June 2015 MSKTC Headlines

MSKTC Social Media Webinar Recording Now Available!

It’s not too late! View the recorded MSKTC webinar, Using Social Media to Promote Research, on the website. Three Model Systems and the MSKTC staff shared their experiences and tips on using social media to promote your research. If you are part of a Model System, email the MSKTC at msktc@air.org with any questions or requests for further assistance on using social media platforms to engage your various audiences.

MSKTC Releases Engaging Policymakers Tips Sheet Tool

The MSKTC released the new tool, Engaging Policymakers Tips Sheet. The tips sheet offers information to consider when engaging with policymakers. Access the tool here.

TBI and SCI Model Systems Collaborate on Conference for Consumers and Professionals

The South Florida Conference on Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury was held June 20, 2015 in Miami, FL at the Jackson Memorial Hospital’s Diagnostic Treatment Center. This is a partnership of the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital. The conference focused on the latest information for the care and treatment of patients with spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries. Together researchers, clinicians, and patients with spinal or brain injuries presented a variety of research findings and advances in clinical care. Conference directors included Diana D. Cardenas, M.D., M.H.A., Professor and Chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Chief of Service at Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital; and Doug Johnson-Green, Ph.D., M.P.H., ABPP, Professor and Associate Vice Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Director of Rehabilitation Psychology and Neuropsychology. Additional information is available here.

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

SCI Model System Patient is First to Try New Brain Implant

Erik Sorto, a patient from the Southern California Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SC-SCIMS) that is paralyzed from the neck down, is the first to try a new type of brain implant that lets him control a robotic arm using the part of his brain that signals intent. Erik is one of a handful of people with these tiny neural implants--devices that doctors’ hope will eventually allow patients to control machines with thought alone. Read more here.

SCI Model Systems Work Published in the Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine

Researchers David S. Tulsky, Ph.D., and Pamela A. Kisala, M.A., from the Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System (NNJSCIS) recently coauthored an article published in the Journal of
SCI Model Systems Researchers Presents at 4th Joint Annual Scientific Meeting of ISCoS and ASIA

Researchers from the New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (NERSCIC) recently presented at the 4th Joint Annual Scientific Meeting of ISCoS and ASIA held in Montreal, Canada on May 14-16, 2015. Researchers discussed their site-specific project, My Care My Call, in the poster titled Development of a Peer-Led Phone Intervention for Goal-Setting Primary Healthcare Needs in Chronic Spinal Cord Injury. They also presented two related posters on the Peer Health Coach model’s application and the health empowerment approach’s application. They also presented the posters, Development of an Innovative Tool to Share and Disseminate Spinal Cord Injury Information to Providers across the Continuum of Care, Participation Trajectories of Youth with and without Spinal Cord Injury, and Development and Initial Evaluation of the Pediatric Spinal Cord Injury Measures (PEDI-SCI) Short Forms. In addition, Dr. Alan Jette, principal investigator of NERSCIC participated in two workshops, The Use of Quality of Life Measures in Spinal Cord Injury Clinical Trials and Using the Spinal Cord Injury Quality of Life (SCI-QOL) Item Banks to Detect Change in Research and Clinical Practice. Learn more about the conference here.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

TBI Model System Receives $3 million in Grant Funding

Researchers from the Northern New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (NNJTBIS) were awarded five grants totaling $3 million from the New Jersey Commission on Brain Injury Research. These grants fund research to study ways to improve emotional processing deficits and balance dysfunction in adults, and interventions aimed at improving learning, mobility and psychosocial adaptation in children with TBI. The Foundation’s director of TBI Research is Nancy Chiaravalloti, Ph.D., co-project director of the NNJTBIS. Model system investigators Jeannie Lengenfelder, Ph.D., and Karen Nolan, Ph.D., are the principal investigators of two of the funded studies.

TBI Model Systems Researchers Present at Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania Annual Conference

Tessa Hart, Ph.D., principal investigator and Monica Vaccaro, M.S., co-investigator of the Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System will present the workshop, Brain Injury Research: Keeping Up, Evaluating the Evidence at the Annual Conference of the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania. This conference will be held on June 28-30, 2015 in Lancaster, PA, The workshop will provide tips to consumers and clinicians about reputable sources of information on new treatments and how to evaluate claims for their efficacy. View more information about the conference here.
TBI Model Systems Researcher Interviewed on NBC Health News

Wayne Gordon, Ph.D., director of the New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System Center (NY-TBIMS), was interviewed for Tracy Morgan's brain injury: Recovery can take years, experts say on NBC Health News. Dr. Gordon described the type and intensity of rehabilitation people with TBI may undergo the importance of starting rehabilitation quickly, and how people with TBI and their families adjust to post-injury life.

TBI Model System Site Celebrates its 65th Anniversary!

Rusk Rehabilitation, home of the Rusk Rehabilitation Traumatic Brain Injury Model System at NYU Langone Medical Center celebrated its 65th Anniversary on June 11-12, 2015 with an inaugural research symposium that prominently featured the work of the TBI Model System. This included three oral presentations and six posters focusing on Rusk’s ongoing research in health literacy and health disparities.

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

Burn Model System Researcher Interviewed by MedicalResearch.com

Jeffrey Schneider, M.D., program director of the Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System (BH BIMS), was interviewed by MedicalResearch.com about his recent paper, Functional Status Outperforms Comorbidities in Predicting Acute Care Readmissions in Medically Complex Patients. This paper was published in the May, 9, 2015 edition of the Journal of General Internal Medicine. MedicalResearch.com conducts and publishes interviews with medical researchers from major and specialty medical journals. The research concluded that readmission models based on functional status consistently outperform models based on medical comorbidities. View the interview and the article.

Upcoming Events

July 27-30        2015 Annual Conference on Independent Living (NCIL)
Sept 7-9          2015 American Spinal Cord Injury Professionals (ASCIP) Conference
Oct 21-24,        27th Annual Phoenix World Burn Congress
Oct 25-30         92nd Annual American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) Conference