



# THE CORD

## CHRISTOPHER REEVE PARALYSIS FOUNDATION HONORS MAGEE'S INNOVATIVE LOCOMOTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

*The Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation*



(CRPF) honored Magee Rehabilitation Hospital's Locomotor Training Clinic with the NeuroRecovery Network Award at a fundraiser for spinal

cord injury research called "A Step Toward Hope." Magee received the award for helping contribute to developing the NeuroRecovery Network of the CRPF.

The Network aims to create a system of specialized centers designed to provide standardized care to people with spinal cord injuries and other selected neurological disorders based on current scientific and clinical evidence.

"We are honored to collaborate in the development of the NeuroRecovery Network and to continue working with the CRPF to enhance the lives of persons with spinal cord injuries," says Mary Schmidt Read, PT, MS, Spinal Cord Injury Program Director and Coordinator of Research at Magee. "The Locomotor Training Clinic is an example of state-of-the-art therapy bridging the gap between research and clinical practice."

A partner with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in the Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of Delaware Valley (RSCICDV) since 1978 - one of 16 such federally designated spinal cord injury model centers in the United States - Magee is one of two founding members of the CRPF NeuroRecovery Network in the nation. The NeuroRecovery Network's initial therapy is Locomotor Training.

Magee recently expanded its Locomotor Training Clinic into its outpatient program. This therapy is based on current knowledge of how the brain and spinal cord control stepping and how the nervous system learns a motor skill.

Locomotor Training includes use of body weight supported treadmill training in which participants are placed in a parachute type harness attached to an overhead bar and positioned over a treadmill. Once the treadmill begins moving, therapists help individuals move their legs in a way that optimizes sensory inputs. This process helps individuals with certain types of neurologic dysfunction enhance their locomotor skills and eventually walking ability.

Magee previously participated in a five-year study of locomotor training supported by the National Institute of Health. For more information, please call (215) 587-3151.

### Inside The Cord

Research & Education	p. 6
Spinal Cord Injury	p. 9
Support Groups	
Wheelchair Sports	p. 11
Community Programs	p. 13
The Arts	p. 14

*This project is supported, in part, by:*

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C., grant #H133N-000023 and the Friends of Jerry Segal.



Magee Rehabilitation



## RESEARCH & EDUCATION

### *RESEARCH FOCUS GROUP*

The Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of Delaware Valley (RSCICDV) at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Magee Rehabilitation are conducting focus groups to evaluate consumer's priorities in dealing with recovery following a traumatic spinal cord injury. The focus group will be held at Magee

Hospital. You will be reimbursed for your time and free parking will be provided.

If you are a person with SCI and would like to participate or would like more information about the project, please contact **Mary Patrick, R.N.**, RSCICDV Project Coordinator at **(215) 955-6579**.

### *RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED*

1. The SCI Center has developed a research tool to measure improvement in walking in persons with spinal cord injury. We are seeking volunteers to help us validate the scale and make sure it is reliable. Research participants must be motor incomplete and able to walk short distances with or without assistive devices or assistance. Subjects will be required to come to Magee Rehabilitation Hospital on 2 different occasions for about 2



hours each visit. Those who participate will be reimbursed \$100 per visit for travel expenses and provided with free parking.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please call **Mary Patrick, R.N.**, RSCICDV Project Coordinator, at **(215) 955-6579**.

2. Research Participants Needed for SCI Pain Study (one-time, 45-minute telephone survey). Please call our toll free number at **1-877-686-5300** or visit our web site at <http://www.spinalcord.uab.edu> and follow the Participate in Research link for more information.

### *ONGOING RESEARCH DRUG STUDY*

The Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of Delaware Valley (RSCICDV) at Thomas Jefferson University, a cooperative program between Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, has been participating in a study evaluating a new investigative drug that may benefit persons with spinal cord injury. This international clinical trial has been evaluating the effect of this investigational medication and its role in improving motor function for individuals with

motor incomplete chronic spinal cord injury. Volunteers for this study have been participating over the past six months, and will continue for another six months. However, new enrollment has been closed by the company, as they have reached their target enrollment internationally. Results of this study will be reported in the future, following data analysis and publication.

## CLINICAL TRIAL



The Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley (RSCICDV) at Thomas Jefferson University is currently conducting a clinical trial to investigate the potential of a new therapy, BA-210 (Cethrin®), in acute spinal cord injury. BA-210 is a recombinant protein drug, which acts as a Rho antagonist to promote neuroregeneration and neuroprotection in the Central Nervous System (CNS). BioAxone Therapeutics, Inc is sponsoring this trial. BioAxone Inc. has shown in animal studies that BA-210 reduces the damage from spinal cord injury and stimulates axon regeneration when applied to the spinal cord. Further, BA-210 applied to the dura mater can penetrate into CNS tissue. In this clinical trial, BA-210 will be applied to the surface of the dura mater of the spinal cord together with

Tisseel®, a fibrin sealant normally used to repair small dural tears.

This is a first in man study, which involves a single application of BA-210, during surgery within 7 days following spinal cord injury. Male or female patients aged between 16 and 70 years with acute thoracic or cervical spinal cord injury (with no motor or sensory function in the sacral segment) can be enrolled. The primary goal of this study is to determine the safety and tolerability of BA-210 when administered in conjunction with fibrin sealant to the dura mater of the spinal cord. Also, this study is designed to determine the effects of BA-210 on neurological function in subjects with complete spinal cord injury. James Harrop, M.D. from the Department of Neurosurgery at Thomas Jefferson University will serve as the Principal Investigator.

