



The Microvascular Research Foundation

FOR SPIKE PROTEIN AND LONG COVID

Long COVID Center of Excellence: Advancing Research, Care & Innovation

COVID-19 has left a lasting mark on Alabama's healthcare system and economy, with an estimated **600,000** residents living with **Long COVID**: a complex, multi-system condition that disrupts daily life and places an ongoing strain on state resources.

Roughly **23% of Alabamians are enrolled in Medicaid**, meaning **138,000 Long COVID patients depend on Medicaid coverage**. With added annual medical costs averaging **at least \$2,000 per patient**, this creates **\$276 million in new healthcare spending each year**. Because Alabama funds approximately **24% of Medicaid costs**, the state itself bears a **direct burden of \$66 million annually**.

Patients face steep **out-of-pocket barriers** as well. The **average initial evaluation costs \$3,200**, and most insurers do not cover Long COVID care—leaving families to shoulder expenses for a debilitating disease with no established guidelines after already spending **thousands of dollars** prior to seeking care in our facility.

This reality underscores the urgent need for innovative, cost-effective solutions. The **Microvascular Research Foundation**, an Alabama-based nonprofit, is leading this charge. In partnership with MedHelp, the Foundation has already facilitated treatment for **over 4,500 Long COVID patients worldwide**, with **90% reporting meaningful symptom relief**.

To sustain and scale this success, we are launching the **Long COVID Center of Excellence in 2025** with a funding goal of **\$10 million over five years**. This first-of-its-kind center in Alabama will serve as a **national model for innovation, research, and access**, transforming lives while positioning our state at the forefront of medical discovery.

Below you will find a brief synopsis of our current work and future vision and mission.

Comprehensive Patient Care & Treatment

The Center will provide **integrative, evidence-based treatment** for patients suffering from microvascular dysfunction, neuroinflammation, immune dysregulation, and other drivers of post-viral illness. Care will blend **traditional and functional medicine**, supported by:

- Personalized patient care plans
- IV therapy, noninvasive vascular repair, and regenerative treatments
- Novel therapeutics supported by real-time diagnostics
- Referrals to collaborative partners who share common treatment goals
- Extensive **patient education programs and coaching support**
- **Patient scholarship and access initiatives** to reduce financial barriers — a critical need, as many patients have spent **over \$100,000 out-of-pocket** before reaching diagnosis and treatment in our clinic

Innovative Research & Clinical Trials



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Our research program is built around **cutting-edge clinical collaborations**, supported by a robust **biorepository** and advanced data integration systems. Current and upcoming initiatives include:

Ongoing and Planned Research Collaborations:

- **MIPS (Minimally Invasive Procedure Specialists)** – Researching mechanisms and treatment of **endovascular dysfunction** in Long COVID
- **SoftWave Technologies** – Studying **non-invasive endovascular repair** using repurposed acoustic wave therapy
- **Scalable testing for Microclots** – Partnering with Celestia Diagnostics to develop automated quantitative imaging and analysis of amyloid microclots with the goal of creating a robustly validated, gold-standard diagnostic test

Future Research Endeavors:

- Investigating **off-label monotherapy drug use** in Long COVID patients
- Launching a trial for **Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP)** to reduce **tissue hypoxia** and improve **quality of life**

Real-Time Data Integration & Analysis

The Center will work with Celestia Diagnostics to further develop a fully **integrated informatics system** to combine:

- Patient history
- Diagnostics (including novel vascular and clotting markers)
- Treatments and symptom tracking
- Wearable health data

This real-time system will **inform clinical trial design**, optimize treatment selection, and enable predictive modeling-paving the way for precision medicine in chronic care.

Community Outreach, Education & Empowerment

The Long COVID Center of Excellence will be a hub for **community health education** and **provider training**, ensuring underserved and rural populations have access to the latest in diagnosis and care.

- **Community events**, webinars, and educational campaigns
- Development of **culturally appropriate resources**
- **Continuing education** for regional providers to expand capacity

Join Us in Leading the Future of Long COVID Care



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We invite your support for the **Long COVID Center of Excellence**-a transformative initiative that will:

- Deliver **real hope and healing** to Alabamians
- Reduce economic and healthcare burdens
- Position Alabama as a national leader in **medical innovation and post-viral research**

We welcome your questions and can provide **detailed trial protocols, budget forecasts**, and collaboration opportunities.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent and deeply personal health crisis. With your support, we can provide **life-changing care** to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Jordan Vaughn, MD

President, MVRF

Summer Powers, DNP, CRNP

Director of Clinical Research

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