



THE CORD

Magee & Jefferson Receive Over 2 Million to Continue Serving as Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley

The Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley (RSCICDV), a partnership between the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University and Hospital and Magee Rehabilitation Hospital has been re-funded through a five-year \$2,380,000 Model Spinal Cord Injury System grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), a division of the U.S. Department of Education.

Established by John F. Ditunno, Jr., MD, former chairman and professor of Rehabilitation Medicine at Jefferson, the RSCICDV's clinical activities are directed at promoting evidence-based practice, understanding the particular needs of the spinal cord injury population and providing them with individualized lifetime follow up specialty care.

The RSCICDV has been continuously funded since 1979 and is only 1 of 14 in the country.

"This new grant will allow us to continue to provide and evaluate our comprehensive program of lifesaving rehabilitation research, education and a coordinated system of care for patients with a traumatic spinal cord injury." said Ralph J. Marino, MD,

current director of the RSCICDV and professor in the department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University.

"The services provided by the SCI Model System of Care also carry over to those provided to persons with all types of spinal cord dysfunction and related neurological disorders, and encompass activities provided throughout our inpatient and outpatient programs." stated Mary Schmidt Read, PT, DPT, MS, Director of the Spinal Cord Injury Programs at Magee Rehabilitation.

Over the next five years the Center will enroll 50+ patients per year into the National Spinal Cord Injury Longitudinal Database, and service many others who are not traumatic in nature, and participate in collaborative research projects with the 13 other funded centers. The RSCICDV's research activities are designed to provide ongoing data about the people we serve, including information on their medical issues, and outcomes related to their life and functions following their spinal cord injury, as part of the National SCI Longitudinal Database, and to determine the effectiveness of an early drug intervention to prevent bone loss after SCI. In addition, students from the Departments of Occupational and



Physical Therapy will conduct semi-structured interviews of older persons with incomplete cervical SCI, contributing to the research efforts and providing the students with an opportunity to participate in clinical research activities.

The presence of the RSCICDV has created numerous opportunities to secure additional funding for SCI research by faculty in the Departments of Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Radiology and more at Jefferson and Magee.

Co-investigators on the new award include Christina Oleson, MD, Thomas Jefferson University; Guy Fried, MD and Mary Schmidt-Read, PT, DPT, MS, Magee Rehabilitation Hospital; Christopher Modlesky, PhD, University of Delaware; Stephen Kern, PhD, OTR/L and Susan Duff, PhD, PT, OTR/L, Jefferson College of Health Professions; and Benjamin Leiby, PhD, Division of Biostatistics, Thomas Jefferson University.

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Thomas Jefferson University



Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

Jefferson Health System®

Magee Rehabilitation

Jefferson Health System®

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

The Spinal Cord Injury Center at Jefferson and Magee is looking for individuals with SCI to participate in a research study to examine the reliability of a spasticity and joint position test.

The participant will be asked to:

- Have 2 separate physical therapists perform a spasticity and joint position test on your legs.
- Come back into Magee a week later to have the same 2 physical therapists test spasticity.

To participate in the research you must:

- Have a traumatic spinal cord injury
- Level of Injury T12 or higher
- Willing to come to Magee Rehab Hospital for 2 outpatient visits, for less than one hour each visit
- 3 or more months post injury

If interested, please contact **Mary Schmidt-Read** at **(215) 587-3151**.

EFFECTS OF TWO DIFFERENT FES CYCLING PROGRAMS

The Spinal Cord Center at Jefferson and Magee, along with researchers from the University of Sciences, are conducting a study to learn how different cycling programs may help adults with spinal cord injury. We are looking at the effects that may decrease your risk of cardiovascular (heart) disease and other health problems including: the strength and make-up of the bones in your legs; the size and strength of your leg muscles; the amount of fat-free tissue in your body; and your cholesterol levels and nutritional status. The study will require you to cycle with FES for 1 hour, 3 times a week at Magee's Outpatient center for 6 months. You will also have testing completed at 3 different time points: 1. before starting the cycling, 2. after cycling for 3 months, and 3. after cycling for 6 months. Some testing will be completed at Jefferson.

