

Rehabilitation OUTLOOK

VOLUME 18, NO 5
SEP | OCT 2013

THE OFFICIAL MEMBER NEWS OF

ACRM

AMERICAN CONGRESS OF
REHABILITATION MEDICINE

Improving lives through
interdisciplinary rehabilitation research



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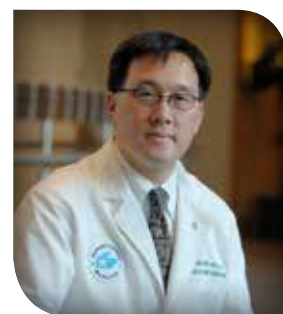
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Announcing the 2013 ACRM Fellows

ACRM President Tamara Bushnik, PhD, FACRM and Fellows Committee Chair Mark Sherer, PhD, FACRM are pleased to announce the 2013 ACRM Fellows. These seven active members are recognized for their outstanding records of professional service to ACRM and their contributions of national significance to the field of medical rehabilitation. They are:

Dr. Leighton Chan is tenured senior scientist and chief of rehabilitation medicine at the NIH Clinical Center, a 260 bed research hospital on the NIH campus. He received his BA degree from Dartmouth College and his MD from the UCLA School of Medicine. He received residency training in PM&R at the University of Washington. Subsequently, he completed a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar Fellowship, earned an MPH at the UW School of Public Health, and was a Congressional Fellow for the Honorable Jim McDermott (Washington).



Dr. Leighton Chan

Dr. Chan has concentrated his research efforts on studying the health care and social services provided to individuals with disabilities. Over the course of his career, he has published landmark studies examining the impact of disability on health care. His research has resulted in more than 85 peer reviewed articles, including 10 in JAMA, Lancet, and NEJM.

Dr. Chan's awards include the Young Academician Award from the Association of Academic Physiatrists, two outstanding teacher awards from the UW School of Medicine, and four NIH Director's Awards. He is currently the co-editor-in-chief of the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. In 2007, he was one of the youngest individuals ever elected to the Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Flora Hammond is a board certified physiatrist who completed her medical degree at Tulane University School of Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation residency at Baylor College of Medicine, and brain injury fellowship at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan. She is professor and chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Indiana School of Medicine; chief of Medical Affairs and Brain Injury Medical Director at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana; medical director at St. Vincent Acute Rehabilitation Unit; and medical director for the NeuroRestorative site in Indiana. She is currently project director of the Indiana Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, and served as project director of the Carolinas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System from 1998-2012. Dr. Hammond is an experienced researcher who has conducted numerous studies on the long-term issues following brain injury and spinal cord injury, and the effectiveness of treatment strategies to improve outcomes. She has authored more than 108 peer-reviewed publications. Her accomplishments in research, teaching, and administration have been acknowledged by receipt of the 2001 Association of Academic Physiatrists Young Academician Award and the 2011 Brain Injury Association of America William Caveness Award.



Dr. Flora Hammond

Rehabilitation OUTLOOK

Chelsea T. Day, PsyD
EDITOR

Adam B. Warshowsky, PhD
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE CHAIR

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NON-STOP CONTENT FOR:



BRAIN INJURY



SPINAL CORD
INJURY



STROKE



NEURODEGENERATIVE
DISEASES



PAIN

“The ACRM Progress in Rehabilitation Research Conference is all about improving lives through sharing and networking in a positive, supportive environment. ACRM is inclusive and welcoming to all members of the rehabilitation team. This is the **ONE** event you don’t want to miss.”



**—TAMARA BUSHNIK,
PHD, FACRM**

ACRM PRESIDENT,
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Dr. Cindy Harrison-Felix has a doctorate in clinical sciences and is an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado, Denver. She is the project director of the TBI Model Systems (TBIMS) National Data and Statistical Center, the co-project director of the TBIMS at Craig Hospital, and also a co-investigator on a number of other TBI studies. She is also the principal investigator of a Department of Defense-funded multi-site RCT titled: "Treatment of Social Competence in Military Veterans, Service Members, and Civilians with Traumatic Brain Injury," and the lead for the VA PRC Database project.



Dr. Cindy Harrison-Felix

Dr. Harrison-Felix received the Deborah L. Wilkerson Early Career Award in 2008 and the Elizabeth & Sidney Licht Award for Excellence in Scientific Writing in 2010. Dr. Harrison-Felix has a 35-year career in disability and rehabilitation research with an emphasis in TBI and SCI, topics on which she has published and presented extensively. She has been involved with the NIDRR-funded SCIMS and TBIMS for over 25 years.

