

Sophia Chun, MD

Internal Medicine

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R)

EDUCATION

- **Dual Residency, Internal Medicine and PM&R | Loma Linda University** • [1993-1998](#)
- **Primary Care Psychiatry Fellowship | University California, Irvine** • [2019](#)
- **Loma Linda University School of Medicine, MD** • [1989-1993](#)
- **University of Southern California, BS** • [1985-1989](#)

EXPERIENCE

- **Optum (United Healthcare) Primary Care/Geriatric Practice** • [2019-Current](#)
 - Manage primary care panel of 500+ senior adults, maintaining a 4-5 Star Medicare Rating for quality and efficiency.
 - Developed and spearheaded an interdisciplinary Gait & Balance Clinic to proactively evaluate and manage fall risk in the geriatric patient population.
 - Minimized fall risk through comprehensive patient education and prescriptive interventions (e.g., personalized home exercise programs and orthotic devices).
- **Family Health Care Clinic of Greater Los Angeles** • [2016-2019](#)
 - **Chief Medical Officer** for a Federally Qualified Healthcare Clinic (FQHC), serving a large, low-income, uninsured, and underserved population across the Los Angeles area.
 - Designed and implemented a Primary Care Diabetes Management Clinic specifically targeting patients with uncontrolled diabetes (baseline A1c > 9).
 - Quantified Success: Achieved significant clinical outcomes through a high-touch program featuring personalized education, medication adjustments, and scheduled coaching calls, resulting in over 90% of participants showing substantial improvement in diabetes control-many from dangerous levels of A1c > 12 to target ranges of A1c < 8
- **Veteran Healthcare Administration** • [2004-2016](#)

Consultant, Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders System of Care

 - Managed and oversaw the national network of 26 Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders (SCI/D) Centers (Hubs) and affiliated Spokes, ensuring consistent quality of specialized care across the VHA system.
 - Secured and directed program grants to design and implement novel Telehealth programs for Veterans with SCI/D, significantly improving their access to specialty care regardless of geographic location.
 - Provided expert guidance on policy, operations, and clinical standards for one of the largest specialized care systems within the VHA.

CLINICAL PHYSICAL THERAPY WORK EXPERIENCE

Veteran Healthcare Administration • 2004-2016**Chief, Spinal Cord injury Center Healthcare Group**

- Directed all clinical and administrative operations for the SCI Center, including supervision of staff physicians, advanced practice providers, and therapists, while maintaining fiduciary oversight of the departmental budget.
- Led multiple quality improvement initiatives using methodologies such as PDSA, Lean, and Six Sigma to drive operational excellence to achieve measurable improvements in critical areas, including enhancing preventative care measures, optimizing patient length of stay (LOS), and increasing overall patient satisfaction scores.
- Enhanced organizational status by successfully transitioning the inpatient unit into an Acute Inpatient Care Center, fundamentally transforming and upgrading the quality and complexity of services.
- Led multidisciplinary teams through the transition, resulting in elevated patient outcomes and adherence to the stringent regulatory standards required for acute care.
- Oversaw all operational, clinical, and staffing modifications required to meet the demands of an acute-level rehabilitation environment.

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center**Chief, Spinal Cord injury Center Healthcare Group** • 1999 –Present

- Sustained leadership over a specialized, world-renowned Post Polio Clinic, originally established by Dr. Jacqueline Perry in 1970.
- Maintained and advanced the clinic's foundational orthopedic and function-based principles, serving a national and international patient population experiencing physical impairments related to Post Polio Syndrome.
- Continue to provide expert care and consultation (currently one day a month) for complex, long-term neurological and musculoskeletal conditions for over two decades.

Medical Director, Outpatient Rehabilitation • 1998 – 2004

- Leveraged dual board certification (Internal Medicine and PM&R) to develop and launch Rancho's first Specialty-Primary Care Model.
- Personally delivered integrated primary care services tailored to the unique, complex needs of patients with a history of stroke and spinal cord injury (SCI), significantly improving continuity and quality of care.
- Established an innovative care standard by bridging the gap between specialty rehabilitation and primary care medical management.

Director, Women with Disabilities GYN/Wellness Program • 2000 – 2004

- Directed a specialized interdisciplinary program focused on the unique gynecological and overall wellness needs of women with disabilities.
- Ensured access to comprehensive preventative and specialized health services for a historically underserved population within the rehabilitation system.

