

Advocacy Day Speakers

Christopher Reeve Foundation

Tricia Brooks - Tricia is the Director of Government Relations with the Christopher Reeve Foundation (CRF). She develops strategic plans for the government relations team, including appropriations and authorization initiatives, and designs and implements activities of the Christopher Reeve Action Network. Tricia was recently appointed Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR). She received her Master of Arts degree in public policy from George Washington University.

Adam Gluck - Adam was a professional staff member for the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, where for two years he developed and directed the health care policy agenda of U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA). Prior to the HELP Committee, Adam spent two years as the senior legislative liaison at the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) in Washington, DC, where he organized grassroots advocacy campaigns and served as the CDF's chief House lobbyist.

Rachel Hammerman - Rachel is the Government Relations Associate for the Christopher Reeve Foundation (CRF). She implements the strategic plans for the government relations team, specifically managing the web-based Christopher Reeve Action Network, the grassroots advocacy network. She received her B.A. from Tufts University.

Michael Manganiello - Michael is the Senior Vice President of Government Relations for the Christopher Reeve Foundation (CRF). In 1995 he helped found CRF with Christopher and his wife Dana Reeve. Michael is Chairman of the Paralysis Taskforce, a joint program between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CRF, and is also Director of the Christopher Reeve Action Network, the advocacy arm of CRF. Michael graduated from Villanova University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, and received his MPA from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Unite 2 Fight Paralysis

Chris Chappell - In June of 2000 Chris suffered a C6-7 injury in a mountain bike accident. Since that time he has dedicated his private life toward his recovery and an ultimate cure for all paralytic afflictions. Chris volunteers at Craig Hospital as a peer and family counselor. He speaks frequently to the media about potential cure therapies, and has worked on a number of fundraising projects to help further research.

Susan Maus - Susan sustained a C4-C5 spinal cord injury when the Ford Explorer she was riding in was hit from the side and rolled over. Inspired by a visit with Dr. Wise Young and galvanized by the passing of Christopher Reeve, Susan knew she wanted to make a direct impact on advancing a cure for paralysis. She helped organize the "Spring into Action" rally in 2005 and is a founding board member of Unite 2 Fight Paralysis. Susan works part-time as an IT project manager and, along with husband, Colin, is raising 2 teenage daughters, Lauren and Megan.

Kris Gulden - Kris was injured on May 26, 1998, when she was hit by a car while riding her bicycle. At the time of her accident she was a police officer in Alexandria, Virginia. She has been active in raising awareness and funds for spinal cord injury research, and has been to Capitol Hill several times to speak about SCNT. Kris has testified at committee hearings in the California state senate, and most recently, in the Virginia state senate, and recorded a public service announcement for CAMR in 2002.

Bob Mulcahy – Bob suffered a C5/6 spinal cord injury in April of 2002 in a diving accident. He recovered a great deal of function and is able to walk short distances with a cane. However, he deals daily with the numerous physical challenges that accompany his injury. Bob works as a Project Manager for the Boston Parks & Recreation Department. He is also an Ambassador for the Christopher Reeve Foundation, and in his new life as a quadriplegic is dedicated to the effort to find a cure.

Don Reed – Don's son Roman suffered a C-5 injury in 1994 while playing college football. Since that moment Don has been a tireless advocate in the effort to cure paralysis. He helped develop and pass both the Roman Reed Spinal Cord Injury Research Act and Proposition 71 in California. He writes a daily column at stemcellbattles.com and is the author of 5 published books and numerous magazine articles. Wherever the cure is being discussed, you are likely to find Don.

Carl Richards – Carl was paralyzed from a 30-foot fall on November 25, 1998, two days after his wife Shelley gave birth to their daughter Carley, who is now 7. Carl graduated with a bachelor's degree in business from Mississippi State University in 1989 and worked as an investment adviser and IT sales consultant in the nine years before his injury. He now trades stocks for a living and runs a web site, linksforcure.com, to advocate for a cure for spinal cord injury. Married to his wife Shelley for 10 years, Carl enjoys handcycling, politics, poker and cheering his daughter Carley's sports activities in his spare time.

Joe White – When Joe suffered an incomplete C5-6 injury in a fall from a mechanical bull at the county fair, he seized the chance to use his creativity by raising awareness about spinal cord injury. A dedicated single father, Joe has founded a SCI support group in his hometown. For last summer's county fair, Joe didn't ride any bulls- instead he organized a booth to promote his community's understanding of SCI and paralysis.