August 2015 MSKTC Headlines

=======Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)=======

Model System Releases Summer 2015 Newsletter

The Southern California Spinal Cord Injury Model System Center (SCIMS) released its Summer 2015 newsletter, SCI on Rancho. This issue features research on shoulder function and preventing injury in vehicle transfers. The newsletter also highlights the Pushrim mobility program, transportation resources in Southern California, and Rancho's international outreach efforts. The newsletter is available in English and Spanish here.

Model System Researcher Collaborates at the 2015 Abilities Expo in Chicago

Jessica Presperin Pedersen MBA, OTR/L, ATP/SMS, researcher of the Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care Center (MRSCICS), collaborated with a team from the University of Delaware at the 2015 Abilities Expo held in Chicago on June 13, 2015. Jessica and the University of Delaware team provided a fabrication course for modifying children’s ride on cars to include hand or head switches for the Go Baby Go project. There were 8 children as young as 9 months of age that received modified cars or ATVs, and 3 more were recruited for the Go Baby Go fabrication course that was held in June at the Joliet Nascar Racetrack. Jessica worked with the very young in pre-power wheelchair toys in an effort to teach cause and effect, determine seating needs, and introduce switching.

Model System Researcher Collaborates on Driving Evaluation Methods Article

Denise G. Tate, Ph.D., ABPP, FACRM, principal investigator of the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (U-M SCIMS), Julia Greve, Luciana Santos and Angelica Alonso from the University of Sao Paulo Medical School, Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology wrote an article about driving evaluation methods for able bodied persons and individuals with lower extremity disabilities. The article reviews assessment modalities for persons with spinal cord injury and discusses the use of simulators in driving assessments and training. The article will be published by the journal Clinics in the Fall 2015.

SCI Model Systems Researchers Published in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Researchers Daniel W. Klyce, Ph.D., Charles H. Bombardier, Ph.D., Trevor J. Davis, PsyD, Narineh Hartoonian, Ph.D., Jeanne M. Hoffman, Ph.D., Jesse R. Fann, MD, and Claire Z. Kalpakjian, Ph.D., recently coauthored an article published in the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The article, Distinguishing Grief from Depression during Acute Recovery from Spinal Cord Injury, can be downloaded here.
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) ===

Model System Researcher to Serve as Guest on Brain Injury Radio Network

John Whyte, MD, Ph.D., director of the Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, will speak as a guest on Recovery Now, a weekly radio show about TBI on Blog Talk Radio’s Brain Injury Radio Network. The show reaches all 50 states in the U.S. as well as 32 countries. Dr. Whyte will discuss brain injury research. The show will air Wednesday, August 26th at 10:00pm EST. The link to the show and more information can be found here.

Model System Researcher Receives ACRM Gold Key Award

John Corrigan, Ph.D., principal investigator of the Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System Center, received the Gold Key Award from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM). The Gold Key Award is the highest honor given by ACRM that has recognized members of the medical and allied professions who have rendered extraordinary service to the cause of rehabilitation since its inception in 1932.

Model System is Recruiting for a TBI Balance Study in Colorado

The Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury Model System is recruiting participants for a study involving a virtual-reality gaming system to improve balance for people with TBI. Participants must be TBI survivors who (1) are 18 to 64 years old, (2) have been discharged from rehabilitation, (3) are no longer receiving physical therapy, and (4) feel they could improve their balance. Participants will be asked to complete an in-home balance therapy program and attend four assessments over a six-month period at Craig Hospital. Participants will be compensated for their time. For more information, email cbaker@craighospital.org or call 303-789-8055.

=====Burn=====

Burn Foundation from Taiwan Visits Model Systems Grantees

Staff from Sunshine Social Welfare Foundation in Taiwan recently visited the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) to learn how we develop burn resources for consumers and about the Burn Model System Centers. The foundation is interested in disseminating resources developed by the MSKTC at their center and on their website. Sunshine Social Welfare Foundation staff also visited the Boston Harvard Burn Injury Model System (BH-BIMS). They met with Project Director Jeff Schneider and other multidisciplinary team members at Shriners Hospital for Children Boston and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. More information about the Sunshine Social Welfare Foundation can be found here.

Burn Model System Researchers Published in the Journal of Quality of Life Research

Burn Model System researchers recently collaborated on the manuscript, Validation of the Community Integration Questionnaire in the Adult Burn Injury Population. The article was recently published in the Journal of Quality of Life Research. The Community Integration Questionnaire (CIQ) was originally developed for use in the brain injury population. Although it
has been used to assess community integration in burns, its validity and reliability in this population had not yet been studied. The goal of this study was to examine the psychometric properties of the CIQ in the adult burn population for future applications. The article can be accessed online here.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Sept 7-9**  
  2015 American Spinal Cord Injury Professionals (ASCIP) Conference
- **Oct 17-21**  
  Society for Neuroscience Annual Conference
- **Oct 21-24,**  
  27th Annual Phoenix Society World Burn Congress
- **Oct 25-30**  
  92nd Annual American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) Conference