Commission for Acute Rehabilitation Surveyor (CARF) • 1999 – 2016

- Served as an independent surveyor for this international, not-for-profit accrediting body, responsible for conducting on-site audits to verify facility compliance with stringent quality standards for acute rehabilitation services.

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION POSITIONS

- **Associate Professor | Dept of PM&R | University of California, Irvine** • 2015-2016
- **Fellowship Mentor, Polytrauma & TBI Rehabilitation Research | VA Long Beach** • 2011-2016
- **Volunteer Faculty, UCLA. Department Of Internal Medicine** • 2011-2016
- **Fellowship Director | Dept of PM&R | University of California, Irvine** • 2008-2016
- **Assistant Clinical Professor | University of California, Irvine** • 2004-2015

PUBLICATIONS

- Hatch, M.N., Cushing, T., Lee, S., Chun, S., Chang, E.Y. (2015). Neuropathic Pain and Spinal Cord Injury: From Clinical Assessment Tools to Current Treatments. In: Journal of Neurological Sciences. Accepted September 2015.
- Cogan AM, Blanche EL, Diaz J, Clark FA, Chun S. (2014). Building a Framework for implementing New Interventions. OTJR. Fall 34(4): 209-20.
- Cushing, T.R., Lee, S., Hatch, M.N., Chun, S., Chang, E.Y. (2014). Neuropathic Pain in Spinal Cord Injury. In: Neuropathic Pain: Risk Factors, Types, and Management Strategies. Nova Publishing. Accepted Sept 2014.
- Lee, S., Zhao, X., Hatch, M.N., Chun, S., Chang, E.Y. (2013). Central Neuropathic Pain in Spinal Cord Injury. In: Critical Reviews in Physical Medicine. 25 (3-4): 159-172.
- Do A, Wang PT, King CE, Chun SN, Nenadic Z. (2013). Brain-Computer Interface Controlled Robotic Gait Orthosis. Journal of Neuro Engineering and Rehabilitation. 10:111.
- Guihan M, Bates-Jensen BM, Chun S, Parachuri R, Chin AS, McCreath H. (2012). Assessing the Feasibility of Subepidermal Moisture to Predict Erthema and Stage 1 Pressure Ulcers in Persons with Spinal Cord Injury: A Pilot Study. J Spinal Cord Med. 35 (1): 46:52.
- Anderson KD, Acuff ME, Arp BG, Backus D, Chun SN, Fisher K, Fjerstad JE, Graves DE, Greenwald K, Groah SL, Harkema SJ, Horton JA, Huang MN, Jennings M, Kelley KS, Kessler SM, Kirshblum S, Koltenuk S, Linke M, Ljungberg I, Nagy J, Nicolini L, Roach MJ, Salles S, Scelza WM, Read MS, Reeves RK, Scott MD, Tansey KE, Theis JL, Tolfo CZ, Whitney M, Williams CD, Winter CM, and Zanca JM. (2011). United States Multi-Centered Study to Assess the Validity and Reliability of the Spinal Cord Independence Measure (SCIM III). Spinal Cord. 1-6.
- Chun, S. (2007). CARF, Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities for Spinal Cord Injury and Disease. In: Spinal Cord Medicine, Editor: Vernon Lin, Second edition.
- Chun SN: Consortium for Spinal Cord Medicine and the Early Acute Management Guideline, Development Panel 2007
- Baker LL, Palmer E, Walters RL, Chun SN. (2004). Rehabilitation of the Arm and Hand Following Stroke-a Clinical Trial with BIONs. Conf Proc IEEE Eng Med Biol Soc. 6:4186-8.

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

→ **National Advance Clinical Access (ACA) Team Award (2007)**

- Recognition: Received the prestigious National VA Award for the development and successful implementation of the "One-Stop Shop" Healthcare Delivery Model for Spinal Cord Injury Preventive Health Maintenance Annual Evaluation.
- Innovation: Spearheaded an innovative, interdisciplinary model that consolidated over 7 separate disciplinary visits (including MD, social work, psychology, and therapies) into a single, efficient 1.5-hour clinic visit.
- Impact: The streamlined model resulted in significant, measurable operational and patient satisfaction improvements, specifically yielding: increased patient satisfaction, decreased missed care opportunities, reduced patient no-show rates.

→ **Outstanding Director Award | Women with SCI Wellness & Education Group (2003, 2004)**

→ **Physician of The Year Award by Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (2000)**

→ **Regional Partnership Grant to study Breast Cancer Early Detection in women with disabilities | Partners for Progress, Department of Health Services, Los Angeles County (1999)**



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