



Working 2 Walk 2009 – Chicago Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY August 26: Arrival Day

THURSDAY August 27: Symposium Day 1

7:15 – 8:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast – Prairie Foyer

General Session – Prairie Ballroom

8:00 – 8:15

Opening Remarks

*Marilyn Smith, Executive Director – Unite 2 Fight Paralysis
Ida Cahill, President – Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation*

8:15 – 9:00

TBA

Douglas Kerr, MD, PhD, Assoc. Professor – Johns Hopkins Medicine

9:00 – 9:45

“Making the Right Astrocytes for SCI Repair”

Stephen Davies, PhD, Assoc. Professor – University of Colorado Denver

9:45 – 10:15

Panel Discussion with Drs. Kerr & Davies

10:15 – 10:45

Break – Exhibitor Visits

10:45 – 11:15

“Update on the Geron Clinical Trial”

Kate Willette, John Smith – Unite 2 Fight Paralysis

11:15 – 12:15

“Progress of Research & Paralysis Prevalence Survey Results”

Peter Wilderotter, Susan Howley – Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

12:15 – 1:15

Lunch – Exhibitor Visits

1:15 – 2:00

“Getting on With Clinical Testing”

Naomi Kleitman, PhD, Program Dir., Repair and Plasticity - NIH/NINDS

In recent years, the spinal cord injury (SCI) research community has made great strides in coordinating and planning translational and clinical efforts to establish new therapies. As anyone who has experienced SCI knows, this is a complex clinical situation with few gold-standards for treatment. The wide range of injuries and severity levels makes the design of controlled SCI clinical trials difficult. But with planning and multi-center coordination, definitive trials can be accomplished. Dr. Kleitman’s presentation will review these issues, how new therapies move from “bench-to-bedside” and what therapies have or will soon be tested. Coordinated efforts within the SCI clinical/research communities to develop guidelines, trial networks and sensitive, reliable outcome measurements will be discussed.

2:00 – 2:45

“Quantifying Motor Control”

W. Barry McKay, BS, REEGT, Dir. of Research Studies – University of Louisville

Paralysis is always the result of changes in neuronal circuitry within the brain, brainstem, spinal cord, and/or peripheral nerve. New and existing therapies, in order to be successful, need to repair, reorganize, and/or replace damaged neural circuitry. It is unlikely that any single substance, cell, or rehabilitation training modality will cure paralysis, but rather a combination will need to be employed to synergistically improve neural circuit function. However, in humans, treatment effects are currently measured using tools that examine functions far removed from the neurons and their circuitry. This presentation will introduce an assessment technique that records spinal motor output to multiple muscles during standardized volitional and reflex motor tasks. This Brain Motor Control Assessment (BMCA) method generates a profile of motor control domains that has shown good face validity, test-retest reliability, and sensitivity to change through testing using the human spinal cord injury model.

2:45 – 3:15

Break – Exhibitor Visits

3:15 – 4:00

“Challenges in SCI Research: A Clinical Perspective”

Peter Gorman, MD, Assoc. Professor – University of MD, Dir. SCI Service – Kernan Hospital

Dr. Gorman will present a broad overview of the reasons that clinical research in spinal cord injury medicine has been so difficult. The unifying theme will be the complexity of this particular field of medical research from multiple perspectives, some of which are more market related than scientific. His talk will piggyback on some of the concepts introduced by Dr. Kleitman with regard to the development of clinical trials. Examples of failed trials and endeavors in the past will be discussed so that we can learn from them. Conclusions will be drawn that will hopefully provide an optimistic while at the same time realistic perspective on the question - Where do we go from here?

4:00 – 5:00

Clinical Trial Panel Discussion

Drs. Kleitman & Gorman and Mr. McKay will be joined by Anthony Caggiano, MD, PhD, Vice President, Clinical Development – Acorda Therapeutics

5:00 – 7:00

Welcome & Networking Reception – Prairie Foyer

Please join our speakers, staff and attendees for a relaxing conclusion to the day, featuring a special musical performance by Todd Phillips.

FRIDAY August 28: Symposium Day 2

7:45 – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast – Prairie Foyer

General Session – Prairie Ballroom

8:30 – 9:00 “Advocacy in the Paralysis Community – How You Can Make a Difference”
Rachel Hammerman, Marilyn Smith – Unite 2 Fight Paralysis

9:00 – 9:45 “SCI 101 & Update on the China SCI Clinical Trial Network”
Wise Young, MD, PhD, Director Keck Center – Rutgers University

9:45 – 10:30 TBA
Phillip Horner, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor – University of Washington

10:30 – 11:00 Break – Exhibitor Visits

11:00 – 11:30 Panel Discussion with Drs. Young & Horner

**11:30 - 12:00 “Pharmacological Strategies to Enhance Recovery from SCI:
What Your Physician Can Do Today”**
Edward Nieshoff, MD, CSCIR at Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan

In recent years, locomotor therapy and intensive physical training have been shown to improve function after SCI, such that these treatment modalities are being used in a number of clinics around the world. It is less well appreciated that several FDA-approved medications are available to supplement them. Clonidine, midrodine and oxandrolone have been shown to produce remarkable benefits when used appropriately. Limited physician familiarity with SCI has curtailed the use of all three drugs. These treatment strategies will be discussed, as one element of a comprehensive aggressive program to optimize recovery from SCI.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch – Exhibitor Visits

“Recovery and Advocacy after SCI - My Journey”
Anne Phipps, Co-Founder, Sci-Step Rehabilitation

1:00 – 1:30 “Repairing the Damaged Spinal Cord: What’s Doable”
John W. McDonald, MD, PhD, ICSCI, Kennedy Krieger Institute

1:30 – 2:00 “How to Select a Recovery Program”
Steven Hinderer, MD, MS, PT, Medical Director, Walk the Line to SCI Recovery

2:00 – 2:45 Panel Discussion with Drs. Nieshoff, McDonald & Hinderer

2:45 – 3:15 Break – Exhibitor Visits

We will collect your completed Event Surveys prior to departing the ballroom for the Breakout Sessions. Your comments help us make Working 2 Walk the best event possible. We appreciate your feedback.

Breakout Sessions

Day 2 will conclude with two breakout sessions where attendees can participate in more informal discussions with our speakers, as well as join special sessions for Advocacy Brainstorming & Strategy Development. At the end of Friday's lunch we will announce which speakers & sessions will be assigned to each breakout room.

We will be using the Fullersburg, Forestview, Tack and Q rooms for our breakout sessions (see attached map).

3:15 – 4:00 Breakout Session I

4:00 – 4:15 Break

4:15 – 5:00 Breakout Session II

Dinner on your own

SATURDAY August 29: Day at the Races

10:30 am: Meet at Gate 5, Laraway Road, The Credential Building

See enclosed maps for directions to the Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet.