, Uplifting Athletes focused on using the platform of college athletics to shine a spotlight on the rare disease cause while providing the student-athletes we are engaged with a valuable leadership experience. Uplifting Athletes provides an opportunity for our student-athletes to enhance the valuable skills they develop on their respective playing fields.

All the annual events and fundraisers associated with Uplifting Athletes fuel our commitment to create Uplifting Leaders, engage in Uplifting Experiences, fund rare disease research, and expand rare disease awareness.

2022 REVENUE



PROGRAM -
\$1,107,082.39
CHAPTERS -
\$132,368.76
GENERAL -
\$77,030.77

2022 EXPENSES



PROGRAM -
\$897,527.50
ADMINISTRATIVE -
\$169,022.98
FUNDRAISING -
\$74,754.61

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR DRAFT

The Young Investigator Draft presented by CSL Behring is the result of Uplifting Athletes' ongoing commitment to cultivate resources that accelerate scientific advancements for rare disease treatments and potential cures while facilitating the next generation of rare disease researchers.

Including this year, Uplifting Athletes has provided more than \$640,000 in funding to rare disease researchers.

UNDERREPRESENTED RESEARCHERS IN MEDICINE INITIATIVE

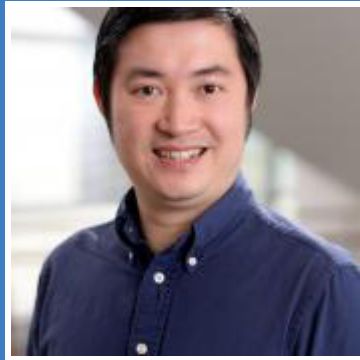
To promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in medicine and medical research, the URM initiative leverages the mechanism of the Young Investigator Draft to fund and celebrate researchers from underrepresented backgrounds.

"IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT FOR US TO KNOW THAT THERE IS COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR US. BECAUSE OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE YOUNG INVESTIGATOR DRAFT, WE ARE PUSHED TO GO FARTHER AND FARTHER."

DR. MAURIZIO RISOLINO

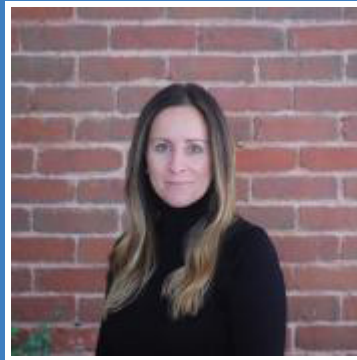


2022 DRAFT CLASS



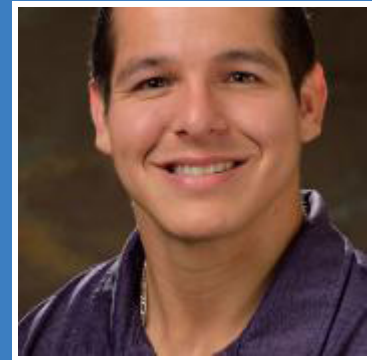
DR. WU CHEN

Baylor College of Medicine
Nominated by: STXBPI Foundation



DR. KARINE DOIRON

CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center,
Université de Montréal
Nominated by: TBRs Community



DR. MICHAEL GONZALEZ

University of Pennsylvania
Nominated by: Castleman Disease
Collaborative Network



DR. GAURAV GOYAL

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Nominated by: ECD Global Alliance



DR. SHU-YI LIAO

National Jewish Health, Denver
Nominated by: Foundation for Sarcoidosis
Research



DR. NAOMI DIRCKX

John Hopkins University School of Medicine
Nominated by: TESS Research Foundation



DR. MAURIZIO RISOLINO

University of California, San Francisco
Nominated by: T.E.A.M. 4 Travis



DR. SUSHANT KUMAR

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Nominated by: The Aplastic Anemia and
MDS International Foundation



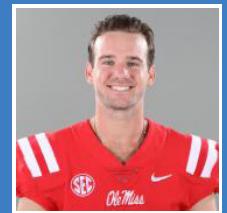
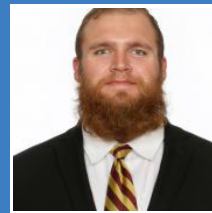
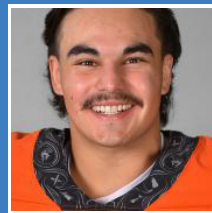
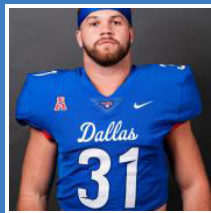
DR. JI ZHA

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Nominated by: Team Telomere

2021 RARE DISEASE CHAMPION TEAM

For 13 years, Uplifting Athletes has celebrated leaders in college football that have made a positive and lasting impact on the rare disease community. Sculpted by world renowned artist Brian Hanlon, the Rare Disease Champion trophy is in the likeness of Mark Herzlich, the former Boston College and New York Giants linebacker who provided the inspiration for the award after overcoming a life threatening battle with the rare disease Ewing's sarcoma in 2009.