Dr. Mike Jones is vice president for research and technology at the Shepherd Center and founding director of the center's Virginia C. Crawford Research Institute. He is also co-director of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Wireless Technologies, a joint research program of the Georgia Institute of Technology and Shepherd Center.



Dr. Mike Jones

Dr. Jones' research interests are focused on the design and management of environments, programs, and services that promote independent living and full inclusion of people with disabilities. His projects include applications of universal design, information and communication technology, and behavior management strategies to promote health, wellness, and community participation.

Dr. Jones received his PhD in child psychology from the University of Kansas, where he served as associate director of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) from 1983 to 1988. Dr. Jones' work with RTC/IL culminated in publication of the Guidelines for Writing and Reporting about People with Disabilities. Prior to joining Shepherd Center in 1996, Dr. Jones was executive director of the Center for Universal Design and associate professor of design and technology at North Carolina State University

where he and Jim Mueller led a team of architects, designers, engineers and accessibility advocates to establish the Principles of Universal Design.

Virginia "Ginna" Mills started her career as a physical therapist at Braintree Hospital. During her 17 years at Braintree, she worked as a clinician, researcher, and manager and eventually became senior vice president. She, along with colleagues, developed several neurorehabilitation programs in stroke and brain injury. After leaving Braintree in 1996, Ginna founded Community Rehab Care, Inc., (CRC) an outpatient neurorehabilitation program in the Boston area. CRC is recognized as a high quality provider of outpatient rehabilitation services.



Virginia "Ginna" Mills

In 1997, Ginna co-edited a book, "Neurologic Rehabilitation: A Guide to Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment Planning," aimed at helping clinicians understand the pathology and natural history of the common diagnoses treated in neurorehabilitation programs. In 2013, she sold her interest in CRC and joined the board at the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Community Services (MAB) in Brookline, Massachusetts. MAB provides a school for brain injured adolescents, community services, and day programs. Ginna also has a consulting practice.

Ginna has been an ACRM member for over 30 years and is one of the founding members of the Brain Injury Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group (BI-ISIG) and the ACRM newsletter.

Dr. Ronald T. Seel is director of brain injury research for the Virginia C. Crawford Research Institute at Shepherd Center. At Shepherd Center, he created and directs "ARMED to Succeed," a TBI rehabilitation medication trials center.



Dr. Ronald T. Seel

Prior to joining Shepherd Center, Dr. Seel served as executive director of the Southeastern Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Center and as associate director of research and neuropsychological services for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at the McGuire Veteran's Medical Center in Richmond, VA.

Dr. Seel has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles on brain injury, spinal cord injury, and Parkinson's disease outcomes. He has been highly active in ACRM and is a past recipient of the Distinguished Member Award and the Deborah L. Wilkerson

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CALL TO ACTION:

Contact Your Members of Congress to Support Research

By Robert “Bobby” Silverstein, Principal, Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville PC; Marilyn Price Spivack and Wayne Gordon, PhD

We need your help again this year to advocate in defense and expansion as well as improvement of disability and rehabilitation research supported by the federal government. Members of the 113th Congress need to hear from you! Those concerned with enhancing the quality of life of people with disabilities and chronic conditions through research have a choice—you can stay on the sidelines or you can get involved and make the case for investing in disability and rehabilitation research. ACRM takes the position that we must recognize the fiscal challenges we are facing, but transform these challenges into opportunities. ACRM is calling on its members to contact their members of Congress in support of disability and rehabilitation research.

Below, are highlights of the current advocacy efforts by ACRM and describes specific actions you can take to enhance our nation's investment in disability and rehabilitation research.

Current Advocacy Efforts

ACRM maintains a leadership role in expanding and improving disability and rehabilitation research in the federal government, particularly research related to the health and function of people with disabilities and chronic conditions. The focus of our efforts includes:

- National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR)
- National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR)
- Affordable Care Act Implementation
- Appropriations

National Institute of Health (NIH)

In furtherance of our efforts to enhance the stature and visibility of rehabilitation science at NIH, we, along with colleagues in the rehabilitation field, met with Dr. Alan Guttmacher, Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director. The outcome of the meeting was the establishment of a “Blue Ribbon Panel” to review rehabilitation research at NIH. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Panel have been presented to the NIH, including a recommendation to elevate the status of NCMRR. Members of the Senate

have requested a written plan of action to implement the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations. Dr. Guttmacher has responded to the Blue Ribbon Panel report with a proposed action plan, the details of which are still being refined. In the meantime, Senators Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) have introduced S. 1077 to improve, coordinate, and enhance rehabilitation science at NIH. The introduction of the bill sends a powerful message that the time is now to enhance the stature and visibility of rehabilitation science at the world's premier medical research agency. Furthermore, it also sends a clear message that the provision of quality, cost-effective rehabilitation services and devices are essential health care benefits for people with disabilities and chronic conditions.

