

# Rehabilitation **OUTLOOK**

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THE OFFICIAL MEMBER NEWS OF

## ACRM

AMERICAN CONGRESS OF  
REHABILITATION MEDICINE

Improving lives through  
interdisciplinary rehabilitation research



[www.ACRM.org](http://www.ACRM.org)

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### Rehabilitation **OUTLOOK**

**Chelsea T. Shufelt, PsyD**  
EDITOR

**Adam B. Warshowsky, PhD**  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

## ACRM Board of Governors Election IN PROGRESS

The ACRM Board of Governors election is your opportunity to have a voice in the governance of ACRM. Please review the following candidate statements and vote. Election surveys were distributed via email on Tuesday, 7 May. If you are a member of ACRM and did not receive this information, please check your inbox and spam folder for the subject line, "ACRM Board of Governors Election Survey," or contact Cindy Robinson at [crobinson@ACRM.org](mailto:crobinson@ACRM.org) for assistance.

### CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS SECRETARY

#### **Cindy Harrison-Felix, PhD**

##### **Interim Director of Research, Craig Hospital**

I am running for a second term for secretary of the ACRM Board of Governors. As secretary I have worked with the ACRM staff and other board members to finalize and have the board approve the ACRM Policies and Procedures Manual. This is the "go-to" place to find out how ACRM began and how it functions. I have also been responsible for any updates/changes to the ACRM Bylaws.

I have been a member of ACRM since 2000, but have attended and presented at many ACRM meetings over the years since 1985. I am also a member of the Brain Injury Special Interest Group. In 2010, I joined the Early Career Committee and have assisted with the Early Career Courses since then, which I have enjoyed very much. Also in 2010, my co-authors and I received the ACRM Elizabeth & Sidney Licht Award for Excellence in Scientific Writing for a paper titled, "Mortality after discharge from acute care hospitalization with traumatic brain injury: a population-based study." In 2008, I was especially honored to receive the ACRM Deborah L. Wilkerson Early Career Award for Rehabilitation Research.

I received my doctoral degree in clinical sciences from the University of Colorado, Denver in 2003. I am currently an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado, Denver.

I have worked in the field of rehabilitation research for most of my career, first at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan for 20 years and now at Craig Hospital since 1999, primarily in spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury research. I am currently the interim director of research at Craig Hospital, the director of the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center, and a project co-director of the Traumatic Brain Injury Model System at Craig Hospital. My primary areas of research interest are traumatic brain injury, disability, rehabilitation clinical trials, and survival studies.

I believe that the ACRM is a vital organization bringing together rehabilitation clinicians and researchers to work toward a common focus, to assist individuals with disabling conditions live as independent and full a life as possible. I believe if I am re-elected as secretary, I can continue to help to further the purpose and mission of the ACRM.



See **NOMINATIONS** continued on page 4

# 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,  
RUSK REHABILITATION  
AT NYU LANGONE  
MEDICAL CENTER

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# Approaching Networking as an Exciting Opportunity: Distilling Fear and Anxiety

By Megan Mitchell, PhD, Early Career Networking Group Chair-Elect

Even with the technology and modes of communication available in the 21st century, networking still triggers fear and anxiety in many early career professionals, especially for introverts, like me. Yet, the call to network resounds as I look to begin my career.

It seems that every job board I visit and job search site I join posts at least one article about the importance of networking in today's economy. It is no longer sufficient to submit the perfect CV and expect success. You have to build an image for yourself and sell it. Not so easily done when you are completing a postdoc, beginning a family, and applying for jobs – tasks which alone can be a full-time job. However, bombarded as I was by professionals advising me of the necessity of networking, I decided it was worth a try. Networking became the next challenge of my postdoctoral training to overcome.

Much to my surprise, I discovered that networking is not all-consuming and stressful; in fact, it is fun and exciting!

Fortunately, two opportunities presented themselves early in my networking journey, and in spite of my weariness, I took advantage of them:

First, I received an announcement about a new group forming at ACRM, the Early Career Networking Group. I thought, Perfect! What better way to begin networking than with a national group, filtered by emails, phone calls and an annual conference? Just what I needed, I thought, to get my footing and start slowly. I never imagined I would take an active leadership role in building the group. Again, surprisingly, the experience triggered none of my preconceived notions of fear or anxiety.

