CP Research Consortium/Reaching for the Stars

The University of Michigan Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation celebrated National Cerebral Palsy Day on March 25, 2015 in conjunction with Michigan State University, by hosting the 4th Biennial Conference for the CP Research Consortium of Michigan titled “Cerebral Palsy Research in 3D: Disability, Disparities, and Developments.” Researchers from all over our great state came together and presented their research findings.

The goal of this conference, in addition to presenting current research, was to kindle collaboration among Michigan’s CP researchers. It also encouraged population-based and clinical research registries for CP to support and accelerate research. Through an ongoing interactive network of researchers, trainees, health providers, people with CP, and public health leaders, we aim to make progress on problems of vital concern to people affected by CP.

In the evening, the Department of PM&R helped kick-off the Michigan Chapter of the Reaching for the Stars, a national pediatric cerebral palsy foundation. Reaching for the Stars has had wonderful success on the national level with advocacy efforts, support, and fundraising. In fact, RFTS is responsible for working with our Congress to have March 25th declared as National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day!

We hosted a dinner for CP families and caregivers at our Pediatric Rehabilitation Center on Plymouth Road. Our OT/PT and Speech departments really shined by having therapists available to talk with parents about the latest technologies that are being used to help with CP kids. We also had Wheelchair Seating represented to display some new durable medical equipment that is now available.

Department chair, Dr. Edward Hurvitz gave an exciting speech as to what we, as people deeply imbedded in the CP community, could do to advocate and support each other and to support CP research. He encouraged involvement from all of the parents and caregivers because there is strength in numbers.

The parents and caregivers in the RFTS-MI group are busy planning some upcoming events. Some goals that were put in place were to create relationships with the members of the new Michigan Congress to advocate, fundraise to help further the advances of CP research, to plan some support outings and events including a conference up north that would further our reach to those affected by CP who are living up north and an end-of-the-year party in December.

For additional information on either of these two events, please contact Dawn Krause at drkrause@umich.edu or 734-647-5165.
CP Research Consortium/Reaching for the Stars

RFTS kiddos playing while the parents talked

Dan Schultz who is a Rehab Technician at PRC handing balloons to Elizabeth and Emily

More of the RFTS kiddos

Dr. Hurvitz speaking at the RFTS event

Hunter and Braden Gandee at the RFTS Event

Our OT's and PT's hard at work
PM&R Assists With Bucket List Trip For Cancer Patient

Community reintegration is a main focus for our inpatient rehabilitation unit patients, their families and our team of therapists. Recreational therapist Katie Jonkhoff took the lead recently to combine a community reintegration trip and a bucket list event for patient Jim Lewandowski who has been battling terminal cancer since 2014. Jim and many of his family members are avid Red Wings fans and his son Joel arranged tickets for their family while Katie and Jim’s OT, Dawn Bolen, found tickets for themselves. Drs. Michael Wheaton and Raymond Cheng, Jim’s rehab physicians assisted in moving radiation treatments to let Jim rest for the day. The hockey game would be his ‘real-life’ therapy for that day.

Once at Joe Louis Arena, Jim met up with his three sons, four grandchildren, and other family members – 11 in all. His son Robert flew in from Portland, Oregon while son Eric drove from Nashville. The three sons rotated so that each of them could sit with their father for one period. Katie and Dawn also took turns with Jim to make sure he was comfortable and cared for. Jim said everyone around him was also very helpful.

"The only one with a negative reaction was the guy I hit with my wheelchair," he remembered.

After the game, Robert had arranged for the family to meet Jim’s favorite player, Pavel Datsyuck, but they were surprised by a bonus visit from Red Wings coach Mike Babcock. Many jerseys, hats, t-shirts and more were signed by Pavel, and lots of photos were taken. Pavel Datsyuk later posted a photo of the meeting on his own Facebook page.

After the event Jim’s wife Judith Lewandowski said, “The rehab staff are caring, compassionate, tender, with some humor mixed in, and always sensitive to Jim’s dignity.”

All of the rehab therapists provide each of their patients with extraordinary care and do their best to meet the patient’s wishes and the therapists and entire rehab team are honored to have been able to grant this for Jim.
Kudos

Congratulations to Rita Ayyangar, MD who is now board certified in hospice and palliative medicine. She is our first faculty member to become board certified in this area. Rita is or was board certified in several areas—PM&R, Pediatrics, and Pediatric Rehabilitation medicine so she can add this to the list. Rita serves as a member of the Palliative Care team for Mott hospital. Rita, we wish you much success in this role as well as all of your others.