NIDRR

With regard to the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), we have met directly with Dr. Charlie Lakin, the NIDRR Director. We also met with Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, to discuss the critical research funded by NIDRR. In July 2013, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) marked-up S. 1356, a bill that reauthorizes the Rehabilitation Act, including Title II, which authorizes disability and rehabilitation research supported by NIDRR. The Senate bill reported out of Committee would move the Rehabilitation Services Administration from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor. In addition, the bill moves NIDRR from the Department of Education to the Administration for Community Living in the Department of Health and Human Resources. ACRM is closely watching the developments of the proposed relocation of NIDRR and the potential of such a move to enhance NIDRR's focus on health and function research.

CDC

ACRM was instrumental in getting the CDC to appoint a chief disability and health officer to coordinate CDC rehabilitation and disability research and to establish a CDC working group. The chief, Dr. Vince Campbell, has reported significant success in the CDC recognizing disability as a key demographic characteristic in surveillance efforts and a focus of research initiatives. The CDC will be preparing its second annual summary report of major accomplishments over the past two year in the near term, which we will share with members of ACRM.

ICDR

In addition to re-locating NIDRR to HHS, the Senate bill reported out of Committee also appoints the Secretary of HHS or his or her designee to chair the Interagency Committee on Disability Research. This elevates the status of the chair and ICDR. In addition, we are pleased to report that the bill directs ICDR to develop a comprehensive, interagency, government wide strategic plan for disability and rehabilitation research with the input and involvement of the research community.

See *CALL TO ACTION* continued on page 7

Exciting Events and Opportunities for Early Career Professionals and Students

By Chari I. Hirshson, ECNG Secretary

The ACRM Early Career Networking Group (ECNG) has been working hard to organize exciting networking and career development opportunities for students and early career rehabilitation professionals.

EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT COURSE will be held during the preconference, on Wednesday, 13 November. This is a great opportunity to network with peers face-to-face and gain valuable advice from seasoned and renowned professionals in the field. This course includes special presentations from federal grant agencies that will give you insider information about grant resources and tips for new investigators. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information, check out our website: <http://www.acrm.org/early-career-development>. Don't forget to register for this course when you register for the conference!

INTRODUCTION TO ACRM INTERDISCIPLINARY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (ISIGS) AND NETWORKING GROUPS — Enhance your network and get involved! ACRM has a great variety of groups working in many areas of interest. There is something for everyone! Following the Early Career Development Course on 13 November, the chairs of all ACRM groups will be on hand to meet you and tell you about their group's work and how you can get involved. You do not need to participate in the Early Career Development Course to attend this event. Stay tuned for more information.

ECNG COCKTAIL RECEPTION will be held on Wednesday evening, 13 November. What a great time to mix and mingle! Get to know ACRM members in an informal setting. Make connections with peers, develop a new collaboration, find a mentor, and build lasting relationships.

ECNG BUSINESS MEETING — Saturday, 16 November from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM. This free meeting will be open to ECNG members or anyone interested in becoming a member. We will discuss the goals, current activities, and next steps for our three Task Forces:

- 1) Communications Task Force
- 2) Early Career Development Task Force
- 3) Physicians Task Force

We invite you to become an active member of one of the task forces as well as your general input in guiding the growth of our group. Your direction will help shape the type of resources and benefits the ECNG can make available to you. To learn more about the ECNG, please visit our website, ACRM.org/earlycareer.

ECNG-PHYSICIANS TASK FORCE EVENTS — *Please contact Dawn Neumann, dmneuman@iupui.edu if you are considering attending this event.* Informal meet- and-greet for group members and ACRM physicians during the scientific poster viewing session on the evening of Thursday, 14 November. If you are interested in joining us, please meet us at the ACRM booth between 5:15 PM – 5:30 PM. From there, we will head over to the poster reception and review interesting posters as a group. After the poster session, please join us for the ECNG social outing (see below). Additionally, we are in the process of organizing a Physician's Task Force business meeting that will most likely be held Thursday morning of the conference. If you cannot join our specific task force meeting, please consider joining our broader ECNG business meeting (see above). For more information please contact Brad Kurowski, brad.kurowski@cchmc.org.

