Nerve tumors pose a number of difficulties in clinical care. Diagnosing nerve tumors as benign or malignant can be difficult based on conventional imaging. Predicting which tumors will grow and become symptomatic is also difficult with current modalities. For patients with multiple tumors, particularly patients with genetic syndromes such as neurofibromatosis type 1 or 2 or schwannomatosis, these problems become even more difficult. Furthermore, many times nerve tumors present with pain, and when multiple tumors are present, identifying the pain-causing tumor poses a significant challenge.

At the Center for Peripheral Nerve Surgery, we are working to develop new strategies for diagnosis, working to understand the genetic underpinnings of these tumors, and trying to understand what makes nerve tumors painful in order
address our current limitations, ultimately hoping to improve both medical and surgical treatment of these tumors.

Current routes of investigation include imaging with stimulated Raman spectroscopy, imaging using positron emission tomography (PET) and a novel radiotracer for localizing pain generators, comparative genetic and protein expression profiling, and the use of artificial intelligence to improve diagnosis.

If you are interested in discussing this research further, Thomas J. Wilson, MD, co-director of the Center for Peripheral Nerve Surgery, would be happy to discuss our findings, the future directions, and the needs for these projects. You can call (650)723-0320 or email wilsontj@stanford.edu.

**SUPPORT THIS WORK**
Philanthropic support would allow an acceleration of this groundbreaking research seeking to improve the lives of those with nerve tumors.

For information on how to make a gift to the Center for Peripheral Nerve Surgery, please contact Allie Gregorian, Senior Associate Director of Development, by phone (650)724-9910 or email allie.gregorian@stanford.edu