March 2017 MSKTC Headlines

MSKTC and George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences Researchers to Present at the 2017 Annual Conference & Centennial Celebration
Cindy Cai, PhD and Cynthia Overton, PhD of the MSKTC, will join Mary Corcoran, PhD and Gillian Rai, DOT of the George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences to present at the upcoming American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) conference. The presentation, “Integrating Knowledge Translation into OT Education and Professional Development,” will highlight how MSKTC resources can be utilized in occupational therapy graduate education and professional development programs. The conference will take place March 29-April 2, 2017 in Philadelphia, PA. Learn more about the conference here.

SCI, TBI, and Burn Model System Centers Participate at Wellness Fair
Researchers and clinicians from Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (SNERSCIC), Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System (BHBIMS), and Spaulding-Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (SH-TBIMS) participated in the Harvard-Kent Elementary School Health Fair in Charlestown, MA. This is the fifth year that the Spaulding Model Systems have attended this event, which aims to promote wellness and healthy living within the Harvard-Kent school community. The Model Systems developed educational activities for children and their families that covered the importance of smoke alarms, emergency planning, and head injury prevention. In addition, children learned about the functional anatomy of the vertebral column by using edible items to build the spinal cord, vertebrae, discs, and spinal nerves. They also learned about ways to avoid spinal cord injuries in their daily activities. Pictures from the event can be found on the BHBIMS Facebook page and SNERSCIC website.

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

SCI Model System Researcher Presents Plenary Keynote at American Academy of Physiatrists
Cheri Blauwet, MD, co-director of Knowledge Translation at Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (SNERSCIC), presented a plenary keynote address at the 2017 American Academy of Physiatrists (AAP) Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV on February 11. Dr. Blauwet's talk was titled, “More Than Just a Game: The Public Health Impact of Sports and Physical Activity for People with Disabilities.” It discussed the public health impact that physical activity has had on consumers with a range of disabilities, including spinal cord injuries. Dr. Blauwet also discussed the emergence of Paralympic Sports Medicine and how universal design can be applied to sports and physical activity programs.

SCI Model System Center to Present Webcast and Live Chat
Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (SNERSCIC) will present the second webcast in the 2017 Knowledge-in-Motion Series on Thursday, April 20 from 6:30-8:00 PM EST. This webcast and live chat will feature Paolo Bonato, PhD, director of the Motion Analysis Laboratory (MAL) at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, MA. The webcast is titled, “The Future is Here: What Can Robotics Do for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury.” Dr. Bonato will discuss how robotic systems and assistive devices with robotic capabilities are
currently used to regain and retrain motor function and improve independence for individuals living with SCI. The benefits, challenges, and personal commitment from the consumer perspective will also be discussed. To register, click [here](#) or call 1-866-607-1804 (toll free).

**SCI Model System Centers Researchers to Participate at ASIA Scientific Meeting**

A host of SCI Model System Centers researchers will present papers and deliver lectures during the ASIA Scientific Meeting, to be held April 26-29, 2017 in Albuquerque, NM. The list of participants who have submitted conference presentation information to the MSKTC can be found [here](#). Additional information about the conference can be found [here](#).

**SCI Model System Researcher Recognized for Significant Contributions to the Field of Rehabilitation Research**

Mary D. Slavin, PhD, of Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center ([SNERSCIC](#)), has been selected to present the Stephen M. Haley Memorial Lectureship during the Howard H. Steel Conference on Pediatric Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction. Dr. Slavin's lecture, "The SCI Pediatric Activity Measure, and the Pediatric Measure of Participation," will take place on April 26, 2017. The Stephen M. Haley Memorial Lecture is awarded to an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of rehabilitation research. The Howard H. Steele Conference is a full day pre-course of the 2017 American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) Scientific Meeting, and is the only international educational effort focused entirely on pediatric SCI/D. Learn more about the conference [here](#).

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

**TBI Model System Centers and MSKTC Researchers Participate at the 2017 Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill**

TBI Model System Centers exhibited at the 2017 Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) Awareness Day. The event was held March 22, 2017 at the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. It attracted individuals with TBI and their family members, policymakers, advocates, researchers, and other stakeholders. The MSKTC exhibited as well and disseminated the work of the TBI Model Systems. Learn more [here](#).

**TBI Model System Centers and MSKTC Researchers Participate in the 12th IBIA World Congress on Brain Injury**

A host of researchers from TBI Model System Centers are participating in the 12th IBIA World Congress on Brain Injury. This international conference is held March 29 - April 1, 2017 in New Orleans, LA. Model Systems researchers who reported their participation in the conference can be found [here](#). The MSKTC is exhibiting at booth 402. Learn more [here](#).

**TBI Model System Researcher Recognized with IBIA Award**

Jeffrey Kreutzer, PhD, principal investigator for Virginia Commonwealth University TBI Model System ([VCU TBIMS](#)), was awarded the International Brain Injury Association's 2017 Jennett Plum Award for Clinical Achievement in the Field of Brain Injury Medicine. The award is presented biennially to clinicians and researchers who have made substantive and historical research contributions to the field of TBI through clinical, translational, or basic science.
research. Dr. Kreutzer was chosen in recognition of the impact of his clinical research on the field of brain injury medicine. The award will be presented at the 12th World Congress on Brain Injury.

**TBI Model System Center Researchers Publish Articles in Two Journals**

Researchers from a host of TBI Model System Centers co-authored two recently published articles. Researchers from Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (ORTBIMS), Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System (RMRBIS), University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (UPMC-SCI), Mayo Clinic Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (MCTBIMS), Northern New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury System (NNJTBIS), and Virginia Commonwealth Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (VCU TBIMS), published, “Test-Retest Reliability of Traumatic Brain Injury Outcome Measures: A Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Study” in the *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. Access the abstract [here](#).

Researchers from University of Washington Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (UWTBIMS), North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (NTTBIMS), Mayo Clinic Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (MCTBIMS), University of Alabama at Birmingham Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (UAB-TBIMS), Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (MTBIMS), and Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System (RMRBIS) published a second article, “Natural History of Headache Five Years after Traumatic Brain Injury,” in the *Journal of Neurotrauma*. Access the article [here](#).

=====Burn=====

**MSKTC Hot Topic Module Video Recognized with Telly Award**

The MSKTC hot topic module video, “Exercise After Burn Injury” was recognized with a Bronze Telly Award. The video was produced in partnership between the MSKTC and Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System (BHBIMS). The 18-minute video features three burn survivors who share their experiences beginning and maintaining an exercise routine after burn injury. The Telly Awards were founded in 1978 to honor film and video productions, groundbreaking web commercials, videos and films, and outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs. View the award-winning “Exercise After Burn Injury” video and companion clips [here](#). Access the entire hot topic module, including videos, factsheets, and slideshow [here](#).

**Upcoming Events**

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