



Melissa Spencer, PhD is a Professor of Neurology at UCLA. She also serves as co-director of the Center for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at UCLA, where she brings a strong translational research perspective to her muscular dystrophy research. Dr. Spencer earned her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from UCLA and is a member of both the American Society for Cell Biology and the World Muscle Society. Dr. Spencer has had a career-long interest in the role of calpains in muscular dystrophy. Her lab has made numerous transgenic and knock out mouse models that have provided significant insights into mechanisms of calpainopathy. Most significant of these, Dr. Spencer's lab showed that muscle remodeling and growth are

aberrant in the calpain 3 knock out mouse. She continues to strive to find a cure or treatment for LGMD2A. As part of that goal, Dr. Spencer is proud to serve as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Coalition to Cure Calpain 3. In 2001 Dr. Spencer was the recipient of a PECASE (Presidential Early Career Award For Scientists and Engineers), the nation's highest honor for professionals at the outset of the independent research careers. She has participated in numerous NIH advisory committees, including as a regular standing member of the SMEP study section, and she is currently on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Scientific Advisory Board of Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy.