

## **Working 2 Walk 2008 Speakers - Confirmed as of February 7, 2008**

### **Simon J. Archibald, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer and Vice President of Clinical Affairs, Integra LifeSciences Corporation**

Dr. Archibald joined Integra in 1997 as Senior Director of Neurological Programs to oversee the clinical and commercial development of the NeuroGen nerve guide system, and to explore the development of a neurosurgical product line from the existing Integra collagen business and patent portfolio. In 1997 he initiated the program that resulted in the development of the DuraGen dural graft matrix for which he is a co-inventor. In 1999 he was promoted to vice President of R&D for the new Integra NeuroSciences business and in 2001 he was promoted to Vice President of Clinical Affairs. His primary research focus is in peripheral and central nervous system regeneration with a particular emphasis of translating discoveries in the basic sciences to clinical practice.

### **D. Michele Basso, PT, EdD, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, Ohio State University**

Dr. Basso's research work focuses on recovery of motor function after central nervous system (CNS) injury. To that end she developed the Basso Beattie Bresnahan (BBB) locomotor rating scale, now a standard tool in SCI treatment and research around the world. She continues to investigate specific neural components that may lead to enhanced functional recovery following spinal cord contusion. As a physical therapist, Dr. Basso understands the importance of treatment interventions after injury. She helped establish a body weight support treadmill training laboratory at OSU, and most recently has studied the effects of this therapy on pain management in SCI.

### **Anthony Caggiano, MD, PhD, Director of Preclinical Development, Acorda Therapeutics**

### **Stephen Davies, PhD, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences Center**

Dr. Davies is well-known in the SCI community for his study of decorin as an agent that not only inhibits the formation of scar tissue at the injury site, but may also have the ability to degrade existing scar tissue. CNS scar tissue presents a significant barrier to axon regeneration, and Dr. Davies has focused his research on solving this problem. In addition to the study of decorin, he has developed a parallel line of research focusing on embryonic glial restricted precursor cells (GRPs), which have the potential to promote a high degree of axon regeneration and functional recovery after transplantation to adult spinal cord injuries.

### **Jennifer French, Executive Director, Neurotech Network of The Society to Increase Mobility**

Jennifer acquired her C6-7 incomplete spinal cord injury in 1998. Prior to her injury, she was recreationally active with such sports as canoeing, snowboarding/skiing, sailing, fly fishing, biking. She continues to participate in all those activities post-injury. She is an active user of an FES system and is the first woman to receive the implanted Stand and Transfer system. Now residing in St. Petersburg, Florida, Jen is active in community sailing program, as well as racing locally and around the world.

### **Hans S. Keirstead, PhD, Associate Professor, Reeve-Irvine Research Center; Co-Director, Stem Cell Research Center at UC Irvine**

Canadian-born Dr. Keirstead received his PhD from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He earned the Cameron Award for the Outstanding PhD Thesis in Canada for his invention of a novel method to regenerate damaged spinal cords. After 4 years of post-doctoral studies at the University of Cambridge in England, Dr. Keirstead joined the Reeve-Irvine Research Center in 2000. He directs a large team investigating the cellular biology and treatment of spinal cord trauma. His Research Group developed an injection-based therapy that significantly decreased tissue loss if administered soon after injury. The team also investigates cell transplantation therapy. It is generating new hESC lines from blastocysts and using somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), and developing protocols to differentiate hESCs into high purity populations of human cells.

**John W. McDonald, MD, PhD, Director of the International Center of Spinal Cord Injury, Kennedy Krieger Institute & Johns Hopkins University**

John McDonald, III received his Ph.D. and M.D. degrees at the University of Michigan. He is currently the Executive Vice-President and Director of the International Center for Spinal Cord Injury located at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD. The International Center for Spinal Cord Injury is the world's first program dedicated to spinal cord injuries in children. Dr. McDonald is also a staff scientist at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at The John Hopkins School of Medicine. In his previous position as Medical Director at Washington University, he developed the "activity-based restoration" (ABR) therapies designed to help patients with long-term spinal cord injuries recover sensation, movement and independence.

**Damien D. Pearse, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Miami; Miami Project to Cure Paralysis**

Dr. Pearse's research focuses on the identification and development of combination strategies that target the following deficiencies after CNS injury: 1. Preventing progressive tissue damage; 2. Overcoming the physical impediment of the injury cyst; 3. Promotion of axon regeneration. Together with another Miami Project researcher, Dr. Mary Bartlett Bunge, Dr. Pearse developed a combination therapy using Schwann cell grafts, cyclic AMP, and Rolipram that has shown significant locomotor improvement in spinal injured rats. Dr. Pearse received the Erica Nader Research Award as Outstanding Young Scientist at the 31st Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA).

**Cristina L. Sadowsky, MD, Clinical Director, International Center for Spinal Cord Injury, Kennedy Krieger Institute**

- Born in Romania, Dr. Sadowsky attended the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest. After completing residencies at Case Western Reserve University and Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Sadowsky joined Kennedy Krieger Institute in 2004 in order to launch a brand-new spinal cord rehabilitation program with a focus on pediatric paralysis. She is an Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and the Director of the Paralysis Restoration Clinic at the ICSCI at Kennedy Krieger Institute. Dr. Sadowsky is a gifted physician who has a positive and compassionate attitude towards her calling. She specializes in "activity-based restoration" therapies and provides a philosophy of hope to each of her patients.

**Yang (Ted) D. Teng, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Departments of Neurosurgery, Physical & Rehabilitative Medicine, Harvard Medical School**

Dr. Teng obtained his MD and MS (neuropharmacology) degrees from the Medical College of Xuzhou and Beijing University Medical Center in China, respectively, and earned his PhD in cell biology/neuroscience at Georgetown University. His research interests are aimed at translational approaches to apply stem cell biology, tissue engineering and pharmacology to treat dysfunctional spinal cord resulting from trauma and degeneration. The main projects are related to: 1) mechanisms underlying post-injury spinal cord repair and regeneration that are mediated through neural stem cell and axonal growth promoting signal transductions; 2) host microenvironment mechanisms affecting donor stem cell survival and differentiation; 3) roles of biodegradable polymers in neural stem cell engraftment and differentiation, and CNS repair. His work received several awards; among them are the Annual CNS Research Award from the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in 2001 and the ERF New Investigator Award from the Foundation of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation in 2004.

**Wise Young, PhD, MD, Cell Biology & Neuroscience Director, Rutgers University**

Dr. Young is Director of the W M Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience at Rutgers University. He was part of the team that discovered and established high-dose methylprednisolone (MP) as the first effective therapy for spinal cord injuries. Dr. Young developed the first standardized rat spinal cord injury model used worldwide for testing therapies, formed the first consortium funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to test promising therapies, and helped establish several widely accepted clinical outcome measures in spinal cord injury research. He is founder of the Care

Cure Community, an online forum of information for patients, caregivers and families. Most recently he has been working in China to establish a human clinical trial network for spinal cord injury therapies.

**Jo Zukovich, Yoga Instructor**

Jo's open mind and joy for each student's experience of yoga has led her to be one of the *leading* yoga instructors for individuals with spinal cord injuries and other disablements. Over the twenty plus years of teaching, Jo and her husband, Mike, have had the honor to work with people from all areas of life each with their own unique challenges that they live with. Through the amazing art of yoga they each found new freedoms in living. Her dynamic and fun teaching style enables students of all abilities (able-bodied and disabled) to reach new potentials and discover the joy of yoga. She and her husband, Mike, team teach workshops so all students receive the attention they need.