December 2013 MSKTC Headlines

The MSKTC Releases Factsheet Booklets

The factsheets offered through the MSKTC are now available in a booklet format. Access the factsheet booklets [here](#). Our factsheets for Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Burn Injury are still available as single files.

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

DeVivo Mentored Research Award Open for Applications Again

The DeVivo Mentored Research Award is now open for applications. This award is sponsored and administered by the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center (NSCISC) as a 1-year $3,000 research award for trainees who are interested in conducting a research project using data from the National Spinal Cord Injury Database. Applicants and mentors do not need to be affiliated with a NIDRR project but must show substantial knowledge and understanding of the database. Application deadline is July 28, 2014. [Learn more about how to apply](#).

Model Systems Researcher Presents at the University of Sao Paulo (USP) Medical School

Denise G. Tate Ph.D., principle investigator for the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UM SCIMS), recently presented at the at the University of Sao Paulo (USP) Medical School –Department of Orthopedic Trauma and Rehabilitation on December 9-10, 2013, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Tate presented on planning the development and testing standard methods to evaluate driving by older individuals with and without functional impairments on December 9th. She also presented on collaborative research opportunities in medical rehabilitation between Universities of Sao Paulo and UM SCIMS on December 10th.

Model Systems Release Fall 2013 Newsletters

The New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (NERSCIC) recently released the Fall 2013 newsletter. It also highlights the activities of the New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center.

The University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UM SCIMS) recently introduced the Fall 2013 issue of the newsletter SCI Access. This newsletter brings the latest insights and information about living well after spinal cord injury and highlights the activities of the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System.

Model Systems Work Published in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Researchers from the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UM SCIMS) recently published an article in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation titled *Evaluating a Spinal Cord Injury-Specific Model of Depression and Quality of Life.* This article helps to determine whether demographic, injury, health, and functional factors similarly have the
same predictive relationship with both somatic and non-somatic symptoms of depression, as well as whether somatic and non-somatic symptoms of depression have the same association with quality of life (QOL). Access the abstract here.

======Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)=====

**Model Systems Researcher Awarded the Mitchell Rosenthal Award**

The Mitchell Rosenthal Award recipients were recently announced at the TBI Model Systems Project Directors meeting. The Award for 2011 was won by Gale Whiteneck PhD, Marcel Dijkers PhD, Allen Heinemann PhD, Jennifer Bogner PhD, Tamara Bushnik PhD, Keith Cicerone PhD, John Corrigan PhD, Tessa Hart PhD, Jim Malec PhD, and Scott Millis PhD for their article “Development of the Participation Assessment with Recombined Tools-Objective for use after traumatic brain injury” (Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. 2011, 92(4):542-51.)

The Award for 2012 was won by Cynthia Harrison-Felix PhD, Scott E. D. Kreider MS, Juan C. Arango-Lasprilla PhD, Allen W. Brown MD, Marcel P. Dijkers PhD, Flora M. Hammond MD, Stephanie A. Kolakowsky-Hayner PhD, CBIST, Chari Hirshson PhD, Gale Whiteneck PhD, and Nathan D. Zasler MD, FAAPMR, FAADEP, DAAPM, CBIST for their paper “Life Expectancy Following Rehabilitation: A NIDRR Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Study.” (Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation. 2012;27(6):E69-80.)

View more about the Mitchell Rosenthal Award [here](#).

**Model Systems Present at Professional Conferences**

Model systems researchers from Mayo Clinic Traumatic Brain Injury Model System presented the papers: *The impact of mood on outcome during post-acute multidisciplinary rehabilitation after acquired brain injury*; and, *Traumatic brain injury: Population-based analyses of incidence, controlled survival and cost across the full spectrum of disease* at the 90th Annual American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Conference in Orlando, Florida from November 12-16, 2013. The researchers also have three papers accepted for presentation at the International Brain Injury Association’s Tenth World Congress on Brain Injury to be held on March 19-22, 2014, in San Francisco, California. Papers to be presented include: *The Midwest Advocacy Project: A Randomized Practical Behavioral Trial of Curriculum-based Advocacy Training; Underlying Cause of Death after Traumatic Brain Injury: A Population-based Medical Record Review Analysis Controlled for Non-head Trauma; and, The Impact of Life Satisfaction on Participation, Independent Living and Vocational Status during Post-acute Interdisciplinary Rehabilitation in Persons with Acquired Brain Injury.*
Model Systems Researcher Featured in New York Times Magazine

Felipe Fregni, MD, director of research for the Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System, was featured in the New York Times Sunday magazine in an article headlined, “Jumper Cables for the Mind.” Dr. Fregni, Director of Harvard’s Laboratory of Neuromodulation at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, has been investigating the effects of transcranial direct-current stimulation (tDCS) for a number of conditions, including chronic pain, depression and post-stroke paralysis. Currently, Dr. Fregni is conducting a clinical trial sponsored by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) on the effects of tDCS on pain and itch due to burn injury. View the article here and for more information about tDCS and burn injury, visit www.bh-bims.org.

Resource Highlight: Wound Care and Scar Management

Burn scarring and wounds can limit a survivor’s ability to function, as well as affect his or her body image. Learn more about burn scars and how to treat them from the factsheet Wound Care and Scar Management, which was developed by Burn model systems researchers Sandra Hall, PT, Karen Kowalske, M.D., and Radha Holavanahalli, Ph.D., in collaboration with the MSKTC.

Upcoming Events

Feb 15-19  The 36th Annual John A. Boswick, MD Burn and Wound Healing Symposium

Mar 19-22  International Brain Injury Association’s Tenth World Congress on Brain Injury

Mar 25-28  46th Annual American Burn Association Meeting

Apr 8-12  8th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation

May 1-2  38th Annual Williamsburg Traumatic Brain Injury Conference

May 14-17  American Spinal Injury Association 2014 Annual Meeting