I would highly recommend this group or a similar one to anyone interested in networking. It provides the opportunity to start small and work at a pace that is comfortable for you.

My second opportunity to tackle the networking challenge came when I attended a lecture sponsored by my institute's postdoctoral association. Vicki Gaddy, vice president of the New Jersey Life Sciences Talent Network was the speaker and influenced me to slowly change my mindset and approach to networking.

Vicki stressed that networking is NOT about quantity, but about QUALITY. As she stated, "It's really a matter of who

knows you." This put networking on a personal level I could relate to. I realized I did not have to aim for a specific number of new connections on LinkedIn just to pursue a job, but I could approach networking as an opportunity to meet new people and make lasting friendships. I began to think of people who share my interests as potential new friends. People like the colleague two floors up who occasionally rides the elevator with me, or the mom I sit next to at each soccer game.

The second point Vicki made was that networking is about listening and giving. Now this I could handle! I love helping others, but my pride often prevents me from asking for help. It is much easier to network when my primary aim is to determine how I can help others. The potential for others to help me is a benefit which may or may not occur, and that is okay because others are getting to know me and I'm building a positive image for myself.

So is networking really the giant step necessary for success as everyone perceives it to be? I suspect it is, but in my initial journey to develop networking skills I learned two major things:

- 1 It is important to step outside your comfort zone, as there can be pleasant surprises. You'll realize there is no terrifying fall or fantastic crash. You can set your own comfortable pace and if a connection does not occur with someone, realize that it is not a failure. It just wasn't the right opportunity and many more are in the near future.
- 2 We all network daily, whether we are consciously aware of it or not.

The next time you sit beside someone on the train or order a coffee, take the leap and spend five minutes getting to know someone a little better. It's as easy as, "Hello. My name is Megan. How are you?" You never know what new and exciting opportunities could result from a simple question and a smile. 🌸





NOMINATIONS continued from page 1

## CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS TREASURER

### Wayne Gordon, PhD, ABPP/Cn

Jack Nash Professor & Vice Chair  
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine



I have been a member of ACRM since 1979. I have given presentations at 20 annual conferences of ACRM since that time. I was a member of the ACRM Research Committee from 1985 – 1992 and I served as chair for a period of time. I was also the chair of the Rehabilitation Psychology Interest Group from 1993 – 1995. I was on the Editorial Board of the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from 1988 – 1992 and I continue to review manuscripts for the journal. I was elected to the ACRM Board of

Governors in 2003 and served as president from 2008 – 2009. I have decided to run for re-election as treasurer because over the past 10 years ACRM has survived some very difficult times and is now in the process of re-invigorating itself so that the organization will thrive and grow. I feel that during this period, continuity and connection with our past is important. I would like to continue to serve the organization as it moves forward, while at the same time be a link to its past.

As most of you know, my contributions to rehabilitation research are diverse. I have published more than 125 papers in rehabilitation journals. Most of my publications are in the area of brain injury although I have a considerable number of publications on functional assessment, spinal cord injury and quality of life assessment. I have been on two NIH peer review panels: Behavioral Medicine (1976 – 1980) and Medical Rehabilitation (1996 – 2000). I have also been a peer reviewer for NIDRR, RSA and CDC. I received the Roger Barker Research Award from Division 22 of the American Psychological Association, the Congressman Ted Weiss Advocacy Award from the Brain Injury Association of New York State and a recognition award from the New York State Department of Health for my contributions to individuals with brain injury and their families. I am a member of the board of directors of the Brain Injury Association of America and past president of the National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers. I am currently the Jack Nash Professor and vice chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and the project director of the NIDRR supported TBI Model System and CDC supported Injury Control Research Center.