You are eligible to participate in the study if you:

- Are 18 to 65 years old (but women must be premenopausal)
- Have a spinal cord injury and are unable to move your legs
- Can attend 60 minute training sessions 3 times per week for 26 weeks at Magee's Outpatient Center
- Can attend data collection sessions 3 times
- Have no major medical problems
- Have not broken a bone in your leg in the past 3 months
- Are not pregnant

For more information, please contact either **Therese Johnston**, PT, PhD, MBA (Principal Investigator) at **(215) 596-8682**, **Marilyn Owens**, R.N. (Study Coordinator) at **(215) 955-6579** or **Elizabeth Watson**, PT, DPT (Senior Physical Therapist) at **(215) 218-3900**.

NEW STEM CELL RESEARCH – GERON HALTING THE STUDY

The Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley (RSCICDV) at Jefferson/Magee was participating in the world's first FDA approved clinical trial using a human embryonic stem cell (hESC)-based therapy in humans. The Phase I multi-center trial was designed to establish the safety of the treatment in patients with "complete" thoracic spinal cord injuries. The study was sponsored by Geron. Geron halted the study when it became a financial burden on the company and decided to focus on developing other drugs.

The RSCICDV was proud to be participating with just a few other centers in the US on this ground breaking technology and possible advancement in the treatment of new spinal cord injuries. The study was stopped at all the participating centers.

NEW PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS BY RSCICDV STAFF

1. Anderson KD, Acuff ME, Arp BG, Backus D, Chun S, Fisher K et al. United States (US) multi-center study to assess the validity and reliability of the Spinal Cord Independence Measure (SCIM III). *Spinal Cord* 2011; 49(8):880-885.
2. Biering-Sorensen F, Alexander MS, Burns S, Charlifue S, Devivo M, Dietz V et al. Recommendations for translation and reliability testing of international spinal cord injury data sets. *Spinal Cord* 2011; 49(3):357-360.
3. Burns AS, Delparte JJ, Patrick M, Marino RJ, Ditunno JF. The reproducibility and convergent validity of the Walking Index for Spinal Cord Injury (WISCI) in chronic spinal cord injury. *Neurorehabil Neural Repair* 2011; 25(2):149-157.
4. Falowski S, Ooi YC, Sabesan A, Sharan A. Spinal cord injury induced by a cervical spinal cord stimulator. *Neuromodulation* 2011; 14(1):34-37.
5. Fehlings MG, Theodore N, Harrop J, Maurais G, Kuntz C, Shaffrey CI et al. A phase I/IIa clinical trial of a recombinant Rho protein antagonist in acute spinal cord injury. *J Neurotrauma* 2011; 28(5):787-796.
6. Harrop JS, Naroji S, Maltenfort MG, Ratliff JK, Tjoumakaris SI, Frank B et al. Neurologic improvement after thoracic, thoracolumbar, and lumbar spinal cord (conus medullaris) injuries. *Spine* 2011; 36(1):21-25.
7. Kirshblum S, Botticello A, Lammertse DP, Marino RJ, Chiodo AE, Jha A. The impact of sacral sensory sparing in motor complete spinal cord injury. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* 2011; 92(3):376-383.
8. Marino RJ, Burns S, Graves DE, Leiby BE, Kirshblum S, Lammertse DP. Upper- and lower-extremity motor recovery after traumatic cervical spinal cord injury: an update from the national spinal cord injury database. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* 2011; 92(3):369-375.
9. Martin ND, Marks JA, Donohue J, Giordano C, Cohen MJ, Weinstein MS. The mortality inflection point for age and acute cervical spinal cord injury. *J Trauma* 2011; 71(2):380-385.
10. Ooi YC, Saulino M, Williams KA, Jr., Sharan A. Observational analysis of successful reimplantation of explanted intrathecal drug delivery systems: a case series. *PM&R* 2011; 3(2):175-178.
11. Oyster ML, Karmarkar AM, Patrick M, Read MS, Nicolini L, Boninger ML. Investigation of factors associated with manual wheelchair mobility in persons with spinal cord injury. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* 2011; 92(3):484-490.
12. Ploumis A, Kolli S, Patrick M, Owens M, Beris A, Marino RJ. Length of stay and medical stability for spinal cord-injured patients on admission to an inpatient rehabilitation hospital: a comparison between a model SCI trauma center and non-SCI trauma center. *Spinal Cord* 2011; 49(3):411-415.
13. Radcliff KE, Kepler CK, Delasotta LA, Rihn JA, Harrop JS, Hilibrand AS et al. Current management review of thoracolumbar cord syndromes. *Spine J* 2011; 11(9):884-892.
14. Schwartz DM, Sestokas AK, Dormans JP, Vaccaro AR, Hilibrand AS, Flynn JM et al. Transcranial electric motor evoked potential Vmonitoring during spine surgery: is it safe? *Spine* 2011; 36(13):1046-1049.
15. Scivoletto G, Tamburella F, Laurenza L, Foti C, Ditunno JF, Molinari M. Validity and reliability of the 10-m walk test and the 6-min walk test in spinal cord injury patients. *Spinal Cord* 2011; 49(6):736-740.
16. Steeves JD, Kramer JK, Fawcett JW, Cragg J, Lammertse DP, Blight AR et al. Extent of spontaneous motor recovery after traumatic cervical sensorimotor complete spinal cord injury. *Spinal Cord* 2011; 49(2):257-265.
17. van Middendorp JJ, Hosman AJF, Donders ART, Pouw MH, Ditunno JF, Curt A et al. A clinical prediction rule for ambulation outcomes after traumatic spinal cord injury: a longitudinal cohort study. *Lancet* 2011; 377(9770):1004-1010.

