PYXISPARTNERS
PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS

Pyxis is a constellation shaped like a mariner’s compass.

For twenty years, we’ve pointed it at one thing: **the people health policy and research leave out.**

BEFORE THE FIRM

The Reeve Paralysis Act



Before there was a firm, there was a promise.

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Paralysis Act — signed into law, **2009**

Helped raise **$150M**

Christopher Reeve, MIT. Public domain.

BEFORE THE FIRM

Stem cell research

We got **100+** patient groups, universities and scientific societies to agree on one thing: federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.

Michael helped found the coalition, and led it.

Congress passed it twice.
It was vetoed twice.

We won anyway. Federal funding opened in **2009**.



HIV/AIDS



ACT UP at NIH, May 1990. NIH History Office, public domain.

In 2011, Michael co-wrote a study of how HIV/AIDS activists turned a death sentence into a manageable illness.

They found five things that worked: **attention, knowledge, community, accountability, leadership.**

Back to Basics — Pyxis ran on all five.

All of Us RESEARCH PROGRAM

In 2016, NIH set out to enroll a million people in medical research, including the communities research had always left out. Pyxis was one of its first engagement partners, and spent seven years building the network that reached them.

883,000+

participants across all 50 U.S. states

100+ community partners in our network



All of Us · Louisiana



Community festival, New Orleans. Filed in the Louisiana report.

NIH asked us to grow enrollment in Louisiana. We held conversations with more than **100** community members in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Shreveport before we proposed anything.

Four months later we came back with a plan built from what they told us.

2,600+ enrolled · **14** local partners

200+ events · **20,000+** neighbors reached

All of Us RESEARCH PROGRAM

Then we changed who gets to do the research.

50 scholars · **25** mentors

HBCUs and Hispanic-Serving Institutions

THE WORK · FOR

The NIH Office of Science Policy
NExTRAC

National Institutes of Health
Office of Science Policy

Harlem to rural Colorado
to Santa Clara.
In English and in Spanish.

We asked how people feel about
their health data being used
in research.

15 convenings · **13** states · **375** voices

NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya endorsed
the recommendations in 2025.

The first federal policy guide for mental health and substance use.

200+ recommendations. Built in months.

Sixty years earlier, President John F. Kennedy signed the first federal mental health law.
With Patrick Kennedy, we wrote the next one.



Coverage, pricing, MASLD



Children's coverage · ACAP. Two years building a coalition for one provision: 12 months of continuous Medicaid and CHIP coverage for children, in every state.

Drug pricing. Analysis and strategy for clients through the Inflation Reduction Act, the law that let Medicare negotiate drug prices for the first time.

Mifepristone · EMAA Project. A coalition to lift restrictions. In 2023, the FDA let certified pharmacies dispense it.

Liver disease · American Liver Foundation. We brought patients to Capitol Hill for a disease 1 in 4 American adults have. Sen. Bill Cassidy championed the first national study, funded in 2024.

President Johnson signs Medicare beside Harry Truman, 1965 — the law these wins amend. Public domain.

THE WORK · FOR

Coverage, drug costs, access

Alliance of Community Health Plans

Federal policy support on drug costs and reimbursement, and a voice for the plans in cell and gene therapy.

In 2025: statements on Medicare drug price negotiation, a letter to the FDA Commissioner, and a drug pricing panel we moderated at the Alliance's Symposium.

Association for Community Affiliated Plans

Two years to win **12 months** of continuous coverage for every child on Medicaid and CHIP. Then the harder job: defending Medicaid itself.

In 2025: counsel through the reconciliation bill, a Medicaid Defense Dashboard, and Hill meetings on the premium tax credits through the shutdown.

The EMAA Project

Years of federal strategy for access to medication abortion. In **2023**, the FDA let certified pharmacies dispense mifepristone.

In 2025: a Senate briefing with Sen. Murray's office, **30+** attending, and a House briefing with the Reproductive Freedom Caucus.



Industry

Dexcom

Before Pyxis, Michael led the work behind the approval of Dexcom's glucose monitor.

Eli Lilly

Lupus. A messaging bank on three core policy issues, built for Congressional engagement.

Braeburn Pharmaceuticals

Legislative and regulatory proposals to open access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder, in rural and underserved communities most of all.



THE WORK · FOR

Macon County, Alabama

All of Us RESEARCH PROGRAM

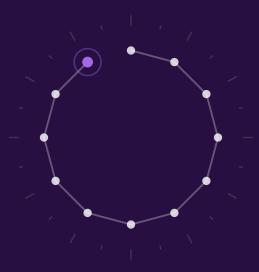


The symposium panel, Macon County, 2023. From the Pyxis 2023 Impact Report.

18 months to earn
one conversation.

300+ people came — descendants of the men in the U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee, and the descendants of Henrietta Lacks.

Science moves at the speed of trust.



ACT III

The turn

None of it was ours alone.

Alliance of Community Health Plans
American Liver Foundation
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Braeburn Pharmaceuticals
Brain Donor Project
The Commonwealth Fund
Curae Pharma360
Dexcom
Diabetes Hands Foundation
Eli Lilly
The EMAA Project
Henry Ford Health System
The Kennedy Forum
National Women's Law Center
The New York Stem Cell Foundation
NIH / All of Us
Northwell Health
Novo Nordisk
Office of Science Policy
Personalized Medicine Coalition
Pfizer
Planned Parenthood
Scripps Research Institute
Shields Health Solutions
Winning Strategies

Thank you for trusting us with it.



ACT IV

The handoff

A compass doesn’t stop working when the ship reaches port.

System Weavers Collaborative Consulting

Monica Rodriguez & Grisel Marie Robles-Schrader

system-weavers.com

Rooted Momentum

Ronnie Tepp, founder & CEO

rootedmomentum.com

missionhealth.io

Bobby Clark, founder

missionhealth.io

The work continues with the people who did it. Go find them.



PYXISPARTNERS

PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS

Thank you.

— Michael & Karen

pyxispartners.co