**July 2017 MSKTC Headlines**

**MSKTC to Exhibit at 2017 National Council on Independent Living Conference**
The MSKTC is excited to exhibit at the 2017 Annual National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference in Washington, DC. Visit our booth on July 26 and 27 to learn about free resources developed in collaboration with SCI, TBI and burn Model System researchers. For more information about the conference click [here](#).

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

**SCI Model System Center Holds Annual Wheelchair Wash Event**
The [University of Pittsburgh Model Center for Spinal Cord Injury (UPMC-SCI)](#) held its 7th Annual Wheelchair Wash & Tune Up on June 11, 2017 at UPMC’s Rehabilitation Institute. Staff volunteers, researchers, students, and local vendors were on-site to wash and perform minor repairs, and provide education for wheelchair maintenance. UPMC-SCI’s research focus historically has been to expand the collection of longitudinal wheelchair repair and failure data, and to broadly disseminate findings related to wheelchair failures to the wheelchair community. Through this event, UPMC-SCI serves to educate and promote the importance of wheelchair maintenance for all consumers. Special guest Mark Zupan, a wheelchair rugby player, attended the Wheelchair Wash and Tune Up. Learn more about the event [here](#).

**SCI Model System Researcher Collaborates on Focus Group for Video Series**
Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System (MRSCICS)](#), recently collaborated with FacingDisability.com for a focus group with SCI medical professionals from the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab on May 12, 2017. During the meeting, participants shared insights regarding questions SCI patients may have during initial hospitalization, such as, “can I still have children?” and “how do I handle guilt?” As a result of the discussion, FacingDisability.com plans to add new topics to its video series to address some of SCI patients’ most common questions. The video series is designed to connect families, experts, and people living with SCI. It will be shared with all Model System in-hospital networks, television networks, and online. The video series will also be made available to other health institutions once the three sample videos are edited and evaluated for effectiveness.

**SCI Model System Researcher Presents at Annual Interdisciplinary SCI Course**
Milap Sandhu, PhD, co-principal investigator of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System (MRSCICS)](#) site-specific project, Intermittent Hypoxia, recently gave a talk at the 40th Annual Interdisciplinary SCI Course. The course was held at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab on May 31, 2017. The event was comprised of lectures, panels, and discussions to spotlight innovations in research that impact persons with SCI. Learn more [here](#).

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

**TBI Model System Researchers Elected to Leadership Positions**
Amy Wagner, MD, project director of [University of Pittsburgh Model Center for Traumatic Brain Injury (UPMC-TBI)](#), was recently elected as President of the National Neurotrauma Society. She will take office in 2019. Jenny Bogner, PhD, co-principal investigator of [Ohio](#),
Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (ORTBIMS) was also recently elected as Secretary of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM).

TBI Model System Researcher Gives Talk at International Meeting
Tessa Hart, PhD, principal investigator of the Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (MTBIMS), presented at the meeting of the World Federation of NeuroRehabilitation Special Interest Group on Neuropsychological Rehabilitation. The meeting was held July 10-11, 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa. Her talk was entitled, "Anger Self-Management Training for Chronic Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury." Learn more about the conference here.

TBI Model System Researcher Receives Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
Raj Kumar, data manager for the University of Pittsburgh Model Center for Traumatic Brain Injury (UPMC-TBI), applied for and received a pre-doctoral TL1 fellowship offered through the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. This fellowship is a research training program for pre-doctoral students to find innovative ways to advance research from initial discovery through improved patient outcomes and health policy. As one of four awardees this cycle, the fellowship will allow Raj to gain advanced training and mentorship in the translational sciences and train alongside other top health science graduate students across disciplines at the University of Pittsburgh. Learn more here.

TBI Model System Centers Publish Article in Stroke Journal
Researchers from a host of TBI Model System centers, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, co-authored a recently published article in Stroke Journal. The article is entitled, “Acute Ischemic Stroke After Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: Incidence and Impact on Outcome.” It was co-authored by researchers from Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System (RMRBIS), Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (ORTBIMS), Indiana University School of Medicine / Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana TBI Model System, and New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (NYTBIMS). Access the abstract here.

TBI Model System Center to Host TBI Conference
Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System (RMRBIS) in collaboration with Medical Education Resources, is hosting the 2018 Brain Injury Summit, to be held January 7-10, 2018 in Vail, Colorado. The 2018 Summit will emphasize evidence-based treatment guidelines across the continuum of care and will highlight best-informed practices in the field of brain injury neurorehabilitation. Learning opportunities will include lectures from leaders in the field, scientific oral and poster presentations, panel discussions, and hands-on sessions. Participants will have opportunities to network with professionals from a wide range of disciplines and gain tools that can be immediately implemented into practice. Register here.

====Burn====

Resource Highlight: “Social Interaction after Burn Injury” Factsheet
Burn injury survivors who have had a change in physical appearance may feel anxious about
how people will react to them. Access the MSKTC factsheet to learn more about strategies for enhancing social interactions [here](#).

**Upcoming Events**

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<td>October 12-15, 2017</td>
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