Congratulations to Dr. Joe Hornyak, MD, PhD who represents the medical school in an exciting new course that combines faculty from several health care related schools such as dentistry, medicine, nursing and others. Here is a story from the Dental school web page. Dr. Hornyak spends Wednesday afternoons with 50-60 students from the different schools, giving them the “medicine” point of view. This is a unique course, and a unique achievement for Dr. Hornyak, who is well-recognized in our department and in the medical school as a top-notch medical educator.

http://dent.umich.edu/news/2015/01/22/interprofessional-education-begins-michigan#sthash.Al7zIjAs.dpbs

February was Therapeutic Recreation Month! Kudos and thanks to all of our wonderful therapeutic recreation specialists and all the great work they do for our patients. As we all know, our ultimate goal is to get people participating in life, and therapeutic recreation specialists are at the forefront of that effort. Please note the attached picture of Becky McVey, our Milestones TR demonstrating her recreational skills.

Our cancer rehabilitation program is growing and on the move! See this posting for ASCO, the American Society of Clinical Oncology featuring our own Sean Smith. Congrats to Sean Smith, MD and Andy Haig, MD for this growing clinical and academic program! The interview can be viewed at: http://www.ascopost.com/issues/january-25,-2015/incorporating-physical-medicine-and-rehabilitation-into-palliative-care.aspx

Congratulations to Kathy Konosky for making a Video made about importance of activity during and after cancer treatment. The video can be seen at https://vimeo.com/120163829

Publications, Grants, Awards


Congratulations to the Denise Tate PhD, Marty Forchheimer Research Area Specialist Senior, Tony Chiodo, MD and Claire Kalpakjian, PhD on two recent publications that have come out related to their work with Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems.

The first is a result of the clinical trials on depression using Venlafaxine. Note author affiliations at the end of the article. Venlafaxine Extended-Release for Depression Following Spinal Cord Injury A Randomized Clinical Trial Jesse R. Fann, MD, MPH; Charles H. Bombardier, PhD; J. Scott Richards, PhD; Catherine S. Wilson, PsyD; Allen W. Heinemann, PhD; Ann Marie Warren, PhD; Lary Brooks, PhD; Cheryl B. McCullumsmith, MD, PhD; Nancy R. Temkin, PhD; Catherine Warm, PhD; Denise G. Tate, PhD; for the PRISMS Investigators

Jane Huggins, PhD was co-editor on the March 2015 Supplement issue of Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: The Fifth International Brain-Computer Interface Meeting Presents clinical and Translational Developments in Brain-Computer interface Research.

Mark Peterson, PhD has two publications out on his area of research:

With Dr. Mahmoudi – Healthcare utilization associated with obesity and physical disabilities published in the American J of Preventive Medicine.

With Drs. Al Snih, Serra-Rexach and Burant – Android Adiposity and lack of moderate and vigorous activity are associated with insulin resistance and diabetes in aging adults. See attached.

Anna Kratz, PhD is the co-investigator in a new award titled “A randomized trial of positive airway pressure therapy to treat cognitive dysfunction in MS patients with obstructive sleep apnea” The PI is Dr. Bradley from Neurology.

Robert Werner, MD strikes with his article titled “Ulnar Neuropathy among Active Workers Based upon Hand Diagram Ratings” in the journal PM&R. His co-authors are Alfred Franzblau, Bradley Evanoff, and Sheryl Ulin.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.pmrj.2014.12.014

Congratulations to the authors!
Publications, Grants, Awards

Congratulations to Mark Peterson, PhD for his editorial published in Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology, the premiere journal for research in neurodevelopmental conditions. Physical inactivity and secondary health complications in cerebral palsy: chicken or egg? doi: 10.1111/dmcn.12578

Version J, Haig AJ: Building the ISRPM Disaster Acute Rehabilitation Team Program. Josh was a U of M undergrad, now med student at Rush

Haig AJ, Loar S, Haig T: The International Rehabilitation Forum: an academic consortium that builds medical rehabilitation in low resource regions through participation, mentoring, and disruptive innovation.

