May 2014 MSKTC Headlines

-----Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)-----

**SCI Model System Participates at the 118th Boston Marathon**

Spaulding-Harvard Spinal Cord Injury Model System (SH-SCI) recently volunteered at the 118th Boston Marathon on April 21, 2014. Jenna Mazzaferro and Ashley Doherty worked directly with the Athletes with Disabilities division of the Boston Athletic Association (BAA). They traveled to the start of the race in Hopkinton, MA with the participants and assisted with their transfers and necessary preparations to begin the race. The team then headed back to the finish line on Boylston Street, where they greeted athletes at the finish line with their equipment, refreshments, and warm cheers of excitement. In addition, Leslie Morse, DO, program director at SH-SCI, is a member of the BAA Medical Committee and directs medical care of wheelchair athletes. She returned to volunteer in the medical tent, treating both wheelchair athletes and runners. Dr. Morse volunteered at the 2013 marathon and was a first responder who treated survivors at the blast site. Read more about the event [here](#).

**SCI Model System Posts New Video**

The [Northwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury System (NWRSCIS)](#) recently posted the video *Perspectives on Pain: An SCI Panel Discussion* as part of its [SCI Forum Video series](#). The video features a panel of four individuals with SCI. They discuss their chronic pain experiences, the different treatments they have tried, what has and has not worked for them, and how they manage their pain, stay positive, and carry on with full lives. Visit the NWRSCIS website to view more than 40 online videos on a variety of SCI topics.

-----Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)-----

**Model Systems Researchers Present at the 38th Annual Williamsburg Conference**

Hannah McDermott, BA, and Brian Im, MD from Rusk Rehabilitation Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (RRTBIMS) recently presented at the 38th Annual Williamsburg Conference. The presentation was titled *Homelessness and TBI: A Vicious Cycle?*, addresses the process of examining the unique population that the RRTBIMS serves at a local Level One Trauma Center City Hospital.

**Model System Researcher Presents the 63rd Mendel Lecture**

Nancy Chiaravalloti, PhD, project director of the [Northern New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury System Center (NNJTBIS)](#), delivered the 63rd Mendel Lecture at Saint Peter’s University on April 24th. Dr. Chiaravalloti spoke on the topic of “Treating Cognitive Deficits Following Neurological Illness and Injury.” The Mendel Lecture provides a forum for authorities in biology and related fields to speak on important issues in their area of expertise.
MSKTC Wins Telly Award for the Employment After Burn Injury Featured Video

The MSKTC was recently awarded a Bronze Telly Award for outstanding achievement in the category of Internet Online Video: Education for the featured video Employment After Burn Injury. The 11-minute video was produced as part of the Employment After Burn Injury Hot Topic Module. It features Ben Swanson’s experiences about returning to employment after sustaining a burn injury and shares how he worked with researchers at the Northwest Regional Burn Model System on making a successful transition into the workplace. The video is the second video produced by the MSKTC to be recognized with a Telly Award. The video, Relationships After Traumatic Brain Injury received a Bronze Telly Award in 2013.

Model System Seeks Tips from the Burn Community

The Northwest Regional Burn Model System (NWRBMS) is seeking creative solutions and modifications to make life following a burn injury easier, healthier, and more enjoyable. Members of the burn community may submit tips, ideas, and product modifications through an online survey. NWRBMS staff will review submissions to be included on their website and newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- July 28: DeVivo Mentored Research Award Application Deadline
- September: National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month
- Oct 7-11: ACRM 91st Annual Conference
- Oct 22-25: Phoenix Society’s Annual World Burn Congress