ECNG SOCIAL OUTING — The ECNG is in the planning stage of organizing a social outing in Orlando. All are welcome to attend! This event will most likely be held on Thursday evening, 14 November, after the poster reception. We hope that you will join us! We are currently generating a list of all people interested in this event. Please contact Dawn Neumann (dmneuman@iupui.edu) to get on the list!

Introducing the Early Career Networking Group Physicians Task Force

By Brad Kurowski, MD, ECNG Physicians Task Force Chair

The Early Career Networking Group (ECNG) has formed an ECNG Physicians Task Force, led by Dr. Brad Kurowski. The mission of the ECNG Physicians task force is to cultivate collaboration among early-career physicians engaged in the practice of rehabilitation medicine with a focus on improving the implementation of research, knowledge translation, program development, and interdisciplinary collaboration. To achieve this mission, the ECNG Physicians Task Force is looking to build membership and develop resources for early career physicians to succeed in their academic careers. They are also looking to recruit mid-level and senior members for the group to provide insight and guidance to early career colleagues. If you are interested or need more information about any of these events, please contact Brad Kurowski, brad.kurowski@cchmc.org.

UPDATE: Girls and Women with Acquired Brain Injury Task Force

By: Angela Colantonio, PhD and Yelena Goldin, PhD

The BI-ISIG Girls and Women with Acquired Brain Injury Task Force will meet from 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM on Thursday, 15 November at the 90th Annual ACRM Conference in Orlando. This is a great way to start the conference with some exciting opportunities for research, networking and knowledge exchange. We hope to see you there!

Task force members will present sex/gender and TBI research in the following instructional course and symposia:

- Preconference Instructional Course, 13 November: Women's Pelvic Health in the Context of Physical Disability: An Interdisciplinary Team Approach
- Symposium, 15 November: Children and Youth with Acquired Brain Injury: Transition Challenges and Outcomes
- Symposium, 15 November: Occupational Traumatic Brain Injury: Gender Health and the Workplace

NEW Women's Health Task Force: SCI-ISIG

By Heath B. Taylor, PhD, SCI-ISIG Women's Health Task Force Chair

The Spinal Cord Injury Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group (SCI-ISIG) is pleased to announce the addition of a new task force focused on improving health and quality of life for women with SCI. Consistent with the demographics of SCI, samples for research have typically included a majority of men. Over the last decade, researchers have begun to identify and evaluate differences as they relate to gender, health, and quality of life and recognize women with SCI as having unique health and quality of life concerns.

The mission of the Women's Health Task Force is to facilitate collaborative research, mobilize knowledge, raise awareness and improve women's health and quality of life following SCI.

The task force is chaired by Heather B. Taylor, PhD, Director for Spinal Cord Injury and Disability Research (SCIDR) at TIRR Memorial Hermann. The Women's Health Task Force is comprised of researchers and clinicians with interest and expertise in women's issues. The task force meets monthly and will hold its inaugural meeting during the ACRM annual conference in November.

Goals of the Task Force:

- Facilitate collaboration with researchers and organizations interested in women's health and quality of life following SCI
- Identify key gaps in SCI research and practice most relevant to women with SCI
- Submit collaborative research proposals and symposia on women's health after SCI to the annual ACRM conference
- Prepare submissions for journals
- Disseminate products generated through the task force to raise awareness of women's health following SCI

PLEASE CONTACT Dr. Heather Taylor, Heather.Taylor@memorialhermann.org, if you are interested in becoming involved. *No contribution is too small!*

Improving the Fitness and Wellness of People with Spinal Cord Injury: A Call to Action!

The ACRM Spinal Cord Injury Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group (SCI-ISIG) has created a Fitness and Wellness Task Force. This new task force is currently seeking members with a passion for and experience in rehabilitation and research in wellness, fitness, exercise, and health promotion across the continuum of spinal cord injury rehabilitation and health care. The mission of the ACRM SCI-ISIG Fitness and Wellness Task Force is to enhance the health and wellness of people with spinal cord injury through the development and implementation of evidence-based physical fitness and health initiatives created by an interdisciplinary team of clinicians and researchers in the field of spinal cord injury rehabilitation.

The primary goals of the ACRM SCI-ISIG Fitness and Wellness Task Force are:

- To develop fitness and wellness products supported by the most current evidence-based physical fitness and exercise prescription guidelines;
- To produce social media, web content, and conference programming on topics related to fitness and wellness in SCI;
- To facilitate involvement and collaboration between the ACRM SCI-ISIG Fitness and Wellness Task Force and

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SCI-ISIG continued from page 6

other organizations with interests in fitness and wellness promotion in SCI rehabilitation and health care.