The 2021 team consisted of Peter Snodgrass (Northwestern University), Sam Fraley (Temple University), Tyler Lavine (Southern Methodist University), Zeke Zaragoza (Oklahoma State University), Dillan Gibbons (Florida State University), and Mac Brown (University of Mississippi).



REPS FOR RARE DISEASES

For the eighth consecutive year, Uplifting Athletes empowered NFL prospects with the opportunity to use the NFL Combine or NFL Pro Day as a platform to give back by raising funds and awareness in support of the rare disease community. With 98 NFL participating athletes during the 2022 Reps for Rare Diseases campaign, \$68,992 was raised to create an exceptional impact.

A special thank you to Horizon Therapeutics' #RAREis program which matched all donations up to \$30,000!

UPLIFTING AMBASSADORS

Through the NFL's My Cause My Cleats campaign, players across the league support their favorite cause by wearing custom designed cleats representing their cause.

During the 2021 NFL season, five Uplifting Ambassadors supported the rare disease community through My Cause My Cleats: Malik Turner (Dallas Cowboys), Colin Thompson (Carolina Panthers), Jake Funk (Los Angeles Rams), Adam Humphries (Washington Football Team), and Nick Allegretti (Kansas City Chiefs).

LIFT FOR LIFE

Lift For Life is the signature fundraising event for each Uplifting Athletes chapter with student-athletes organizing and executing their perspective campaigns. During the 2022 campaigns, Uplifting Athletes schools raised \$94,570 across 21 chapters across the country. In 2022 Uplifting Athletes was proud to introduce their first participating women's volleyball and women's soccer teams to Lift for Life.



UPLIFTING LEADERS

The catalyst for the Uplifting Leaders program is the annual Leadership Development Conference. We encourage two leaders from each current and prospective chapter to attend this two-day conference focused on the development of transferable life skills, rare disease advocacy, and leadership.

This is a unique education initiative for student-athletes to learn to maximize their platform on their campus to raise awareness on behalf of the rare disease community.

In 2022, 31 student-athletes from chapters and prospect chapter universities attended the conference in Philadelphia.

“TO THINK THAT WE CAN PLAY A ROLE IN SUPPORTING RARE DISEASE RESEARCH IN THE COMMUNITY JUST AS ATHLETES AND DOING WHAT WE DO EVERYDAY WAS SUPER EXCITING. I’M PUMPED TO BRING WHAT I’VE LEARNED BACK TO MY TEAM AND JUST TO CONTINUE TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE RARE DISEASE COMMUNITY.” MADDIE MCGREGOR, UPENN VOLLEYBALL

TOUCHDOWN PLEDGE DRIVES

During the 2021-2022 college football season, several chapters dedicated their games to support of the Uplifting Athletes mission by holding a Touchdown Pledge Drive. A total of 13 chapters participated in Touchdown Pledge Drive, and \$10,327 was raised to support the rare disease community.

7,000 MILE CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY SANOFI

The rare disease community is a diverse ecosystem of individuals who, together, are stronger when we work together. Through the Uplifting Athletes 7,000 Mile Challenge presented by Sanofi, people from all walks of life are invited to measure their steps to help reach our 7,000 mile collective goal and our ultimate fundraising goal. With 52 teams and 268 participants, we were able to raise \$27,825 and log 8,875 miles surpassing our original goal!

“PARTICIPATING IN THE 7,000 MILE CHALLENGE IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE I GET TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING LARGER THAN MYSELF. BEING ABLE TO GET OUTSIDE, LOG MILES, AND SUPPORT THE RARE DISEASE COMMUNITY GIVES ME A GREAT SENSE OF PURPOSE AND I WAS EXCITED TO BEAT MY GOAL OF 60 MILES THIS YEAR!” CORY HURTZIG



UPLIFTING EXPERIENCES

The focus and purpose of Uplifting Experiences is to share the spotlight afforded to athletes with families and individuals facing a rare disease diagnosis.

Throughout the year, we were proud to host several communities at bowling events with Notre Dame and Northwestern's football teams.

As we grow this program, our hope is to enhance our offerings and provide new ways to bring one-of-a-kind memories to life.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 CORPORATE CHAMPIONS



FOLLOW UPLIFTING ATHLETES



#WETACKLE
RARE