

## **Working 2 Walk 2008 Speakers**

### **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 NeuraGen 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 is a licensed physical therapist and earned her doctorate in motor learning from Teachers College, Columbia University. She completed two post doctoral fellowships before being appointed to a faculty position in the Division of Physical Therapy at Ohio State University. She is currently an associate professor and Director of Research for the School of Allied Medical Professions at Ohio State. Dr. Basso has two research initiatives for spinal cord injury (SCI) – Projects which use a basic science approach and those that translate into the human clinic. The basic science projects focus on the cellular mechanisms of sensory and motor recovery after spinal cord injury (SCI). Some of these studies examine exercise-induced improvements in locomotion and reduction in pain. The clinical initiatives include participating in the first multicenter clinical trial in neurorehabilitation for SCI as well as directing a Neurorecovery Network Center at Ohio State University. The NRN Center is one of seven in the country which provides innovative activity-based treatment for people with incomplete SCI. Translating basic science findings into novel clinical interventions is the driving mission for Dr. Basso and her lab.

### **Stephen Davies, PhD, 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.

### **Brooke Ellison, President & Founder, The Brooke Ellison Project**

Brooke was hit by a car at the age of 11 while walking home from school. The 1990 accident left her paralyzed from the neck down and dependent on a ventilator. Ten years after her injury, Brooke graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University and gave a commencement address. Since her graduation Brooke has worked as a public speaker, run for the New York State Senate, delivered a Congressional briefing, and earned a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard. She and her mother, Jean, documented their story in the book, [The Brooke Ellison Story](#), which was later made into a movie directed by Christopher Reeve. Her latest endeavor is creation of The Brooke Ellison Project, dedicated to providing education and grassroots mobilization on behalf of stem cell research. She has also established BrookePAC, a political action committee to aid in the passage of stem cell research legislation.

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

Jennifer French acquired her C6-7 incomplete spinal cord injury as a result of a snowboarding accident, in 1998. Prior to her injury, she was recreationally active with such sports as canoeing, snowboarding/skiing, sailing, fly fishing, scuba diving/snorkeling and biking. After her injury, she still participates in all those activities. She is an active user of Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) systems. In November 1999, she was the first woman to receive the Implantable Stand & Transfer System. Now residing in St. Petersburg, Florida, Jen is actively involved with the community sailing program and is a member of the 2006 U.S. Disabled Sailing Team. As a user of neurotechnology who has reaped its benefits, she is the co-founder of a non-profit organization, Neurotech Network. The organization's focus is to educate and advocate to and for persons with impairments, their care-givers and health care professionals regarding neurotechnology. Most recently, Jennifer's story was featured in the documentary film, "To Have Courage", and in the recently published book, "Shattered Nerves".

**Rachel Hammerman, Associate, WHD Government Affairs**

Rachel works as a government relations and policy analyst, providing clients with a wide range of services including legislative research, monitoring and analysis. She plays an integral part in the development and implementation of client legislative strategies as well as spearheading Federal Appropriations efforts at WHD Government Affairs. Prior to joining WHDGA Rachel worked at the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation (CDRF), where she designed and implemented activities for the Christopher Reeve Action Network, an online, grassroots advocacy network. From her tenure at the CDRF, Ms. Hammerman developed an expertise in patient advocacy and public health policy. She currently specializes in establishing alliances with national disease groups and patient organizations, and designing and implementing advocacy, congressional and communications strategies.

**Mark R. Hurtt, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Alseres Pharmaceuticals**

Dr. Mark R. Hurtt was named Alseres' Chief Medical Officer in October 2005. Most recently, Dr. Hurtt was Senior Director of Clinical Research at Neurogen Corporation in Branford, CT. Prior to Neurogen, Dr. Hurtt was Director of Drug Development and Director of Clinical Research at Pfizer Global Research and Development in Ann Arbor, MI. Dr. Hurtt is Board certified in Neurology and Neuropathology. He received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College and served as a Medical Officer in the United States Navy. He trained in neurology and neuropathology and was an assistant professor in the Departments of Neurology and Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh.

**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.

**Michael Manganiello, Principal, WHD Government Affairs**

Michael has more than 13 years of experience working in the government and public affairs arena, specializing in the areas of patient advocacy and public health. He has a strong background in formulating public health policy, establishing alliances with disease groups/patient organizations and designing advocacy, congressional and communications strategies. He played an integral role in establishing the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, designing its organizational structure and subsequent reorganizations to fulfill its evolving mission. Michael advises the Director of the National Institutes of Health as a member of the Council of Public Representatives (COPR), and holds numerous advisory positions with organizations advocating for the advancement of research. He is a founding member, President Emeritus and current board director of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR).

**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.

**Sean Tipton, Director of Public Affairs, American Society for Reproductive Medicine**

Sean has extensive experience communicating with members of Congress and the media about the particulars of stem cell research. During his tenure as president of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR) in 2007, Sean was on the front line responding to the numerous "research breakthrough" stories and advocating for lifting of President Bush's restrictions on research. Sean has worked with hundreds of advocates on effective ways of explaining the complexities of stem cell research, and the urgent need for our government to enable this science to go forward.

**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.