Task force members will meet once per month and work as a collaborative team to develop ACRM SCI-ISIG products including, but not limited to, fact sheets, journal articles, practice guidelines, and position papers on issues related to exercise and fitness in SCI. These products will be used to directly inform patients, clinicians, and patient caregivers as

to the importance and need to participate in ongoing physical activity and exercise across the lifespan.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about becoming a member of the ACRM SCI-ISIG Fitness and Wellness Task Force, please contact the task force chair, Nick Evans at nicholas_evans@shepherd.org. 🌸

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Affordable Care Act Implementation

We are also working with federal agencies and contractors on health care reform. The goal is to ensure that rehabilitation is truly part of the essential benefits package and recognized as a medical intervention on par with other medical interventions. The goal is also to ensure that research, including comparative effectiveness research, addresses the needs of persons with disabilities for rehabilitative services and devices. We are also working to ensure that “disability” is highlighted in reports regarding health care disparities among special populations.

Call to Action

There is no question that funding for disability and rehabilitation research will be facing difficult challenges in the coming years. However, now is not the time to become overwhelmed by these challenges! Now is the time to refocus our collective advocacy efforts and make the most compelling case possible that investments in disability and rehabilitation research have and

will continue to result in positive outcomes that enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities and chronic conditions.

Now is also the time to:

- Invite members of Congress and their staff to visit with you and your colleagues to discuss your research;
- Share the outcomes of research previously undertaken;
- Identify gaps in the research and highlight the research agenda for the future; and
- Write letters to Congress when requested to do so by ACRM leadership.

For further information please contact Bobby Silverstein, Bobby.Silverstein@PPSV.COM or Marilyn Spivack, mbspivack@partners.org. 🌸

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Early Career Award. Dr. Seel currently serves as chair of several ACRM committees, including the Clinical Practice Committee and the BI-ISIG mild TBI Task Force, and he previously served as a member of the ACRM board. Dr. Seel has served as chair of the BI-ISIG and the BI-ISIG Disorders of Consciousness Task Force. Primary ACRM projects that he has co-led include the ACRM Practice Parameter on assessment scales for disorders of consciousness and the June 2012 Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Supplement.

Dr. Lance Trexler is director of rehabilitation neuropsychology at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana and adjunct clinical assistant professor of PM&R at Indiana University School of Medicine. He is a board of directors past-chair for both the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Board and the Brain Injury Association of Indiana. Dr. Trexler has published



Dr. Lance Trexler

over 30 book chapters and peer-reviewed articles and has given over 100 presentations at professional conferences.

Dr. Trexler is the current chair of the BI-ISIG. He was awarded the ACRM Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. Dr. Trexler is the managing editor of the Cognitive Rehabilitation Manual: Translating Evidence-Based Recommendations into Practice published by ACRM in 2012 and serves as chair of the ACRM Cognitive Rehabilitation Committee.

Dr. Trexler's research and program development are focused on resource facilitation to improve return to work and school following brain injury. Dr. Trexler and collaborators have developed and studied the effects of resource facilitation on return to work in the context of social networks that serve to eliminate barriers and prevent co-morbidities in persons with brain injury. Dr. Trexler is co-chair of the Indiana Brain Injury Leadership Board that oversees delivery of resource facilitation services. 🌸

International Networking Group Welcomes Conference Attendees to Orlando

Submitted by Fofi Constantinidou, PhD,
International Networking Group Chair

On behalf of the ACRM International Networking Group, it is my great pleasure to invite you to join us for the 90th Annual ACRM Conference in Orlando. Our 90th Anniversary conference incorporates more than 70 symposia and lectures, and approximately 200 scientific paper and poster presentations from researchers and clinicians representing over 27 countries. We would like to highlight the following international symposia:

1. The International Networking Group featured symposium: **Best Practices in Cross-Border Collaboration Rehabilitation Research** will be presented on Thursday, 14 November, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM.
2. **Why We Need More Case Studies of Cognitive Rehabilitation**, Thursday, 14 November, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
3. **Neurodegenerative Effects of Epilepsy: Cognitive and Psychosocial Sequelae and Recommendations for Rehabilitation Research and Practice**, Thursday, 14 November, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM



In addition to the stimulating scientific program, we are very excited about the many opportunities for interaction and interprofessional collaboration that our conference offers. The Brucker International Luncheon, held on Friday, 15 November, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM, is a great venue for information exchange. This year, we are featuring **Kathrynn M. McPherson, PhD**, professor of rehabilitation (Laura Fergusson Chair), School of Rehabilitation and Occupation Studies, AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand. She will present on international partnering in research. If you have not signed up yet for the Brucker International Luncheon, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible as spaces are extremely limited. **Be one of the first 50 attendees to register for the luncheon and pay only \$39. That's 48% off!**

Please note that the International Networking Group's business meeting will be held on Friday, 15 November from 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM. All ACRM conference participants interested in learning about our group's activities are welcome to attend. To view the entire program and to register for the Luncheon, please go to www.ACRM.org.