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS WANTED

This study will be investigating the benefits and limitations of first time exposure to adaptive sports for young adults ages 18 – 30 who have sustained a traumatic lower level spinal cord injury. The goal is to better understand the perception of participants first introduction to adaptive sports, in an effort to improve the methods used to facilitate integration after injury. By volunteering to participate in this study, you will be asked to participate in one face-to-face or phone interview with the researcher, a physical therapist PhD candidate. Interview questions will seek to gather information related to the nature of your spinal cord injury, demographics, and your introduction to adaptive sports. Participants who complete the study will have the opportunity to choose a nominally priced gift card from one of two online shopping locations.

Volunteers must meet the following criteria:

- a) traumatic lower level spinal cord injury,
- b) currently between the ages of 18 – 30, and
- c) have completed inpatient rehab within the past 5 years.

For additional questions regarding the study, or if you would like to participate, please contact **Ariana Brutico** at ArBrutico@hotmail.com or by phone at **570-510-7112**.

NEW—PROJECT ENABLE

Project Enable is looking for people to join our program. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation in conjunction with East Stroudsburg University and New Mexico State University, our program is designed to introduce individuals with mobility disabilities to computer science. Unemployment rates for persons with disabilities is nearly 70% and the demand for employment in computer science fields is increasing! Computer science careers are more accommodating to individuals with disabilities than many other careers. Work schedules are flexible and many computer science careers allow employees to work from home. We are looking for a total of 24 participants to complete three computing workshops. During the workshops, participants will meet professionals employed in computer science fields, learn about new/emerging technologies (including assistive devices), and get an idea of what life is like on a college campus by touring a local university. Participants will be paired up with a

mentor who is either a student or professional in the computer science field that can offer assistance and provide advice to someone considering an education and career in computer science. **There is no cost to participants**, in fact participants earn a total of \$1000.00 to be part of the Project Enable program. Workshop 1 is tentatively scheduled to take place at Magee Rehabilitation from June 21-23, 2012. Workshop 2 would start August 9-11, 2012. Workshop 3 will be determined for next summer. Another set of 3 workshops would start up August 16-18, 2012 with Workshop 2 and 3 to be determined later.

To be considered for this program you must be at least 14 years of age, be interested in computers, and have a mobility disability. For an application and more information, please contact **Kim Roselli**, Program Coordinator East Stroudsburg University, kmr5090@gmail.com. Don't miss out on your future!

TUTTLEMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION SPONSORS GUY FRIED EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

On Oct 7th The Tuttleman Family Foundation sponsored the Dr. Guy Fried Educational Seminar at Magee Rehabilitation. This full day event, titled "What's New for SCI in 2011" was attended by 100 health care professionals from the tristate region. The seminar featured speakers from the Regional Spinal Cord Injury of the Delaware Valley including Dr. Ralph Marino, Dr. Alex Vaccaro and Dr. James Harrop. Dr. Itzhak Fischer, an SCI scientist from Drexel College of Medicine provided the attendees with an update on SCI basic science research. Magee staff members Julie Rece, RN, CWOCN, Evelyn Phillips, MS, RD,LDN and Mary Schmidt, DPT,MS spoke on topics such as preventing SCI complications and therapeutic technology for SCI patients. Bill Cawley, from the CDRF (Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation), joined Magee's Jessica Rickard, CTRS, speaking on lifetime resources for individuals with SCI. The Physician speakers also participated in a panel discussion on SCI medical continuing care. In addition to a fabulous lunch, attendees were provided with a tour of the SCI unit so that they could observe our staff in action and see what makes Magee a leader in SCI rehabilitation.



