February 2013 MSKTC Headlines

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

Southern California Spinal Cord Injury Model System Held the Third International Transformational Technology Summit

The Southern California Spinal Cord Injury Model System at Los Amigos Research and Education Institute recently conducted the Third Annual International Transformational Technology Summit titled “Robotics in Rehabilitation: The Future Is Now!” The conference was held February 22–23, 2013, at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. This conference featured experts in the fields of SCI, rehabilitation, robotics, and brain computer interface (BCI). Some of the topics discussed were the latest evidence for the role of task-specific practice in recovery, the impact of exoskeleton robots for paraplegic walking, and the role of BCI technology for individuals with tetraplegia. There will be a plenary session on October 23 that will be available online. For more information about the summit and agenda, visit the Web site.

UAB-SCIMS Seeks Participants for SCI Research

The University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UAB-SCIMS) is recruiting participants for a study titled “Spinal Cord Injury Model System Virtual Walking for Reducing Spinal Cord Injury-Related Neuropathic Pain.” This study investigates a 3-D video simulation as a cost-effective home-base treatment option for neuropathic pain after SCI. Participants must have chronic neuropathic pain at or below the injury level, be at least 3 months postinjury, be 19 to 65 years old, and live in Alabama. Participants will receive payment for taking part in the study. For more information, contact Juliette Galindo.

NERSCIC and Spaulding-Harvard SCI Model Systems Offer a Free Webcast and Live Chat

The New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center Model System (NERSCIC) and the Spaulding-Harvard SCI Model System offer a free Webcast titled “Developing a Personal Emergency Preparedness Plan for Individuals with SCI” on Thursday, March 14, from 6:30–8 p.m. EST. This Webcast and live chat will discuss how consumers can prepare for emergencies by developing a plan that meets their specific needs. State and National resources that can help individuals identify emergency support services in their own areas will also be presented. For more information visit the Web site and register online or call 1–866–607–1804 (toll free).

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

Work of the TBIMS Will Be Displayed at Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill

The month of March marks Brain Injury Awareness Month. On Wednesday, March 13, 2013, the MSKTC will attend Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. A Brain Injury Awareness Fair will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the first-floor foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building. During this event, staff from MSKTC will display and highlight the work

**Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Featured in Article Published in The Atlantic**

The work of TBIMS is the focus of a new article in *The Atlantic*. The article, titled “The Brain Injury Data Project: One Soldier’s Story,” focuses on the value of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research 26-year investment in TBIMS, resulting in longitudinal data that provide important guides to general and military TBI rehabilitation. The author cites the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center as "the gold standard for clinically describing the variations and possibilities in these patients' outcomes." Learn more about TBIMS and the database.

======Burn======

**Model Systems Researchers’ Work Published in the New England Journal of Medicine**

Drs. Jeffrey Schneider, Robert Sheridan, Shawn Fagan, and Frederick Stoddard of the Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System (BH-BIMS) coauthored a case report published in the New England Journal of Medicine titled “Case 36–2012—Recovery of a 16-Year-Old Girl From Trauma and Burns After a Car Accident.” This article highlights the collaboration among clinicians of various disciplines to address the multidisciplinary needs of a patient who survived massive multisystem injuries including a 70 percent total-body-surface-area burn, inhalation injury, and amputations. With community reintegration the ultimate goal, Dr. Jeffrey Schneider, Program Director of BH-BIMS, discusses the multistage rehabilitation process needed to recover from such a complex injury. View the case report here.

**Upcoming Events**

- Feb. 28–Mar 2: Santa Clara Valley Brain Injury Conference
- March 2: Opening Doors: Communities, Partnerships, Opportunities. Annual Brain Injury Association of Virginia Conference
- March 9: Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill
- March 13: Williamsburg Conference, Rehabilitation of the Adult and Child With Traumatic Brain Injury
- May 2–3: ASIA 40th Anniversary Annual Scientific Meeting, American Spinal Injury Association