NIDRR Advanced Rehabilitation Research Fellows Present at Young Investigators Symposium

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) has a broad and complex mission. NIDRR must support the generation of new knowledge and promote its effective use to (1) improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to participate in community activities of their choice and (2) enhance society's capacity to provide opportunities and accommodations for these individuals. NIDRR fulfills its mission through research, development, and dissemination and related activities designed to contribute to the independence, inclusion, employment, and health and function of individuals of all ages with all types and degrees of disability. NIDRR's statute also authorizes support for advanced training in disability and rehabilitation research, including for minority institutions and for researchers with disabilities or from minority groups. To this end, NIDRR supports a network of Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training (ARRT) projects at institutions of higher learning that are funded for five-year cycles at \$150,000 per year. In any given year, NIDRR supports approximately 20 ARRTs on a range of topics that cut across the three major outcome domains of health and function, community living and participation, and employment.

As part of the ARRT program, each year NIDRR partners with ACRM to select fellows to present at the annual ACRM conference as part of the ARRT Young Investigators Symposium. This joint activity between NIDRR and ACRM helps to build capacity in advanced rehabilitation research by showcasing the work of promising young scholars in diverse fields, whose abstracts are disseminated through publication in the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. For 2013, NIDRR is pleased to announce that the following seven fellows, listed in alphabetical order, were selected to participate in the Young Investigators Symposium, based on recommendations from their ARRT project directors and the merits of their abstracts.

Bethany Lipa, MD Dr. Lipa is an ARRT Fellow at the University of California at Davis, working with Dr. Craig McDonald in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, on neuromuscular and neurodevelopmental disorders. With a medical degree from the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Buffalo, Dr. Lipa became interested in disability and rehabilitation research during her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at UMDNJ/Kessler, where she was introduced to various aspects of rehabilitation research to address disability related to spinal cord injury, stroke, brain injury, and neuromuscular disease. Her interests in neuromuscular conditions have been further developed through a clinical PM&R fellowship at UC Davis Medical Center in electrodiagnostic and neuromuscular medicine with a focus on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). Dr. Lipa's current areas of research include pulmonary management of neuromuscular disease and preventing pulmonary complications through



See NIDRR FELLOWS continued on page 10

ACRM Scientific Journal Reports Increased Impact Factor for Ninth Time in 10 Years

By Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Co-Editors-in-Chief, Leighton Chan, MD, MPH and
Allen W. Heinemann, PhD, ABPP

Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is the official scientific journal of the ACRM, a key benefit of ACRM membership, and has been published continuously (with a few name changes) since 1920. In 2009, the Archives was included in the Special Library Association's list of the "Top 100 Journals in Biology and Medicine over the last 100 Years."

Archives publishes original, peer-reviewed research on important trends and developments in medical rehabilitation and related fields. This international journal brings researchers and clinicians authoritative information on the therapeutic utilization of physical, behavioral, and pharmaceutical agents for individuals with chronic illness and disabilities. The journal's content is relevant to all members of medical rehabilitation teams, including physicians, nurses, counselors, therapists, and case managers.

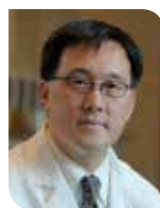
Recently, journals around the world received news of the release of the 2012 Journal Citation Reports®, which are published each year by Thomson Reuters. Everyone associated with the journal was very pleased that the *Archives* Impact Factor increased for the ninth time in 10 years to 2.358 — a 3% increase over last year's Impact Factor.

While some other journals had higher percentage increases, a 3% increase is notable given the large number of articles *Archives* publishes. *Archives* had an amazing 16,222 citations in 2012, making it the most highly cited journal in the Rehabilitation category — an achievement that no other journal comes close to matching. The next closest journal, *Physical Therapy*, had fewer than half that number (7,611). The total number of citations for *Archives* increased 8.3% from 2011 to 2012. *Archives* publishes monthly and last year alone published more than 350 articles. The majority of rehab journals publish fewer than half this number of articles.

With the large number of articles and citations each year, it takes a lot to move the *Archives'* Impact Factor by any significant amount, whereas smaller journals that publish fewer articles can positively influence their Impact Factor by publishing one or two well-cited articles — a scenario that can lead to large fluctuations in Impact Factor. The trend for *Archives* is a slow and steady increase.