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER-AT LARGE (VOTE FOR TWO)

### Jennifer Bogner, PhD, ABPP, FACRM

Associate Professor and Vice-Chair  
Research and Academic Affairs  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Ohio State University



I have been honored to serve as member-at-large on the ACRM Board of Governors for the past three years, and appreciate the opportunity to be considered for another term. The ACRM is a critical organization for supporting collaboration to further the science and practice of rehabilitation, and I am proud to be among its members.

I feel strongly that we need to do everything we can to further the advancement of rehabilitation by strengthening and empowering ACRM's membership base. Interdisciplinary, multigenerational, and international collaboration ensures that our work will continue to benefit from new ideas and be relevant to the practice of rehabilitation. The participation of both early career and seasoned professionals from all disciplines is tantamount to the continued health and growth of the organization – and therein lays our challenge. In today's economy, members are frequently unable to belong to all of the organizations that might hold their interest. ACRM needs to be constantly vigilant to the needs of its members so that it may remain the organization of choice.

As prior chair, long time member, and board liaison of the Membership Committee, I have assisted with monitoring the vital signs of the membership and the extent to which we are meeting members' needs. Through surveys and focus groups, as well as word of mouth, we have obtained a better understanding of member perspectives. ACRM has made substantial progress in the past few years in regard to increasing the value of membership, and this is reflected in the ever-increasing number of people who are choosing to become full-fledged members. I am pleased to have played a small role in supporting this growth, but have to acknowledge that the progress we have made is due to the exceptional teamwork that characterizes rehabilitation as a field. It is exciting to see that so many of the needs identified by members through the years have indeed come to fruition (if you do not know what the latest happenings are, check us out at [www.ACRM.org](http://www.ACRM.org)!).

Enough about ACRM; here's a little about me: Since joining ACRM in 2002, in addition to serving on the Membership Committee, I have participated on various task forces and have

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER-AT LARGE (VOTE FOR TWO)

presented at the annual conference. I was extremely honored to be designated a Fellow of ACRM last year. As for my other credentials, I am an associate professor and vice chair of research for the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Ohio State University. I am a board certified rehabilitation psychologist (ABPP), specializing in traumatic brain injury rehabilitation for the past 20+ years. I am also an associate editor for the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation.

I would greatly enjoy continuing to work on your behalf on our board of governors.



**Ronald T. Seel, PhD**  
Director of Brain Injury Research  
Shepherd Center

I am honored to be nominated as a member-at-large on the ACRM Board of Governors. I have been an active member of the ACRM for over 10 years and currently serve as chair of the ACRM Clinical Practice Committee, and very recently as chair of the BI-ISIG Mild TBI Task Force. I have actively participated in the past as chair of the BI-ISIG and

chair of the BI-ISIG Disorders of Consciousness Task Force. I have also participated as a member of the ACRM Board of Governors and the Programs, Membership, Communications, and Policy and Legislation committees. Primary ACRM projects I have co-led include the ACRM Practice Parameter, "Assessment Scales for Disorders of Consciousness: Evidence-Based Recommendations for Clinical Practice and Research" and the ACRM CPC sponsored, June 2012 *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* Supplement, "Developing and Using Evidence to Improve Rehabilitation Practice."

I am director of brain injury research at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, GA. Prior to Shepherd Center, I 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. My counseling psychology, neuropsychology and rehabilitation training roots started at Virginia Commonwealth University and the Medical College of Virginia.

If elected, I will be responsive to members' needs and focus my energy on topics that I understand to be important, including: (a) improving ACRM membership value, (b) facilitating the growth and financial stability of the association, (c) promoting and supporting ACRM standing committee and interdisciplinary task force efforts to develop and translate evidence to improve rehabilitation practice, (d) maintain a balance and provide association communication and materials in ways that meet

the needs of younger and long-time members; (e) continue and extend ACRM efforts to engage and retain early career and international members; (f) assure that we are meeting the needs of our clinical members and improve our translation of research evidence in order to be useful for clinicians' everyday uses; and (g) further facilitate working collaboratively with other rehabilitation membership associations to advocate for increased research and clinical funding needed to improve our knowledge of effective treatments, and the lives of persons with disabilities and their families.