Feenstra E, Haig AJ, Blackwood K, Haig T. The impact of an elective on disability and global health on the perception of medical students regarding persons with disabilities.


This is a really cool Michigan-related honor. It’s my brother Tom Haig’s documentary on rehabilitation in Ghana won the documentary award. Tom’s a broadcast journalist and wheelchair user who is also communications director of our Michigan-based International Rehabilitation Forum. He also volunteer taught the Feenstra course for Michigan med students.

The short version of the video for the contest is below: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLfH3mONjFk

The longer version (1/2 hour) and videos on our work in other countries are on the IRF website: http://www.rehabforum.org

Presentations

Dr. Els Nieuwenhuijsen, is presenting on the International Classification of Function (ICF) on March 10 at the UM Hatcher Graduate Library. The ICF is an important classification system in rehabilitation, and Els has written and presented on it throughout her career. For more information see https://events.umich.edu/event/21570

Upcoming Events

Adult Rehabilitation Conference: The Challenges of Chronic Illness

Friday, May 1st, at Kensington Court, Ann Arbor, MI

Featuring many of our own staff Claudia Drossel, Sean Smith, Nancy Merbitz, and others. The flyers and a registration website should be up next week.
Service Excellence

Congratulations to Sara Pschigoda Wagner who was awarded the Tom Lucas T.R.A.I.L. Blazer Award. Sara was awarded a cash prize $250.00.

Congratulations to Mary Barber and Martin Forchheimer as Honorable Mentions. Mary and Martin were awarded $50.00 gift cards.

Tom Lucas was a member of the PM&R UM Orthotics and Prosthetics Acute Care team for over 20 years. Tom was a respected and well-revered member of the UMHS team. Tom loved his work and the people he worked with. For those that have worked alongside of Tom, this was evident in his spirit, respect, and compassion he had for his patients and colleagues.

Tom exemplified the traits of the T.R.A.I.L. Award. He understood the importance of being a good member of a team and he was proud to be part of the UMHS Team. He understood that working for a large institution, we may have a small role, but nonetheless important part of providing care for each patient. He not only wanted to do well by the patient, but he also wanted to service our referring physicians in a professional manner. He respected his co-workers and patients throughout the hospital. He accepted responsibility for his actions and worked hard to provide the best services in an efficient and cost effective manner. His professionalism and leadership by example all add to why this award has been named to honor his memory.

These employees exhibit:

- **Teamwork**: Pursues a common goal – helps others to succeed. Able to work in partnership with people in such a manner as to build group commitments to goals and objectives. Puts the welfare of the group over individual interest.

- **Respect**: Recognizes the value and diversity of each team member, demonstrates genuine concern about the well-being, dignity and self-esteem of all colleagues in the organization in a way that develops trust.

- **Accountability**: Accepts responsibility for delivering on our commitments. Protects confidential information. Accepts responsibility for actions. Utilizes resources in an efficient and cost effective manner.

- **Integrity**: Adheres to the highest standard of honesty, professionalism and ethical behaviors. Is ethical and reliable in meeting commitments. Demonstrates professionalism under pressure or during stressful situations.

- **Leadership**: Being involved, taking action and continuously striving to be the best. Able to take action in problem solving while exhibiting sound judgment and a realistic understanding of the issues.

Announcements

Seth Warschausky, PhD. will be transitioning out of the position of Division Director for Rehabilitation Neuropsychology (RPN) this September, 2015. Seth has served in this role for about ten years over the course of three appointments to the position. He has overseen growth in the division as well as improvement in clinical and administrative services. This has included a number of valuable collaborations with clinical services outside of the department of PM&R. He has also directed the division as it has grown in its academic profile, both in teaching and in research. Please join me in thanking Seth and congratulating him on his record of accomplishment, and wishing him success as he transitions back to more focus on his research and clinical programs.

Jacqueline Kaufman, Ph.D., will transition to the Division Director position. Jack, an Associate Professor in PM&R, has an accomplished record of clinical care, teaching and research. She has also been very involved in administrative issues in the Division for several years. Jack also serves as our department’s Faculty Development Liaison. She has been involved in wonderful outreach activities, including working with the school of Engineering on developing technology for children with disabilities and with Mott Hospital on patient-oriented videos.
PM&R Retirements

As of January 1, 2015, three PM&R faculty members will be retiring or entering phased retirement. Let us take a moment to congratulate them and thank them for their service to the department.