ONGOING RESEARCH OF THE RSCICDV

Current

1. Effects of two Different Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Cycling Paradigms. *Sponsor: Craig H. Neilsen Foundation*
2. The Value of MRI and DTI as biomarkers for classifying acute spinal cord injury. *Sponsor: Department of Defense*
3. A Phase 1 Safety Study of GRNOPC1 in Patients with Neurologically complete, subacute, spinal cord injury. *Sponsor: Geron Corporation*

Completed Clinical Trials

1. Investigation of assistive technology for mobility used by individuals with spinal cord injury. *Sponsor: NIDRR supported through SCI Model System of Care*
2. UAB Index of Motor Recovery – Validation of an outcome measure for motor recovery in incomplete spinal cord injury. *Sponsor: NIDRR supported through SCI Model System of Care*
3. Development and validation of the thoracic-lumbar control scale to measure strength and coordination of trunk muscles. *Sponsor: NIDRR supported through SCI Model System of Care*
4. Development and validation of the Capabilities of Arm and Hand in Tetraplegia (CAHT) measurement for upper extremity function. *Sponsor: NIDRR supported through SCI Model System of Care*
5. Spasticity and Joint Position Testing in Individuals with SCI. *Sponsor: Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley*
6. A 15-Week, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Group, Multi-Center Trial of Pregabalin for the Treatment of Chronic Central Neuropathic Pain After Spinal Cord Injury. *Sponsor: Pfizer Pharmaceuticals*
7. A United States multi-center study to assess the validity and reliability of the Spinal Cord Independence Measure (SCIM III). *Sponsor: Craig H. Neilsen Foundation*
8. Restoration of walking after spinal cord injury – Reliability of the maximal WISCI level. *Sponsor: National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)*
9. A phase II, double blind, placebo-controlled, multicentered study to assess the efficacy and safety of HP184 at 100, 200, and 400 mg doses administered orally once daily for twenty-four weeks in adult subjects with chronic spinal cord injury. *Sponsor: Aventis Pharmaceuticals*
10. Peripheral denervation following spinal cord injury (Using MRI to study nerve function following spinal cord injury). *Sponsor: American Paraplegia Society*
11. Open-label extension of double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group study to evaluate safety, tolerability and activity of oral Famipridine-SR in subjects with chronic incomplete spinal cord injury. *Sponsor: Acorda Therapeutics.*
12. Restoration of walking after spinal cord injury - validation of the Walking Index for Spinal Cord Injury (WISCI) scale for hierarchical ranking. *Sponsor: National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)*
13. Study the effects of Body Weight Supported Treadmill Training in acute incomplete spinal cord injury. *Sponsor: National Institute of Health (NIH)*
14. A phase I/IIa dose-ranging study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of BA-210 and the neurological status of patients following administration of a single extradural application of Cethrin® during surgery for acute and cervical spinal cord injury. *Sponsor: BioAxone Therapeutics, Inc.*
15. A four-week, prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial to assess safety, tolerability, Pharmacokinetics and preliminary efficacy of AV 650 in patients with spasticity due to spinal cord injury. *Sponsor: Avigen*

GADGETS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SCI

<http://www.apple.com/ipodtouch/features/voice-control.html> - has information about the voice commands for the iPod touch, the iPhone also has voice commands for various things.

<http://www.rollingrazor.com/home/1-bp> - this is a great razor for the C5, C6, C7 population to utilize.

Do you have any tips or gadgets that make doing things with your disability more manageable?
Please share them at sdibeler@mageerehab.org.

SPINAL CORD INJURY SUPPORT GROUPS

SCI PEERS, sharing experiences

The SCI-Peer Consultant Group provides individuals who have suffered a SCI the chance to learn from those who have rehabilitated following such an injury.

Magee can match peers based on injury level, social situations, age, gender, marital status, recreational interests and voca-

tional experience.

To request a peer consultation, or to volunteer as a mentor, contact **Marie Protesto** or **Sonya Dibeler** at peers@mageerehab.org or **(215) 587-3174**.



