September 2013 MSKTC Headlines

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

September is National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month!

Did you know that the MSKTC offers a variety of free consumer-friendly resources that support individuals with spinal cord injury, including factsheets, videos, and slideshows? Learn more at http://www.msktc.org/sci

Model System Researcher Presented in Symposium Sponsored by FIOCRUZ

Denise Tate Ph.D., co-director of the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System (U-M SCIMS) participated in a symposium sponsored by the FIOCRUZ Foundation on August 7-9 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. FIOCRUZ is the largest Research Foundation funded by the Brazilian government and has a collaborative agreement with the University of Michigan. Sixteen researchers from the UM Medical School and School of Public Health participated in this meeting. Dr. Tate presented on her research on spinal cord injury and on the SCIMS database available through the NSCISC at UAB. The Brazilian government has two large longitudinal databases focusing on health and disparities of its citizens. Dr. Tate proposed the inclusion of disability related questions into these two large national surveys. Plans are to compare data with US databases such as the HRS database also housed at the University of Michigan. Such data will likely assist in future collaborative studies among aging populations with chronic illness and disability.

The MSKTC Seeks Participants for SCI Factsheet Testing

The MSKTC is seeking feedback on several existing factsheets on spinal cord injury (SCI). Individuals with SCI and their families will be interviewed for input on factsheets on bladder and bowel health, driving, and knowledge of SCI. Participants will be compensated $25 for their time. For more information or to volunteer, contact Mahlet Megra at 202-403-5600 or msktc@air.org.

Model System Extends Farewell to Research Assistant

The Midwest Spinal Cord Injury Care System extends farewell to Christy Starr, a SCI Model Systems research assistant in the Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research at the Rehabilitation institute of Chicago since February of 2011. She has contributed to several collaborative modules including the Spinal Cord Injury Quality of Life module and the Spinal Cord Injury Functional Independence module. She recently gave an invited paper presentation at the 38th Annual Conference of The Association for Women in Psychology entitled “The Role of Media and Mothering in Young Girls’ Self-Sexualization,” with Dr. Gail Ferguson, and a poster presentation at the American Academy of Neurology 65th Annual Meeting entitled “The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago military Traumatic Brain Injury screening instrument:
Determination of sensitivity, specificity, and predictive value” with Bethany Kondiles and Drs. Felise Zollman, Eric Larson, and Cherina Cyborski. She leaves Chicago to begin a doctoral program at the University of California at Santa Cruz for Ph.D. in social psychology; she will receive a full scholarship in recognition of her qualifications and experience. The program is research oriented and focuses on social justice issues, including those facing people with disabilities. Previously, Christy contributed to the Midwest Regional TBI Model Systems database and other projects as a research assistant.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Message from the New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System

Members of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Mount Sinai Medical Center mourn the loss of our colleague and friend, Dr. Joshua Cantor. He was brilliant, kind, confident, humble, sharp, funny, a leader, champion for people with Brain Injury, mentor, insatiably curious and eager to learn. As one of his patients said, “You just don’t find all these things in one person.” He will be so deeply missed by us all. He is survived by his wife Christina Faletti, and by his children, Lucy and Max Cantor. A memorial service was held on Sunday, September 15, 2013 at Temple Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, New York. Donations may be made to the Joshua Cantor Trust Fund, c/o The Rehabilitation Medicine Department, 3 East 101st Street, New York, NY 10029. The fund will be used to provide continued support to Joshua’s family.

Model System Researcher Quoted in a Published Article

Nancy Chiaravalloti, PhD, principal investigator from the Northern New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury System is quoted in "Watching Children for Concussions" published on dailyRx.com. Dr. Chiaravalloti explained that this study is important because it shows that concussions are common not only in contact sports. Her comments focus on a study of the cognitive effects of concussions in cheerleaders published in the August issue of the Journal of Pediatrics. The researchers used the Immediate Postconcussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing (ImPACT) to evaluate girls pre- and post-injury.

Burn

Model System Researchers to Present at Phoenix Society’s World Burn Congress

Four members of the Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System team will participate in the 2013 Phoenix Society’s Annual World Burn Congress in Providence, RI from October 9-12, 2013. The researchers that will be participating in the conference and their topics is available on the MSKTC blog. Additional information can be found on the conference website. The MSKTC will also participate in the conference by exhibiting the work of the Burn Injury Model System and the MSKTC.
Upcoming Events

Sept 26-27  Brain Injury Association of Michigan’s 33rd Annual Fall Conference
Oct 9–12  Phoenix Society's Annual World Burn Congress
Oct 28–30  International Spinal Cord Society’s 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting
Nov 12–16  90th Annual American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Conference