I value my membership in the ACRM and the close friendships I have developed over the years. As we grow in size and evolve to better meet the needs of a diverse membership and the demands of an ever changing healthcare environment, I think it is essential that we also preserve our culture of informality, dedication, patient-centered work, and intimacy. It is these qualities that are unique to the ACRM community and keep me highly motivated to stay an active member. Thank you for considering me to represent you on the board of governors.

**Deborah Backus, PT, PhD**  
Director of Multiple Sclerosis Research  
Crawford Research Institute  
Shepherd Center

I am honored to be nominated for member-at-large on the ACRM Board of Governors. I have been a member of ACRM for eight years. I still remember the first ACRM Annual Conference that I attended, and the excitement I felt from being with a group of professionals with interests and passions similar to mine. I immediately sought out opportunities to become involved and chose the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Networking Group (NG). I worked closely with other committed SCI professionals to move the NG to a Special Interest Group in 2010, and became the SCI-ISIG Chair. Under my leadership, the group has been able to increase SCI-related programming at the annual conference as well as increase the quantity and quality of SCI-related products disseminated to SCI consumers. My role as the SCI-ISIG representative on the Communications Committee allowed me to influence the caliber of dissemination products within and outside of ACRM. As a member of the Program Committee I have been able to directly influence programming for the annual conference.

More recently, recognizing the need for researchers and clinicians working in rehabilitation and research related to multiple sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease (PD) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) to have a professional rehabilitation affiliation,



See **NOMINATIONS** continued on page 6

## NOMINATIONS *continued from page 5*

I founded a Neurodegenerative Diseases Networking Group within ACRM. We already have a core group of members looking to make a difference in the rehabilitation and research related to MS, PD, and ALS, through increasing professional opportunities and interactions amongst those committed to improving the lives of people with disability.

My work in ACRM is fed by my experience and passion as a physical therapist and neuroscientist. I have worked in both rehabilitation and academic settings over the course of my 25+ years in the field. I have a deep appreciation of the rehabilitation needs of people with neurological injury and disease, as well as a unique awareness of the issues and challenges we face when attempting to translate relevant research findings into clinical practice.

Currently, I am director of MS research at the Shepherd Center. My work in MS rehabilitation research strengthens my interest in the development of the Neurodegenerative Diseases (NDD) Networking Group. I have worked this year with leading MS researchers to increase programming opportunities for the 2013 Annual Conference. I hope to quickly move the NDD Networking Group to an ISIG to demonstrate the commitment of this group to advance rehabilitation research in MS, PD, and ALS, and to have a working group of individuals to produce programming and dissemination products related to NDD.

I greatly appreciate the many interactions and opportunities to collaborate with leading rehabilitation researchers in ACRM over the past several years, and would like to continue these in this capacity as a representative of the ACRM membership. If elected, I will continue to work to advance the mission of ACRM to promote health, independence, productivity, and quality of life for people with a wide variety of diagnoses, including those with SCI, MS, PD, and ALS.

### **Teresa Ashman, PhD, ABPP**

**Associate Director of Psychology Research  
Training Director of Postdoctoral Fellowship  
Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine**



I am honored to receive this nomination to serve on the board of governors as a member-at-large. I have been an active and dedicated member of ACRM since 2000 when I attended my first conference in Hilton Head, SC. Having participated in all but one conference since that time, often presenting, usually serving on a variety of committees and task forces, and always enjoying the camaraderie of my fellow rehabilitation professionals, I believe that I have a strong understanding of the organization and its unsurpassed contribution to the field of rehabilitation research. There is no question that my involvement has contributed enormously to my professional growth and identity, granting me innumerable opportunities to interact and collaborate with leading rehabilitation researchers.

I have been a research and clinical neurorehabilitation psychologist for 14 years, having spent over a decade with my outstanding colleagues at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and more recently working with my exceptional colleagues at Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Langone Medical Center. My career interests have focused largely on psychosocial and cognitive consequences for people with brain injuries, ranging from psychiatric disorders to physical complaints (e.g., fatigue and sleep) to cognitive deficits like executive functioning and emotional regulation. Additionally, I have been firmly committed to the training and mentoring of our next generation of clinical rehabilitation researchers through my position as training director for postdoctoral fellows both at Mount Sinai and currently at Rusk.