ADDICTION MENTORS

Our Addictions Mentor Program is now up and running! Mentors have been trained in disability education and sensitivity to how addiction may interface with disability issues. This is a very exciting addition to our already existing mentor programs. In addition to working with patients while here, the Addiction Mentors will serve as a connection to the recovery community for patients/families during the transition after Magee. They will help patients get sponsors and home groups near where they live and, if appropriate, they will continue to sponsor patients beyond Magee. They may accompany patients to disability friendly AA/NA meetings after discharge. The plan ultimately is to expand this service for our outpatients and also for family members. More details to come!

SCI FAMILY PEERS

Family Peer Mentors are family members and/or loved ones of individuals who have sustained a SCI and have successfully transitioned to living life with a disability. They are volunteers who are specially trained to guide and provide SCI related information and experiences to families and loved ones of newly injured individuals.

Mentoring can be done in the form of participating in the family group which is held twice monthly at Magee or contacting a new family by telephone or face to face if possible. Given the geographic area Magee serves, we attempt to be creative and flexible with mentoring requests.

The SCI Family PEER Group meets two

Wednesdays a month at 6 p.m. in the 5th floor lounge on the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital. This group is open to inpatients and outpatients.

For more information or to become a Family Peer Mentor, please contact **Ruth Black, LCSW** at **(215) 587-3030** or rblack@mageerehab.org.



Interested in becoming an SCI Peer or Addiction Mentor? Please contact the Marie Protesto or Sonya Dibeler at peers@mageerehab.org or (215) 587-3174.

Interested in becoming a Family Peer? Please contact Ruth Black at rblack@mageerehab.org or (215) 587-3030.

SCI RESOURCE GROUP

This group provides education, recreation and support opportunities to individuals with spinal cord injuries. Traditionally, meetings are held at Magee on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room. However, social outings are scheduled based on availability and pricing.

We are always looking for new topics. If you have an idea for a topic or would like more information, please call **Marie Protesto** or **Sonya Dibeler** at **(215) 587-3174**, or e-mail peers@mageerehab.org.

MAGEE RECREATION RESOURCES

Physical activity is an integral part of physical and psychological well being. Everyone, regardless of ability or disability, should have access to recreation, so we plan to actively recruit new athletes to join our teams. If you already play a wheelchair sport and would like more information about our program, or if you are interested in a recreation activity that we do not yet offer, please contact us!

Magee Wheelchair Sports teams are always looking for volunteers who would like to learn more about wheelchair sports and help during fundraisers, at practices and tournaments. If you have any questions or would like more information on any of our teams, please email sports@mageerehab.org or call **215-587-3140**.

MAGEE WHEELCHAIR SPORTS TEAMS

BASKETBALL: MAGEE SIXERS SPOKESMEN

Practices are held every Wednesday evening from 6:30 pm—9 pm (Sept.—May).

Contact: Binh Scott at binhscott@yahoo.com for more details.

Location: Carousel House (corner of Belmont Ave. & Ave. of the Republic, Phila., PA 19131)

RUGBY: MAGEE EAGLES

Practices are held Tuesday evenings from 6:30 pm—9 pm (Sept.—May).

Contact: John Benson or Heather Schultz at eagleswheelchairrugby@gmail.com for more details.

Location: Carousel House (corner of Belmont Ave. & Avenue of the Republic, Phila, PA 19131)

TENNIS: MAGEE FREEDOM

Practices are held each Sunday from 12 pm—2 pm (10 am—12 pm in the summer).

Location: Cherry Hill Racquet Club (1820 Old Cuthbert Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034)

Contact: sports@mageerehab.org or 215-587-3140

RACING: Contact: sports@mageerehab.org or 215-587-3140.

Currently our Power Soccer and Softball teams are not practicing, but if you would like more information about either of those activities, please contact Meg Rider at sports@mageerehab.org or call 215-587-3140.

Our wheelchair athletes recognize how fortunate we are to have a rehab hospital such as Magee fund our sports program, and we give back to the community by performing outreach events in the Philadelphia area. This season our teams performed demonstrations at many universities and organizations including: University of Pennsylvania, Rowan University, West Chester University, YMCA West Chester Wells Fargo Center, Radnor High School, University of the Sciences Philadelphia, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and a Boy Scout Camp.

We encourage everyone to become involved in physical activity, whether it is in a competitive sport or at an intramural level. Please join us as we add more recreational opportunities in the coming months and years.

If you would like Magee to consider adding a specific activity to our program, please call **(215) 587-3140**.

