

FLIP Project: Laying the foundation for treating Functional Neurological Disorders at Drexel

This project will bring awareness to the constellation of conditions under the umbrella of Functional Neurological Disorders, initially focusing of Functional Movement Disorders. It will also lay the foundation for the development of a dedicated multidisciplinary program to manage these patients, the first in Philadelphia, through physical therapy, psychotherapy and social work.

Functional Disorders make up 30% of patient presentations across all specialties, yet despite it appreciated prevalence, they are poorly understood and poorly managed. Providers feel illequipped to handle their complicated and time consuming presentations, yet when managed well, they are completely treatable and the impact on the immediate quality of life of patient and families is profound. The larger impact on health care resources and economics is a burgeoning field of research. There have been few key intensive programs at select academic institutions, none in the Philadelphia region. It is the intention of this project to lay the groundwork to develop a similar program at Drexel and provide a much needed resource for the region and an incubator for research.