

*Having studied, taught, and conducted research all over the world, Dr. David Rouffet now contributes his expertise to the College of Education and Human Development and the Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center. Read on to learn more about Dr. Rouffet and his important work.*

While a correlation between research initiatives in the College of Education and Human Development and the [Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center](#) may not seem intuitive, it is something that Dr. David Rouffet, associate professor the Department of Health and Sport Sciences, has brought into reality. The partnership has created some fascinating new dynamics in spinal cord research.

Rouffet explained, “First, I have been appointed as a scientific director of the translational core called ‘Movement Performance and Locomotor Recovery Clinic’ and coordinated the activities of research technicians, physical therapists and occupational therapists. This experience has allowed me to develop a better understanding of the different dimensions of spinal cord injury and the research specifically focused on recovery of motor function after spinal cord injury.”

Dr. Rouffet continued, “In 2020, I became an investigator in charge of the neuromechanics lab, where I have developed a series of projects aimed at defining new combinatory strategies for restoring upper extremity function and locomotor function through an association between physical exercises and neuromodulation techniques.”



Neuromodulation, for the uninitiated, is a relatively emerging technique that attempts to alter or modulate nerve activity through means of electric or pharmaceutical stimulus. The applications of these types of modulations are far reaching and can have meaningful benefit for a range of problems such as recovery from stroke or spinal injury restoration.

Rouffet has traveled, taught, and studied internationally in his academic and research study. Completing his doctoral studies in France, Dr. Rouffet then moved to Australia where he completed a postdoctoral position. He was hired on as an assistant professor at Victoria University, one of the largest and most prominent sport



universities in the world. “I was drawn to the University of Louisville so that my wife and I could pursue our academic careers by working in a world-class research institute while living in a smaller city so we would raise our children in a family-friendly environment,” Rouffet said.

Aside from being a world class research institution, Rouffet feels the University of Louisville sets itself apart with its constant effort to promote diversity and inclusion. Having benefited from so many talented and diverse minds in the past, the Cardinal community has certainly gained much from this partnership, and we look forward to all that Dr. Rouffet will accomplish and contribute in the years to come.