

February 2026



Communicator

MTF Awards Research Grant to Study Prenatal Massage



Massage Therapy Foundation is excited to announce the award of a \$300,000 Research Grant to the University of Denver (UD) for their three-year study, "Prenatal Massage: A Complementary Approach for Maternal Health and Mental Health."

The study will be conducted through a partnership between UD and Thriving Families, a Denver-based nonprofit organization serving perinatal women and birthing people from under-resourced and minority backgrounds. The project will evaluate the impact of incorporating prenatal massage into MotherWise, an evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive maternal wellness program.

Funds for this groundbreaking research project were provided by the **American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA)** with the support of @massageenvy. The study is part of AMTA's broader commitment of \$2.5 million over the next five years to support innovative massage therapy research.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE](#)

New Research Perch: Conducting Research in Practice Settings

Research Perch



Listen in for *Research Perch*, as host Annie LaCroix, MTF Associate Director of Operations, speaks with MTF Research Director, Dr. Niki Munk, and special guest Rachel Romanelli, an experienced massage therapist, educator, clinic owner, and healthcare advocate.

The three discuss data collection methods within massage therapy practice, and their utilization in the upcoming Case Series Study being conducted within MassageNet Practice-Based Research Network.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

UCSF Pediatric Infusion CS Award Project Wrap Up



Learn about a year-long pilot Fellowship program bringing massage therapy services to patients at the pediatric infusion center at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, Oakland, CA.

Program Manager and Lead Instructor Carolyn Tague, MA, CMT, gives a wrap up of the project, which provided over 180 hours of direct patient care in the infusion center. The project was funded in part by a 2024 Massage Therapy Foundation Community Service Award, and ran throughout 2025.

[WATCH NOW](#)

Awards and Contests

The following MTF awards and contests are open for applications:

- **Case Report Contest:** Submit year-round—next deadline [June 1, 2026](#)
- **Research Support Award (up to \$30k):** [Deadline extended to March 2, 2026](#)
- **Research Grant (\$30k-\$300k):** [LOI deadline extended to March 2, 2026](#)
- **Community Service Award (20k):** [Deadline March 15, 2026](#)
- **Poster Abstract Submission:** [Deadline May 1, 2026](#)



www.IJTMB.org

International Journal of
Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork

Call for Papers

IJTMB Special Issue on

Pain Management & Pain Science



Visit Our Sites





PAST ISSUES: COMMUNICATOR ARCHIVE

Massage Therapy Foundation
500 Davis Street, Suite 950
Evanston, Illinois 60201
Phone :847.869.5019 Fax: 847.864.1178
www.massagetherapyfoundation.org