UPCOMING ADAPTIVE SPORT EVENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST

- **West Chester YMCA Adaptive Sports Programs:** 2nd Sunday of each month. www.ymcabwv.org/adaptedsports.html
- **PA Center for Adaptive Sports:** Promotes adapted recreation, and sport opportunities for persons with physical and neurological disabilities. www.centeronline.com
- **IM ABLE Foundation:** Created to build on the active lifestyles that founder, Chris Kaag, promotes for individuals with disabilities. www.getupandmove.org





COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED

The Legal Clinic for the Disabled provides free legal services to low-income people with physical disabilities in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania.

Since 1990, the Legal Clinic for the Disabled, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with offices at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, has helped thousands of people. We help victims of domestic violence get legal protection from their abusers. We represent victims of identity theft and consumer fraud. We help parents and care givers access

healthcare for their children. We write wills, powers of attorney and living wills. Most of our clients experience physical limitations in their daily activities, and many have suffered catastrophic injuries or illnesses like stroke, spinal cord or brain injury, multiple sclerosis, cancer, advanced diabetes, glaucoma, AIDS, amputation or epilepsy. Our services help them overcome legal problems and continue living comfortably and independently in the community.

For more information about our clinic, please visit our Web site at:
www.lcdphila.org

LEGAL CLINIC TOPICS — by Brandon Kuykendall

We at the Legal Clinic do a lot of powers of attorney for Magee patients and non-Magee patients alike. One of the biggest and most important questions we are faced with when meeting a potential client for the first time is, do they have the requisite mental capacity to make a power of attorney? Mental capacity can be a tricky thing to determine in the context of medicine, let alone the practice of law. In order to try and clear up confusion concerning the subject, a brief explanation of mental capacity and how it applies is necessary.

In order to complete a power of attorney, the person seeking it, called the “principal,” must be “of sound mind.” Under the law, being of sound mind means having an understanding of one’s actions and a reasonable knowledge of one’s family and surroundings.

Translated into the context of a power of attorney, a principal can make a power of attorney if they understand what a power of attorney is, what effect it will have, and how it will affect themselves and their families. No one can decide to make a power of attorney except the principal themselves. No matter how dire a situation, or how much a family member may insist, only the principal can request and ultimately create a power of attorney. The legally binding power of the document is simply too great to allow otherwise.

If you have a question regarding a power of attorney, the staff at the Legal Clinic is always happy to help. Our intake hours are Monday, 9:30 to 1:30 and Thursday, 11:30 to 3:30. We can be reached at **215-587-3350**.



SPINAL CORD SOCIETY

The Spinal Cord Society is a large grass roots organization with thousands of members throughout North America and other countries. Its goal is cure of chronic spinal cord injury paralysis. The Spinal Cord Society puts 100% of its funding into research for the cure of spinal cord dysfunction. The Spinal Cord Society meets at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital on the 6th floor at 1 pm on the first Saturday of every month. If you would like to support this research, consider attending one of these meetings.

For more information, please contact **Chris Cellucci** at cellucci@ursinus.edu or **(610) 296-7429**, or **Dennis Ledger** at dledger@csc.com or **(856) 468-4401**.

THINK FIRST

To help prevent disabling head and spinal cord injuries among children, teens and young adults, Magee's Think First Program holds dynamic presentations at schools. Our program is part of the nationally coordinated Think First program. Presentations consist of a video, injury prevention lessons and testimonials from adults with disabilities.

If you have a spinal cord injury or brain

injury and are interested in changing behaviors and saving lives, please consider joining Think First and speaking to students. Since Magee values your experience we will reimburse you for your time.

If you are interested or know of a school that would like to host one of our assemblies, please call **Joe Davis**, Think First Coordinator, at **(215) 587-3400**.

PATIENT RESOURCE CENTER

The Patient Resource Center is located on the 6th floor. Feel free to stop by. We have tons of interesting fiction, a number of best seller books including notable books that made Oprah Winfrey's Book Club list. There are about 600 leisure/romance/mystery novels to choose from as well as a broad selection of relevant professional periodicals. You may have noticed that we have three computers spaced just right for patient, visitor and

staff access and to supplement these resources, we also have an assortment of DVDs .

Please allow us the opportunity to provide you with extraordinary customer service and an enviable user friendly environment.

