

November 2013 MSKTC Headlines

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

Work of an SCI Model System Highlighted by the National Spinal Cord Injury Association

[The National Spinal Cord Injury Association \(NSCIA\)](#) recently featured an online article about the work of the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury \(UMPC-SCI\)](#). The article highlights the SCI Peer Support Groups at UPMC-SCI and represents a large piece of how they contribute to community reintegration and show support for their patients and families. Access the article [here](#) and visit the [website](#) for more information on the peer groups.

Model System Researchers Present at 52nd Annual International Spinal Cord Society Annual Meeting

Model Systems researchers from [University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(U-M SCIMS\)](#) and the [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center \(NSCISC\)](#) recently participate in the [52nd Annual International Spinal Cord Society \(ISCoS\) Annual Meeting](#) in Istanbul, Turkey, from October 27-30, 2013. This conference promotes the highest standard of care in the practice of spinal cord injury for men, women and children throughout the world. Through its medical and multi-disciplinary team of professionals ISCoS endeavors to foster education, research and clinical excellence. ISCoS has a membership of over 1,000 clinicians and scientists from 87 countries. Each year the Annual Scientific Meeting is held in a different country and is continuously expanding in membership and new horizons. A list of the posters and presentations were presented are available [here](#).

Model System Researcher Receives Award from University of Michigan Medical School

[Denise Tate Ph.D., ABPP, FACRM](#), principal investigator from the [University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(U-M SCIMS\)](#), received the [2013 Faculty Award for Clinical and Health Services Research](#) from the University of Michigan Medical School. The award is given annually to faculty and staff selected by the University of Michigan Medical School for their exceptional accomplishments in the areas of teaching, research, clinical care, community service and administration. These individuals have contributed their ideas and creativity; they are actively participating in the implementation of plans; and they're open to new ideas, tolerant of risk, and willing to change.

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

Model System Host a Consumer Conference

The [Northern New Jersey TBI System \(NNJTBIS\)](#) hosted a consumer conference titled, *Brain Injury: The Challenge of Change*, on October 11, 2013 which was a big success. After

welcoming remarks from Drs. [Nancy Chiaravalloti](#) and [John DeLuca](#), the Keynote Speaker, Scott Chesney, gave an inspiring presentation drawing upon his own experience of living with a disability and finding his path in life. Other speakers presented on personal development, utility of social media in making connections, and the benefits of yoga. Dr. Chiaravalloti informed the attendees about current TBI research and presented some of the latest research findings. This was followed by a panel discussion on relationships after TBI. The conference was well attended and well received.

Model System Researchers Participate in Educational Symposium

Investigators from the [Northern New Jersey TBI System \(NNJTBIS\)](#) participated in an educational symposium titled *Bridging Brain Trauma Treatment from the ER to Rehab* in West Orange, NJ on October 25, 2013. In attendance were trauma surgeons, nurses, therapists, case managers, social workers, and speech-language pathologists. [Nancy Chiaravalloti, PhD](#), project director of NNJTBIS spoke on *Cognitive Research in TBI Rehabilitation and Impact on Clinical Care*. [Neil Jasey, MD](#), medical director of NNJTBIS, discussed, *Neuropharmacology in acute rehabilitation following TBI*. [Bruce M. Gans, MD](#), co-investigator of NNJTBIS provided his perspective on, *Improving safety and quality for the care of patients with neurotrauma: From public policy to the bedside*.

=====Burn=====

Burn Model System Recently Held a Lecture Series

Carmen Tarleton, burn survivor and face transplant recipient, was the guest speaker at the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System \(BH-BIMS\)](#) Lecture Series on November 12, 2013. Injured in 2007 by her estranged ex-husband, Ms. Tarleton was a patient at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. The audience, a combination of trauma survivors, healthcare providers and community members, was riveted as she spoke about overcoming adversity and finding happiness, forgiveness and peace. Following her talk, Ms. Tarleton candidly and thoughtfully answered questions posed by the audience and signed copies of her recently published book, *Overcome*. Please visit www.bh-bims.org to learn more about the event.

Burn Survivor Support Group (BSSG) Annual Thanksgiving Event



The [North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System \(NTBRMS\)](#) held its 7th Annual Burn Survivor Support Group (BSSG) Thanksgiving event on November 16, 2013. The event, jointly hosted by the NTBRMS, Parkland Burn Center and the BSSG, brings holiday meals to families of burn patients who are still receiving care as in-patients in the burn unit. The purpose of this event is for the survivors to come together to express gratitude for their

own recovery while providing support to those still in hospital receiving care.

Upcoming Events

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| Feb 15-19 | <u>The 36th Annual John A. Boswick, MD Burn and Wound Healing Symposium</u> |
| Mar 19-23 | <u>10th World Congress on Brain Injury</u> |
| Mar 25-28 | <u>46th Annual American Burn Association Meeting</u> |
| Apr 8-12 | <u>8th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation</u> |
| May 1-2 | <u>38th Annual Williamsburg Traumatic Brain Injury Conference</u> |
| May 14-17 | <u>American Spinal Injury Association 2014 Annual Meeting</u> |