- Virginia S. Nelson, M.D., M.P.H., joined the department in 1974 to develop pediatric rehabilitation. She of course has done that, overseeing its growth to one of the most outstanding pediatric divisions in the country. Dr. Nelson is well-known for her work with ventilator dependent children, especially her involvement in vent camp. More recently, she has spear-headed the development of the Brachial Plexus program. Both of these programs have been recognized as Program of the Year at UMHS. Dr. Nelson is well published, has served as a national officer for organizations related to the field, and has a long list of trainees that she has mentored (including your department chair!). We congratulate her as she transfers to Active Emeritus professor, and continues her work in the brachial plexus clinic and in a few other areas. In the near future, an announcement will go out about an event honoring her retirement.

- Ned Kirsch, Ph.D., joined PM&R in 1981 as one of the first neuropsychologists at UM. He has been a leader in care for brain injury. Ned is well published, and has held national positions, including a current position in a society related to the field. Ned has mentored many trainees and junior faculty. He has served as Division Director for Rehabilitation Neuropsychology, and also as Chair of the Faculty Performance Committee. He has many other roles in the department. Ned will enter phased retirement on January 1, but will still be giving energy and effort to the department, especially in development of the “Bridge to Work” program, which will help young adults with disabilities gain experience in a work trial.

- Miles Colwell, M.D., joined PM&R in 1990 after completing his residency at UM. Miles did a fellowship in manual medicine and has been the department’s leader in this area. Many important UM official, major donor and important personage have passed through his able hands. Miles has been a leader in spine care and in manual medicine education at UMHS. He has a long list of trainees that he has inspired to use biomechanics and physical means for healing over drugs and injections. Miles also provides prosthetic services. He will enter phased retirement on January 1, 2015, and continue with his clinical work with a more limited schedule.

Congratulations, Drs. Nelson, Kirsch, and Colwell, and thank you for your many years of service. We look forward to hearing about your new opportunities and accomplishments, and we are glad that we will continue to benefit, at some level, from your skills and experience.

On January 5, 2015, our Unit Host on 6A, Douglas Sparks, retired.

Doug joined the UMHS in 1989 and has worked in numerous departments in many roles which shows how versatile and adept he is. His latest job was on our unit, 6A, from 2009 to present, working as our Unit Host. We congratulate him as goes into his retirement and travels between Michigan and Florida.

Congratulations to Doug and we are grateful for your many years of service to our staff, our patients, and their families. We look forward to hearing about your new adventures and successes. And as always...“Thanks for all you do!”

Darlene Klein

Darlene Klein retired after 8 years of service as Program Case Manager at MedRehab. Darlene has been a valued colleague at MedRehab for many years by all of the staff who have come to rely on her incredibly high level of professionalism, benefited from her clinical expertise, were reassured by her attention to detail, and inspired by her unwavering enthusiasm. Darlene has also had an indelible impact on many of her patients, who consistently offer the greatest praise for the support she offers, her therapeutic skills, and her range of knowledge about the agencies and system that have a bearing on their lives.

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Darlene Klein
PM&R New Employees

Princess Ogundipe
Rehab Tech Acute Care Team

Nick Smith
Rehab Tech MedRehab

Shannon McKay
OT Rehab Team UH

Krista March
PT Acute Care Med Surgical Team

Carlie Daniels
OT, OT Rehab Team

Rita Conti
Inpatient Rehab Insurance Coordinator

Theresa Kossey, BS.
ACE – Fitness Specialist

Ryan Werme
Fitness Specialist

Aaron Quillen
Patient Services Associate, Rehab

Bob Austin, C. Ped
Certified Pedorthist

Keianna Banbury
Patient Services Assistant

Alicia Foster, MSPO, CPO
Certified Orthotist/ Prosthetist

Paul Mindemann
Orthotics/Prosthetics Technician

Akeiya Woods
Patient Services Assistant

Brittany Shupe-Sawyer
Clinical Social Worker

Meghan Veiga, TRS
6A Rehab team

Nikki Samuels, PT
IP Acute Care Team

David Kohns, DO