I am currently the chair of the Membership Committee where we have been dedicated to increasing the number of student and early career members, acknowledging the enthusiasm that those early in the field bring to the table and recognizing that they are the future of our organization. I have also served as a mentor in the Early Career Networking Group's annual workshop, on the Program Committee, and have actively participated on the Cognitive Rehabilitation Task Force. If elected as a member-at-large, I would be pleased to have another opportunity to serve ACRM and its membership. It is important to recognize those who promote the advancement of the science and practice of rehabilitation while helping to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. It is essential that we honor those who contribute to enhancing the reputation and visibility of the organization as well as promote scientific rigor to the field of rehabilitation research. I appreciate your consideration and thank you for your attention. 🌸

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# POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW OPPORTUNITIES

## The University of Texas

### Medical Branch at Galveston

has postdoctoral positions available for qualified persons interested in disability and rehabilitation research.

Opportunities are available in the following research areas:

Aging and geriatric rehabilitation, Clinical and community rehabilitation, Population-based health services rehabilitation, and the Muscle biology of rehabilitation. The successful candidate will develop a plan with an experienced mentor, receive training in the desired research

area, write scientific papers, assist with grant development, present papers at national meetings, and assist with progress and scientific technical reports.

Qualifications include a doctoral degree and training in a discipline related to rehabilitation, disability or recovery. The position is supported by a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (grant# H133P110012). Application and requirements can be found at <http://rehabsciences.utmb.edu/>

[postdoctoral.asp](http://postdoctoral.asp). Application form, CV and three letters of reference should be emailed to B. Cammarn at [rehab.info@utmb.edu](mailto:rehab.info@utmb.edu) or by mail to UTMB Rehabilitation Sciences, 301 University Blvd., Galveston, TX 77555-1137.

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution which proudly values diversity. Candidates of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

## ACRM MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Jeffrey Palmer Named Editor-In-Chief of New Scientific Journal



Jeffrey B. Palmer, MD, FACRM, director of the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was recently appointed editor-in-chief of a new scientific journal, *Current Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Reports*. The quarterly publication offers invited review reports and articles on topics of major importance to the field of rehabilitation medicine. Relevant topics include the treatment of stroke, musculoskeletal disorders and swallowing disorders, as well as interventional pain management and amputee, pediatric, spinal cord and traumatic brain rehabilitation. The first issue was published in March 2013.

Dr. Palmer says he is working with the publication's distinguished international editorial board to ensure that the content is timely and aligned with the publication's mission to keep physicians aware of current and relevant science and clinical practice. Dr. Palmer is a Fellow of ACRM, and a member of both the Spinal Cord Injury, and Stroke Interdisciplinary Special Interest Groups. 🌸

### Major EU Funding on Cognitive Aging

The Center for Applied Neuroscience at the University of Cyprus was awarded \$850,000 USD by the European Union Structural Funds to investigate cognitive aging over the next two years. The principal investigator, Fofi Constantinidou, PhD, reported that this project enhances the current state-of-the-art by incorporating a multimodal approach. It integrates neuropsychological, neuroimaging, and biological data via computational methods to quantitatively assess the exact contribution of modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors to cognitive decline. The project will recruit healthy older adults, adults with mild cognitive impairment and patients with mild dementia of the Alzheimer's type. Collaborating organizations include the University of Crete, the Nicosia Development Authority, and the Alzheimer's Society of Crete. Dr. Constantinidou is chair of the ACRM International Networking Group, a member of the ACRM Brain Injury Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group (BI-ISIG), as well as a member of the Early Career Networking Group. For more information, please contact Dr. Constantinidou at [fofic@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:fofic@ucy.ac.cy). 🌸





# Now Accepting Nominations for ACRM Fellows

The Fellows of ACRM Committee encourages you to nominate a deserving member for recognition as an ACRM Fellows (FACRM). Qualified nominees are active members in good standing who maintain an excellent record of professional service to ACRM as well as to the medical rehabilitation field through their outstanding contributions of national significance. The FACRM nomination procedure, form, and criteria are available online at <http://www.acrm.org/about/fellows?id=138>.