Archives is ranked 9th of 63 rehabilitation journals, an increase from last year's 10th place, and the highest ranked multidisciplinary journal in the category. *Archives* also holds the distinction of having the highest Eigenfactor Score™ in the field.

ACRM members should feel proud of their journal's continued steady growth and improvement. Not only is *Archives* highly



cited, we also know that our articles are globally visible and highly accessed — over 2 million article downloads per year.

The consistent growth of that number demonstrates the wide dissemination of our articles. That's more than one download every 15 seconds!

We appreciate that many members already select *Archives* as their preferred publication to both read and submit to, and while we regret that we can't publish everything, we try our best to select the most innovative research reports that are likely to improve patient care.

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education, and home monitoring; and how all of the above relates to patient quality of life and survival. In the future, she plans to extend this focus by examining the feasibility of outpatient non-invasive ventilation management via telemedicine in both pediatric neuromuscular and spinal cord injury populations to improve access to care and decrease hospitalizations and transition to invasive ventilation. Drawing on her combined medical and research training, Dr. Lipa will present to the 2013 ACRM Young Investigators Symposium on “Pulmonary Function Characteristics of Boys with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: One-Year Data from the Cooperative International Neuromuscular Research Group (CINRG) Longitudinal Study Project.”



Valentina V. Lukyanova, PhD Dr. Lukyanova's educational background is in community health sciences (PhD from the University of Illinois, Chicago) and sociology (MA from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University). She first became interested in disability and rehabilitation research through her doctoral thesis, which focused on health outcomes for home care aides providing services to older adults and people with disabilities. This interest was further developed in 2010, when she became a fellow in the ARRT program on translational research at UIC, working with Professor Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar and Tamar Heller in the departments of Occupational Health and Disability and Human Development on a study of employment outcomes of people with disabilities. Dr. Lukyanova found this topic fascinating and she decided to go deeper. Dr. Lukyanova's current research interests focus on improving disability and rehabilitation outcomes for older people, immigrants and individuals with disabilities from diverse race/ethnic backgrounds, particularly African-Americans and Latinos, who are disproportionately affected by the rising trend of inequalities in the United States. Dr. Lukyanova would like to continue her career in disability and rehabilitation with a strong focus on applied research to improve community-based services for older adults and people with disabilities from minority backgrounds and, thereby, reduce the health and employment disparities they experience. Dr. Lukyanova's presentation to the 2013 ACRM Young Investigators Symposium is titled “Employment Outcomes for People with Disabilities Across Age and Disability Groups.”



Harshal Prabhakar Mahajan, PhD Dr. Mahajan received his advanced degrees in rehabilitation sciences and biomedical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, where he is an ARRT Fellow in the Human Engineering Research Laboratories working with Dr. Dan Ding. Dr. Mahajan became interested in rehabilitation research by working on a senior design project, where, along with a team, he developed a voice control interface for an upper extremity prosthetic device. This experience was further reinforced by his close personal relationships with

friends and family members with disabilities. Dr. Mahajan's specific areas of research are focused on the design, and clinical efficacy, of user-centered technologies that can assist people with cognitive impairments to improve their functional independence and community participation. This interest is motivated by the excitement Dr. Mahajan feels when he sees a measurable impact in the user's performance after a clinician appropriately selects and customizes assistive devices according to their needs and by the gaps in access to these assistive devices and in the clinical expertise required to program them. In the future, Dr. Mahajan wants to continue working on the challenges of building assistive technologies that are both affordable and reliable for people with cognitive impairments and other types of disabilities, by conducting ethnographic interviews and extensive laboratory based usability studies, followed by long term in home reliability studies. Dr. Mahajan's presentation to the 2013 ACRM Young Investigators Symposium is titled “Development and Evaluation of the Smart Cueing Kitchen for Individuals with Cognitive Impairments.”

Elham Mahmoudi, PhD With advanced degrees in economics (Wayne State University) and computer information (University of Detroit Mercy), Dr. Mahmoudi became interested in disability-related research in September 2012, when she began her ARRT postdoctoral training in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Michigan, under the mentorship of Drs. Denise Tate and Michelle Meade, whom she credits as her role models. Dr. Mahmoudi's primary research focus is on reducing disparities in health status and healthcare. Through her ARRT fellowship, Dr. Mahmoudi has used her quantitative skills and expertise in analyzing large databases to document the significant, and in her view alarming, disability-related disparities in access to healthcare and in the prevalence of chronic health conditions. Given the rising cost of healthcare in the United States, Dr. Mahmoudi is excited by the quest to find cost-effective and pragmatic ways to reduce health-related disparities experienced by people with disabilities. In the near future, Dr. Mahmoudi would like to continue this focus by (1) studying the determinants of the chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension, that are most prevalent among vulnerable populations, including minorities and individuals with disabilities; and by (2) performing cost-effective analyses using national databases to follow individuals diagnosed with these condition over time (longitudinal analysis) to investigate potential disparities in treatments and health outcomes. Dr. Mahmoudi's presentation to the 2013 ACRM Young Investigators Symposium is titled “Disparity in Access to Healthcare among Individuals with Physical Disabilities: 2001-2010.”



