MSKTC Headlines: April 2012

**SCI**

The University of Alabama SCI Model System Will Facilitate the TJ Atchison Spinal Cord Injury Research Act

The University of Alabama SCI Model System, an SCI Model Systems grantee, will be the lead institution in facilitating the TJ Atchison Spinal Cord Injury Research Act. Proposed by State Senator Marc Keahey to the Alabama Legislature earlier this year, the bill provides statewide funding in Alabama for SCI-related research. The bill is modeled after legislation in California and is named after TJ Atchison, a nursing student who was paralyzed in an automobile accident. If passed, the legislation would support basic, translational, and clinical research in spinal cord injury throughout Alabama and would specifically encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and communication.

The Kessler Foundation, a Partner in the Northern New Jersey SCI Model System, Will Feature “Abilities” Stories Written by SCI Survivors

In June, the Kessler Foundation, which is a partner in the Northern New Jersey SCI Model System, will begin featuring “Abilities” stories that survivors of spinal cord injury have written. The Kessler Foundation is inviting individuals to tell their stories through its Facebook page. Readers may access posted stories using the Kessler Foundation’s homepage.

Visit the Kessler Foundation’s YouTube channel for public service announcements featuring John Larroquette and Eric LeGrand.

**TBI**

The 12th Annual Galveston Brain Injury Conference Will Be Held May 3–4

The 12th Annual Galveston Brain Injury Conference, entitled “Brain Injury Over the Life Span: Bringing Research & Management in Line with Reality,” will take place May 3–4 in Galveston, TX. The event is for researchers, practitioners, and others.

Dr. Flora Hammond of the Carolinas Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Research System will deliver the keynote address, “TBI as a Chronic Disease: Where Are We? What Do We Need To Do? How Can We Get There?” During the conference, officials from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston’s Health School of Health Professions and the Transitional Learning Center of Galveston will present the Robert L.
Moody Prize for Distinguished Initiatives in Brain Injury Research and Rehabilitation to Keith D. Cicerone, Ph.D., Project Director of the New Jersey TBI Model System at JFK-Johnson Rehabilitation Institute.

Four-Part Series on Traumatic Brain Injury Available for Consumers

A four-part series of evidence-based consumer factsheets, entitled “Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury,” is available from the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center. The factsheets discuss the physical, cognitive, familial, and social aspects of recovery from TBI. Drs. Thomas Novack and Tamara Bushnik worked with the Model System Knowledge Translation Center to develop the series.

Burn

Consumer Factsheet Discussing Sleep Problems After Burn Injury Now Available for Consumers

A new consumer factsheet, “Sleep Problems after Burn Injury,” is now available from the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center. The factsheet discusses the causes of sleep problems after burn injury and presents many options to behaviorally and pharmacologically manage these sleep issues. The Burn Injury Model Systems worked with the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center to develop the factsheets.

The North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System Will Begin a Systematic Review of Gel Sheeting

The North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System, a Burn Model Systems grantee associated with the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center, will begin systematically reviewing gel sheeting in concert with the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center and the American Burn Association. Dr. Karen Kowalske of UT Southwestern will lead the effort.

Correction

In the March 2012 edition of the Headlines, we reported that two Model Systems grantees were involved with the Ekso, a wearable and battery-powered exoskeleton that enables wheelchair users with lower extremity weakness to stand and walk. Actually, five SCI Model Systems grantees are working on the Ekso Robotic Exoskeleton. They are the Rocky Mountain Regional SCI System at Craig Hospital, the Midwest Regional SCI Care System at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the Spaulding-Harvard SCI System, the Southeastern Regional SCIMS Program at Shepherd Center, and the Northern New Jersey SCI System at the Kessler Foundation.