**NOMINATIONS ARE DUE 1 JUNE 2013.** Contact Terri Compos at [tcompos@ACRM.org](mailto:tcompos@ACRM.org) ACRM Community Relations Manager with any questions.



2012 Fellows of ACRM: Jennifer Bogner, PhD (left), Gary Ulicny, PhD and Susan Charlifue, PhD.

## Fellows of ACRM

### 2012

Jennifer Bogner, PhD  
Gary Ulicny, PhD  
Susan Charlifue, PhD

### 2011

Sue Ann Sisto, PhD  
Angela Colantonio, PhD

### 2010

Thomas Felicetti, PhD  
Donna M. Langenbahn, PhD

### 2009

Tamara Bushnik, PhD  
Cynthia Dahlberg, MA CCC-SLP  
CPHQ

### 2008

Jeffrey B. Palmer, MD

### 2007

Wayne Gordon, PhD, ABPP-CN  
Daniel Graves, PhD

### 2006

Joel DeLisa, MD, MS  
Tessa Hart, PhD  
Ralph Marino, MD  
Mark Sherer, PhD

### 2005

Marcel Dijkers, PhD  
Allen Heinemann, PhD  
Jeffrey Kreutzer, PhD  
Kenneth Ottenbacher, PhD, OT  
Deborah Wilkerson, MA

### 2004

Joseph Giacino, PhD  
Douglas Harrington, PhD  
Mark Johnston, PhD  
Jerome Tobis, BS, MD

### 2003

Herman Flax, MD  
Dorothea D. Glass, MD  
Dorothy L. Gordon, DNSc, RN  
Martin Graboys, MD  
Diana H. Rintala, PhD  
Denise G. Tate, PhD

### 2002

Henry B. Betts, MD  
Bruce M. Caplan, PhD, ABPP  
Diana D. Cardenas, MD  
Larry E. Cervelli, BS, OTR  
Keith D. Cicerone, PhD, ABPP  
John D. Corrigan, PhD  
Susan A. Garber, MA, OTR, FAOTA  
J. Preston Harley, PhD  
Karen A. Hart, PhD  
Douglas I. Katz, MD  
James F. Malec, PhD  
John L. Melvin, MD, MMSc  
Philip A. Morse, PhD  
Gladys P. Rodriguez, PhD  
Mitchell Rosenthal, PhD, ABPP  
Marcia J. Scherer, PhD  
Margaret G. Stineman, MD  
Gale G. Whiteneck, PhD  
John Whyte, MD, PhD  
Karen Wunch, MS, RN

### 1996

Theodore M. Cole, MD, FACRM  
Thomas E. Strax, MD, FACRM





# MEET THE ACRM BOARD

Watch for this column in every issue of *Rehabilitation Outlook* this year to meet members of the ACRM Board of Governors and staff, and learn a little about their roles. For example, did you know that as ACRM continues to grow, the board's composition will change in order to represent the varied interests of our membership? A case in point is the recent conversion of a member-at-large position on the board into an "Early Career Member-at-Large" position. This step was taken to ensure that this important and vital group is recognized and nurtured by ACRM.

## MEET ACRM PRESIDENT



**TAMARA BUSHNIK, PhD, FACRM**

**TAMARA BUSHNIK, PhD, FACRM**  
Associate Professor,  
Rehabilitation Medicine  
Director of Research  
Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation  
Medicine  
NYU Langone Medical Center  
New York, NY

Tamara Bushnik, PhD, FACRM, is the current president of ACRM, serving from October 2011 until November 2013. She has been the director of

rehabilitation research at the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine at New York University Langone School of Medicine since August 2009. Dr. Bushnik held the same position at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC; San Jose, CA) from February 1999 through her move to New York City. Her research focus is firmly in the realm of post-acute recovery following acquired brain injury with a particular emphasis on the underlying mechanisms creating the common debilitating sequelae of fatigue, sleep problems, and decreased community participation.

