

RHODE ISLAND INTEGRATED MEDICINE

Dr. Victor M. Pedro

Dr. Victor M. Pedro, fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, is founder and director of Rhode Island Integrated Medicine. An accomplished Board-Certified Chiropractic Neurologist, Dr. Pedro pioneered the development of Cortical Integrative Therapy (CIT) — a breakthrough, research-based diagnostic and treatment program designed to address brain and neurological dysfunction in children and adults.

CIT is changing the paradigm of neuro-rehabilitation. Dr. Pedro has lectured extensively on CIT as a non-invasive, cost-effective treatment for traumatic brain injury (TBI), concussion, and other brain-related disorders. He has delivered presentations to the Ministry of Health in the Republic of Angola, Egas Moniz Hospital in Portugal, and the Shefa Neuroscience Research Center and Razavi International Hospital in Iran. Dr. Pedro's work has been presented at neuroscience and neurotrauma conferences at home and abroad, including the 10th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology in Lisbon, Portugal (2016). His work has also been published in the *International Journal of Neuroscience*, *International Journal of Clinical Neurosciences and Mental Health*, and by The New England Hand Society.

Dr. Pedro was appointed to the Medical Advisory Board of the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation in 2010 after successfully treating Sarah Jane Donohue, the world's most documented pediatric brain injury case. He was appointed to the Brain Foundation's International Medical Advisory Board the following year.

In 2011, Dr. Pedro was co-nominated for the António Champalimaud Vision Award of the Champalimaud Foundation (Lisbon) with the late Dr. Carlos Lima, a leading pathologist and international stem cell transplant specialist. The nominators were the late Dr. Maria de Jesus Simões Barroso Soares and Harvard's late Dr. Bryan Hudson. Before Dr. Lima's passing, he and Dr. Pedro were collaborating on a study that explored the use of stem cell transplantation and CIT rehabilitation therapy for the treatment of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), and on a second study for traumatic brain injury. This work was to be jointly presented at the First International Neurosurgery Congress in Mash'had, Iran in 2012. In 2018, Dr. Pedro was invited to reapply for the António Champalimaud Vision Award in conjunction with Dr. João Sargento Freitas, a Portuguese neurologist and current Ph.D. student from the Coimbra University Hospital, for stroke rehabilitation.

CIT was approved by the State of Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services and Rhode Island Medicaid in 2012 as a new service for Medicaid patients for the treatment of traumatic brain injury and various brain-based disorders. A three-year CIT Medicaid Pilot concluded in 2017, with compelling results (84% success rate) and expectations surpassed.

Working with staff at the Lebanon VA Medical Center (PA) Dr. Pedro has secured approval from that hospital and the larger VA system to accept CIT as a stand-alone treatment. The Lebanon VA currently has a team applying for DOD and federal funding to establish a Cortical Integrative Therapy clinic at the Lebanon VA Center (12 bed in-patient unit). Approval is anticipated early next year.

David Johnson of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), a concussion educator, continues to lecture and advocate on behalf of CIT at the high school, collegiate, and professional sports levels to pave the way for CIT facilities and physicians world-wide trained in CIT.

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