February 2015 MSKTC Headlines

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

Resource Highlight: *Understanding Spinal Cord Injury* (2 Part Series)

The MSKTC has posted a new factsheet, *Understanding Spinal Cord Injury*, a two-part series. *Understanding Spinal Cord Injury: Part 1- The Body Before and After Injury* was developed by Phil Klebine, M.A. in collaboration with the MSKTC. The factsheet is designed to be a starting point for understanding the functions of the spinal cord and how those functions may change after injury. *Understanding Spinal Cord Injury: Part 2 – Recovery and Rehabilitation*, was developed by Phil Klebine, M.A., Olivia Smitherman, M.O.T.R./L, and Laney Gernez, P.T. in collaboration with the MSTKC. It describes the process of recovery, including potential areas for improvement and how rehabilitation can help individuals reach their full potential after injury. The factsheets are available on the MSKTC website, and may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. Read more here.

SCI Model Systems Partner to Present Webcast and Live Chat: February 26th- Sexuality after Spinal Cord Injury

The New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (NERSCIC) and the Spaulding-Harvard Spinal Cord Injury Model System (SH-SCIMS) will present the next Knowledge-in-Motion webcast, *Sexuality after Spinal Cord Injury*, on Thursday, February 26th, from 6:30-8:00 PM EST. This webcast and live chat will feature Marca Sipski Alexander, MD, Associate Chief of Staff for Rehabilitative Medicine at Birmingham VA Medical Center, and Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Alabama School of Medicine. Dr. Alexander will discuss an overview of sexuality and issues that can affect sexual potential. A discussion of how spinal cord injury affects the sexual response will also be presented, along with information on treating sexual dysfunction after spinal cord injury. Information about a new sexuality telehealth clinic to help individuals with SCI access information and treatment will also be discussed. Register online or call 1-855-607-1804 (toll free).

NERSCIC Model System Publication Selected as Winner of the Vogel Award

The New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center's (NERSCIC) site-specific project, *Tracking functional status across the spinal cord injury lifespan: linking pediatric and adult patient-reported outcome scores*, was awarded the Vogel Award. This award is named in honor of Dr. Lawrence Vogel and is given for excellence in publishing in the pediatric field of SCI rehabilitation research. The article by lead author Feng Tian, NERSCIC PI and Director Dr. Alan Jette, and others highlights the team's success at linking two functional outcome measures for persons with spinal cord injury- the adult Spinal Cord Injury: Functional Index (SCI-FI) and the Pedi SCI for both adults and children. Item response theory (IRT) methods allow estimation of scores of one measure based on scores from the other, which allows clinicians to track long-term functional data for children with SCI. View the abstract here.

NERSCIC Model System Researcher to Present at AOTA Conference

Hannah Mercier, MS, OTR/L, researcher at the New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (NERSCIC), and doctoral candidate in Rehabilitation Sciences through MGH Institute of Health Professions, has been selected to present at the American Occupational Therapy Association's 2015 Annual Conference in Nashville, TN in April. The presentation will highlight the health empowerment model's application within the My Care My Call site-specific study that was piloted by NERSCIC in late Fall 2014.

Model Systems Researcher Presented at the International Neuropsychological Society

Dr. Allen Heinemann, Ph.D., co-primary investigator of the Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System (MRSCICS), presented at the International Neuropsychological Society in Denver, CO on February 6, 2015. Dr. Heinemann presented, *Relationships between NIH Toolbox Cognition and Emotion Measures and Indicators of Participation for Community-Dwelling Persons with Stroke, Spinal Cord Injury and Traumatic Brain Injury*, as part of a symposium organized by Dr. David Tulsky.

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

Resource Highlight: *Traumatic Brain Injury and Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation* Factsheet

Inpatient rehabilitation is designed to help improve function after a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury. Learn more about inpatient rehabilitation by accessing the factsheet here.

TBI Model Systems Represented at the 2015 Brain Injury Awareness Day

The MSKTC will exhibit at the 2015 Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) Awareness Day. The event will be held March 18 at the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, and attract individuals with TBI, policymakers, advocates, researchers, and other stakeholders. Visit the MSKTC booth in the exhibit area. Learn more here.

=====Burn=====

Resource Highlight: *Sleep Problems after Burn Injury* Factsheet

Do you or someone you know have trouble sleeping after a burn injury? If so, read our factsheet *Sleep Problems after Burn Injury*. Access the resource here.

MSKTC Testing Burn Model Systems Draft Logo with Consumers

The MSKTC is seeking consumers to test a draft logo for the Burn Model System (BMS). Participants must be over 18 years of age, and must be a burn survivor, or a parent of a child with a burn injury. Participation will involve a phone interview that will last less than 30 minutes. All participants will receive a $25 gift card. Please provide contact information for any interested participants to the MSKTC by emailing msktc@air.org.

MSKTC Seeks Parents of Children with Burn Injury

The MSKTC seeks parents of children with burn injury to test two factsheets: *Going Back to School after a Major Burn Injury* and *Help Your Child Recover and Build Your Child's Resilience after a Burn Injury*. Participants will be interviewed for their input on these factsheets and receive a $25 gift card. For more information or to schedule an interview, call 202-403-5600 or email msktc@air.org.

Upcoming Events

Mar 18	Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill
Mar 12-14	13th Annual Pacific Northwest Brain Injury Conference
Apr 15-17	39th Annual Williamsburg TBI Conference
Apr 21-24	ABA 47th Annual Meeting
Apr 30-May 1	37th Annual NARRTC Conference
May 4-5	27th Annual Wisconsin Conference on Brain Injury
May 14-16	ISCoS and ASIA Joint Scientific Meeting