



Phelan-McDermid Syndrome
FOUNDATION

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OSPREY, FL – THE PHELAN-MCDERMID SYNDROME FOUNDATION WELCOMES CHRISTOPHER WINROW, PhD, TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS – The Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation (PMSF) is pleased to announce the appointment of Christopher Winrow, PhD, to its Board of Directors, effective June 1, 2026. A highly respected neuroscience executive, drug discovery leader, and longtime advocate within the Phelan-McDermid syndrome community, Dr. Winrow brings decades of scientific, strategic, and nonprofit leadership experience to the Foundation.

Dr. Winrow currently serves as Vice President of Neuroscience at Recursion Pharmaceuticals, where he leads innovative drug discovery efforts using artificial intelligence and machine learning approaches to advance therapies for neurodegenerative diseases. Throughout his career spanning more than 20 years across pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and techbio organizations, he has contributed to the advancement of therapies targeting Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, schizophrenia, sleep disorders, and mitochondrial disease.

Prior to joining Recursion, Dr. Winrow held leadership roles at Merck & Co., where he led the discovery team behind Belsomra®, a first-in-class CNS therapeutic that progressed from screening to regulatory approval in under 10 years. The therapy ultimately received approvals in the United States, Japan, Canada, and Australia. He has also overseen complex research portfolios, managed multimillion-dollar budgets, secured venture and private funding, and partnered with major organizations including the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research, International Rett Syndrome Foundation, Gates Foundation, and United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation.



“Chris has been a valued member of the PMSF community for nearly two decades,” said Denise Croden, President of the PMSF Board of Directors. “His scientific expertise, strategic vision, and longstanding dedication to families impacted by Phelan-McDermid syndrome make him an incredible addition to our Board. Chris understands both the urgency of advancing treatments and the importance of supporting families throughout every stage of the journey.”

Dr. Winrow has served the Foundation in multiple volunteer capacities over the years, including on the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Nominating Committee. His connection to PMSF is deeply personal as the father of Johnathan, who has Phelan-McDermid syndrome. His family, including his spouse Dana, daughter Torrey, and sister-in-law Denise, have all been actively involved in supporting the Foundation’s mission.

“I am honored to join the PMSF Board of Directors,” said Winrow. “This community has been an important part of our family’s life for many years. I look forward to helping advance the Foundation’s mission at a pivotal time for research and therapeutic development, while continuing to support families navigating the realities of Phelan-McDermid syndrome every day.”

Dr. Winrow earned his PhD in Cell Biology from the University of Alberta and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in genetics and transcriptomics at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. He and his family reside in Draper, Utah.

About the Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation

The Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation (PMSF) is the leading national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people affected by Phelan-McDermid syndrome (PMS) worldwide. PMSF supports families, provides resources, and accelerates research to find treatments and a cure for this rare genetic neurodevelopmental disorder.