Although Dr. Bushnik began her career in rehabilitation research with a focus on spinal cord injury, she rapidly changed direction when she went to work at SCVMC and met Dr. Jeffrey Englander, one of the principal investigators on the first cycle of Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems of Care (TBIMS) grants in 1987. Within two months of beginning the position at SCVMC, Dr. Bushnik was introduced on a conference call to Mitchell Rosenthal, PhD, ABPP, who was lead of the TBIMS Dissemination Committee.

Looking back through the 20/20 lens of hindsight, she recognizes how Dr. Rosenthal quietly mentored her over the ensuing years to become chair of the TBIMS Dissemination Committee, Program chair of the ACRM Annual Conference (2006-2009), an ACRM Board member, and, finally, president of this wonderful organization. While she was not part of the Early Career Networking Group now established at ACRM, she benefited immensely from her interaction with a more senior ACRM member and rehabilitation researcher/clinician, who took an interest in her career, and helped to develop and direct her energies toward ACRM.

As those who know her can attest, Dr. Bushnik proudly wears the Canadian flag in her heart, which has helped to reinforce the current drive to expand the influence of ACRM beyond the United States.

## MEET ACRM PRESIDENT-ELECT

**SUE ANN SISTO, PT, MA, PhD, FACRM**



**SUE ANN SISTO, PT, MA, PhD, FACRM**

**SUE ANN SISTO, PT, MA, PhD, FACRM**  
Professor, Physical Therapy and  
Research Director, Division of  
Rehabilitation Sciences  
Program Chair, PhD in Health  
and Rehabilitation Science  
Director, Rehabilitation  
Research and Movement  
Performance (RRAMP)  
Laboratory  
Stony Brook University  
Stony Brook, NY

Dr. Sisto joined ACRM in 1998. She was first introduced to ACRM by Dr. Mark Johnston who encouraged her

to attend the annual conference. Dr. Sisto worked at Kessler Institute and their research foundation for nearly 30 years. It was at the recommendation of Dr. Mitch Rosenthal, who was then vice president for research at the Kessler Foundation, that she again attended the ACRM Annual Conference. While Dr. Sisto was working in a research capacity at Kessler, Dr. Rosenthal became president of ACRM and always encouraged her to be an active member. With his support and direction, she joined committees and submitted conference content, including a pre-conference symposium on rehabilitation research ethics.

Over the years, Dr. Sisto served on numerous committees, including the Program and Communications Committees. Her greatest contribution was the development of the Spinal

*See SISTO continued on page 11*

# A Sneak Peek at Upcoming Annual Conference Programming

**SAVE THE DATES!** 12 – 16 November 2013, at Disney's Contemporary Resort at Walt Disney World® Resort, Florida. Watch for new program details as they unfold and register to attend at [ACRM.org/2013PIRR](http://ACRM.org/2013PIRR).

The Program Committee is pleased to announce a very special plenary presentation to be held on Friday, 15 November, in memory of Robert Wagenaar, PhD.

## Symposium in Honor of Robert C. Wagenaar, PhD: 1957 – 2013



The rehabilitation community lost a talented and much-beloved colleague with the passing of Dr. Robert C. Wagenaar on 13 February 2013. Dr. Wagenaar was a well-respected scientist, thoughtful mentor, and a cherished friend to many of his colleagues. A skilled scientist, highly regarded for his work in dynamical systems theory, he studied gait patterns in patients with stroke and Parkinson's disease, and investigated rehabilitation interventions to modify abnormal movement patterns. He was the essence of a translational research scientist, transforming theory to clinical practice in rehabilitation. Dr. Wagenaar was also a devoted educator and mentor to many graduate students, post-doctoral students, and junior colleagues. His mentees have emerged as leaders in their own areas of work. At ACRM, Dr. Wagenaar served as co-chair of the Program Committee from 2010 until his death and was instrumental in dramatically improving the caliber of scientific presentations at the annual meeting. This symposium is presented in his honor in recognition of the many contributions he made to our lives and work.