See NIDRR FELLOWS continued on page 10



Crystal Massie, PhD, OTR With advanced degrees in human bioenergetics and occupational therapy from Colorado State University, Dr. Massie is currently an ARRT fellow, working with Dr. Mark Rogers on advanced neuromotor rehabilitation research, at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Department of PT and Rehabilitation Sciences. Dr. Massie first became interested in working with people with disabilities while volunteering at a therapeutic riding center, where she saw first hand the potential beneficial impact on people's lives of interacting with horses. These experiences influenced her decision to become an occupational therapist, which gave her the opportunity to work more extensively with survivors of stroke in a clinical research laboratory. Dr. Massie's general area of interest is in maximizing functional recovery by better understanding the mechanisms underlying neuroplasticity associated with stroke and rehabilitation interventions. Dr. Massie feels strongly that to meet the increased demands for evidence-based practice, the field has an obligation to develop and refine effective treatment strategies through rigorous and systematic research studies. Dr. Massie's specific research interests are related to using intense, repetitive practice, such as robotics training, while combining non-invasive brain stimulation to maximize intervention effectiveness. Her future plans include systematically conducting research studies to uncover which aspects of interventions can promote neuroplasticity and functional gains in the upper-extremity for survivors of stroke. Dr. Massie's presentation to the 2013 ACRM Young Investigators Symposium is titled "Time course of kinematic improvements in survivors of stroke during upper-extremity robotic rehabilitation."



Randall J. Owen, PhD With advanced degrees in disability studies and disability and human development (University of Illinois, Chicago), Dr. Owen is currently an ARRT Fellow working with Dr. Tamar Heller on translational research, in the Department of Disability and Human Development at UIC. As a person with a disability, Dr. Owen states that disability research was a natural choice for him. He was always interested in exploring how policies are written and what they are intended to do compared to the experiences that people with disabilities have within these policies. Originally, employment policy was his main area of focus, but more recently this has moved towards healthcare because of the strong link between healthcare and employment. Dr. Owen's specific area of interest has to do with the provision of Medicaid services to people with disabilities, and states' shift to managed care to provide these services. He is particularly interested in whether these managed care systems can address the healthcare disparities that people with disabilities face. In the future, Owen is interested in comparing mandatory and voluntary managed care programs to see what difference having a choice makes on patient outcomes; and investigating the impact that the Affordable Care Act and managed care initiatives have on the ability of people with disabilities to transition into the labor market. Dr.

Owen's presentation to the 2013 ACRM Young Investigators Symposium is titled "The Impact of Medicaid Managed Care on Patient Outcomes and Satisfaction."

Chia-Chiang Wang, PhD, CRC With advanced degrees in rehabilitation counseling (University of Wisconsin) and healthcare services and outcomes research (Northwestern), Dr. Wang is currently an ARRT Fellow, working with Dr. Allen Heinemann at the Center for Healthcare Studies, Northwestern University. Dr. Wang first became interested in disability and rehabilitation research after her undergraduate degree, when she worked for several years as a project assistant in special education and vocational rehabilitation settings. During this time, she realized that people with disabilities in Taiwan experience discrimination and their abilities are underestimated. Dr. Wang's primary research focus is on applying the biopsychosocial model of disability and the WHO ICF framework to comprehensively examine the health and functioning of people with disabilities. She is particularly excited about dedicating her academic career to answering research questions related to the biopsychosocial and environmental determinants of positive health and employment outcomes for those aged 50 or older with chronic illness and disabilities, using advanced statistical techniques. Dr. Wang's research interests are motivated by trends in population aging and the associated expansion in rates of disability; and her commitment to helping people with disabilities remain at work longer and live healthier lives through improved access to early vocational rehabilitation and health promotion interventions. Dr. Wang's presentation to the 2013 ACRM Young Investigators Symposium is titled: "Biopsychosocial Determinants of Patient-reported Improvement in Chronic Diseases for Adults over 50 Years of Age." 🌸



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