You may contact **Venus Bradley** at **(215) 587-3146** with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

MAGEE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL AND THE ADAM TALIAFERRO FOUNDATION HELD A GOLF OUTING — by Kerry O'Connor

Magee Rehabilitation Hospital partnered with the foundation of former patient and Penn State Alum Adam Taliaferro for a golf outing October 3, 2011 at the Green Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill, PA.

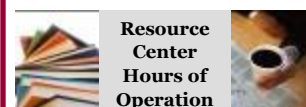
Although this was the first joint-fundraising endeavor between the world renowned Magee Rehabilitation Hospital and the Adam Taliaferro Foundation which provides emotional, financial and educational support to student athletes who suffer catastrophic head or spinal cord injuries in sanctioned team events in New Jersey, Pennsylvania or Delaware it certainly isn't the beginning of the relationship.

Taliaferro was a patient at Magee back in 2000 when as a freshman cornerback for Penn State he received a spinal cord injury while making a clean hit in a game against

Ohio State. Told he may never walk again, after therapy at Magee, and with the unyielding support of his family, Taliaferro walked out of Magee on his own, shifted his focus and talents away from the football field and graduated from Penn State, went to law school and became a lawyer, all while starting the Adam Taliaferro Foundation to help those who, like him, had been injured in a sanctioned sporting event.

Proceeds from the golf outing which included golf, dinner, cocktails, live music by band 61 North and auction will benefit spinal cord injury research, rehabilitation, and quality of life programs supported by both the Adam Taliaferro Foundation and Magee Rehabilitation Hospital.

Kerry O'Connor is the Director of Public Relations for Magee Rehabilitation Hospital.



Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday

9:30 am - 8:00 pm

Friday

9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Hours are subject to change.



CONSUMER ARTICLES

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE AFTER THEIR INJURY—BY MARK CHILUTTI

In my work at Magee I have the chance to meet many different people whose lives have been changed by an accident or injury. We all know how our lives are turned upside down so quickly and how the rest of our life will be changed from that day forward.

Some people accept it quickly and seek to master their “new” life, while others sit at home wondering what happened and when the bad dream will all end. And then there are some, who not only accept it quickly, but also take on a quest to help others too

In this article I’d like to focus on a few amazing people, and how they have worked hard, not just to live an awesome life themselves, but to do all that they can to help others.

Chic Kelly was living his boyhood dream and working hard to earn a spot as a walk on hockey player at Merrimac College in Massachusetts. One afternoon at practice Chic was tripped and slid in to the boards, sustaining a C5 spinal cord injury and changing his life forever.

With a strong group of family and friends behind him, Chic returned home from his rehab stay at Magee, earned a college degree at St. Joseph’s University, and has been a teacher at his high school alma mater, Malvern Prep, since 1994.

Along with his family and friends, and through the “Friends and Family of Chic Kelly” he has worked hard through a series of fundraisers held each year to raise money to support his own medical care, and, also to help others in need. Their gifts have truly made a difference to help others adapt to life after a spinal cord injury.

Along the same lines, **Dan Jones**, became a paraplegic as a result of a car accident in 1999. Dan returned to work as an investment adviser just ten months later and has

been active in his work and family life since then.

Dan has a dream of walking again, and, rather than just sit home waiting for that to happen, has banded together with family and friends to create the Philadelphia Chapter of the Buoniconti Fund, the fundraising arm of the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis in 2004.

Since then, this group has raised over \$1 million to help further important research, and also to help local organizations like Magee improve the quality of life of individuals with disabilities.

Finally, **Katie Samson**, was a high school lacrosse star who went on to help Middlebury College win the Division III lacrosse title, earning MVP honors along the way. Katie’s life would change quickly when a sledding accident caused her to sustain a spinal cord injury. Katie went back to college in a wheelchair, and helped coach her team to two more titles.

More importantly, her friends and family created the Katie Samson Lacrosse Festival with the purpose of bringing lacrosse players together to play the game they love, while raising money to help others at the same time. In its 12th year this past April, they too crossed the \$1 million mark of funds raised to help others.

Everyone that comes through our doors has a story that brought them here. What I like to hear much more about is the story they create after they leave. Chic, Dan, and Katie have created amazing stories so far....what about you???

Mark Chilutti is the Assistant Vice President of Development for Magee Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation and is a T5 paraplegic.

SOME WEBSITES OF INTEREST

www.thebuonicontifund.com

www.katiesamsonlaxfest.com

www.chickelly.com

www.globalabilities.com

www.taliaferrofoundation.org