### FACULTY

The distinguished faculty for this course is comprised of researchers who share the honor of having worked and collaborated with Dr. Wagenaar. They will discuss their own work as it relates to him and his role as colleague, mentor and friend.



< **ALAN M. JETTE, PhD**, is director of the Health and Disabilities Research Institute, professor and acting chair of the health policy and management department at the Boston University School of Public Health, and adjunct professor at the MGH Institute of Health Professions. Dr. Jette's current research is focused on developing a health plan survey adapted for persons with mobility impairments, developing outpatient therapy payment alternatives, improving the SSA Disability Determination process, rehabilitation impairment of the elderly, and rehabilitation outcomes and effectiveness

**DOUGLAS I. KATZ, MD**, is a professor of neurology at the Boston University School of Medicine and attending neurologist at Boston Medical Center in Massachusetts. He is also medical director of the Brain Injury Program and vice president of medical staff at Braintree Rehabilitation Hospital. Dr. Katz was honored as a Fellow of ACRM in 2002 and as a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology in 2004. He currently serves as vice president of the ACRM Board of Governors. He also serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair, and Frontiers in Neurotrauma. >



< **GERT KWAKKEL, PT, PhD**, began his career as a physical therapist and movement scientist at the Vrije University Medical Center in Amsterdam, Netherlands, where Professor Robert Wagenaar was his co-promotor from 1994 to 1998. In 2008, Professor Kwakkel received a chairmanship in neurorehabilitation at the VUMC. Last year, he received a prestigious advanced grant from the European Research Council (ERC), which is focused on investigating the longitudinal relationship between stroke recovery and brain plasticity. He is a directorate board member of the MOVE Research Institute and European managing editor of Neurorehabilitation & Neural Repair (NNR).

**DANIEL K. WHITE, PT, ScD**, is a research assistant professor in the department of physical therapy and athletic training at Boston University and adjunct scientist at the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University Medical Center. Dr. White's primary research interest is the disablement process of older adults with musculoskeletal pathology, with focus on factors associated with physical activity and functional limitation in older adults, and people with knee osteoarthritis. >



## Request for Proposals: 2015 Archives Supplement 2

The American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) is pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for members who are experienced rehabilitation researchers or group of researchers to become the Guest Editor of a 2015 Supplement in the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* (Archives). According to the recent citation index, the Archives is the most highly-cited rehabilitation journal. This is a unique opportunity to compile and edit a thematically organized collection of high-quality scientific articles that will have a broad impact.

The deadline for Supplement proposals is 1 July 2013. To learn more about the responsibilities of guest editors, the proposal submission process, and criteria for judging proposals, visit [Archives-PMR.org](http://Archives-PMR.org)

**NEED ASSISTANCE?** Contact Adam Warshowsky, PhD, ACRM Communications Committee Chair at [Adam\\_Warshowsky@Shepherd.org](mailto:Adam_Warshowsky@Shepherd.org) +1.404.350.7529, if you would like to discuss the suitability of your topic.



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*SISTO continued from page 9*

Cord Injury Networking Group, which was elevated to special interest group status in 2009. Dr. Sisto was named a Fellow of ACRM in 2011 and notably, is the first physical therapist to receive this honor. She has served on the ACRM Board of Governors as a member-at-large, secretary, vice president, and is currently president-elect. ACRM made a significant impact on Dr. Sisto's career by providing interdisciplinary opportunities to meet and network with so many talented scientists, clinicians and educators, both within and beyond her primary profession.

In 2007, Dr. Sisto relocated to Stony Brook University where she is now a professor of physical therapy, research director for

rehabilitation sciences, director of the Rehabilitation Research and Movement Performance (RRAMP) Lab, and the program chair for the PhD Program in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in the School of Health Technology and Management. Her current research direction is recovery of locomotion in spinal cord injury (SCI) and the impact on health outcomes. Dr. Sisto has served on multiple grant review panels; she is associate editor for the Journal of Spinal Cord Injury Medicine and a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation. She published a textbook on SCI rehabilitation in 2009. 



# Rehabilitation **OUTLOOK**



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