## ONGOING RESEARCH of the RSCICDV

### Current

1. A phase II, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter study to assess the efficacy and safety of HP184 at 100, 200, and 400 mg doses administered orally once daily for twenty-four weeks in adult subjects with chronic spinal cord injury.  
*Sponsor: Aventis Pharmaceuticals.*
2. A phase I/IIa dose-ranging study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of BA-210 and the neurological status of patients following administration of a single extradural application of Cethrin® during surgery for acute and cervical spinal cord injury.  
*Sponsor: BioAxone Therapeutics Inc.*
3. Peripheral denervation following spinal cord injury (Using MRI to study nerve function following spinal cord injury).  
*Sponsor: American Paraplegia Society*
4. Restoration of walking after spinal cord injury - elements of a disability measure.  
*Sponsor: National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).*
5. Restoration of walking after spinal cord injury - a consumer preference for walking.  
*Sponsor: National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).*

### Completed Clinical Trials

1. Open-label extension of double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group study to evaluate safety, tolerability and activity of oral Famipridine-SR in subjects with chronic incomplete spinal cord injury.  
*Sponsor: Acorda Therapeutics.*
2. Restoration of walking after spinal cord injury - validation of the Walking Index for Spinal Cord Injury (WISCI) scale for hierarchical ranking. *Sponsor: National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).*
3. Study the effects of Body Weight Supported Treadmill Training in acute incomplete spinal cord injury.  
*Sponsor: National Institute of Health (NIH).*
4. A multi-site, open label study to evaluate 250 mg oral Neotrofin™ BID in patients with subacute complete spinal cord injury over 12 weeks.  
*Sponsor: NeoTherapeutics, Inc.*
5. Double-blind, placebo-controlled, 12-week, parallel group study to evaluate safety and efficacy of oral Famipridine-SR in subjects with moderate to severe spasticity resulting from chronic, incomplete spinal cord injury.  
*Sponsor: Acorda Therapeutics.*
6. Eye-voice enablement technology: EVENTech, hands-free computer access for the disabled.  
*Sponsor: National Institute of Health.*

## SPINAL CORD SOCIETY

The Spinal Cord Society meets at Magee Rehabilitation on the 6th floor at 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month. The Spinal Cord Society puts 100% of its efforts into research for the cure of spinal cord dysfunction.

If you would like to support this research, consider attending one of these meetings.

For more information, please contact **Chris Cellucci** at [cellucci@ursinus.edu](mailto:cellucci@ursinus.edu) or (610) 296-7429, or **Dennis Ledger** at [dledger@csc.com](mailto:dledger@csc.com) or (856) 468-4401.

## *THE WORLD CONGRESS & EXPOSITION on DISABILITIES in the CITY of BROTHERLY LOVE*

This year, you have the unique opportunity to participate in the World Congress & Exposition on Disabilities when it will have its home at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, on December 1-3, 2005. It's your chance to meet with over 200 exhibitors representing a wide range of industries and associations including pharmaceutical, assistive technology, automotive, mobility, durable medical equipment, personal care, computer and many others. You'll learn about new products and services that are helping improve the lives of those with disabilities. You'll thrill at the athletic prowess of Magee's wheelchair athletes as they demonstrate

wheelchair rugby, power soccer, and wheelchair basketball. Gather information, compare products and services, or take advantage of discounted pricing

and show specials. And don't forget to visit the Philly non-profit pavilion to learn about local agencies and services for people with disabilities. For more information, contact **201-226-1446** or [www.wcdexpo.com](http://www.wcdexpo.com).



## IMPORTANT WEB PAGES

Find information on research, education, and community programs on these webpages:

[www.spinalcordcenter.org](http://www.spinalcordcenter.org), [www.mageerehab.org](http://www.mageerehab.org), [www.mageepeers.org](http://www.mageepeers.org)

**Other sites of interest:**

[www.wcdexpo.com](http://www.wcdexpo.com), [www.christopherreeve.org](http://www.christopherreeve.org), <http://members.aol.com/scsweb>

## SPINAL CORD INJURY SUPPORT GROUPS

### *SCI PEERS, SHARING EXPERIENCES*

The SCI-Peer Consultant Group provides individuals who have suffered a SCI the chance to learn from those who have rehabilitated following such an injury.

**MENTORS**-If you have rehabilitated from a SCI, please consider volunteering as a peer consultant to help others as they adjust to life with an injury.

**PROTEGES**-For individuals adjusting to life with a SCI, mentors can answer questions and address concerns based on their personal experiences.

Magee can match peers based on injury level, social situations, age, gender, marital status, recreational interests and vocational experience.



To request a peer consultation, or to volunteer as a mentor, call **Marie Protesto** or **Sonya Dibeler** at **(215) 587-3174**, or e-mail [pcoordinator@mageerehab.org](mailto:pcoordinator@mageerehab.org).

### *SCI FAMILY PEERS*



Family Peer Support is a group in which specially trained families who have experience with a spinal cord injury help others who share their struggles. Family members and significant

others of individuals who have had a spinal cord injury are encouraged to attend. Inpatient and outpatient families are

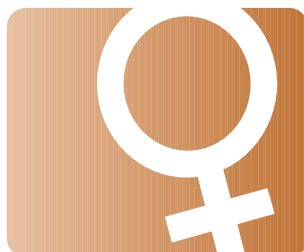
welcome. Family Peer Counselors offer reassurance, support and helpful practical tips.

This group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. in room 537 on the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital.

For more information, call **Pat Thieringer** at **(215) 587-3412**.

### *WOMEN'S DISABILITY SUPPORT GROUP*

To help women with a disability explore their thoughts and feelings about life with a disability, Magee provides a supportive, psychotherapy group each Monday afternoon. A clinical psychologist with expertise in



disability rehabilitation leads the group, which addresses topics such as relationships, career issues, intimacy and sexuality.

For more information about this group or other psychological services, call **Dr. Nancy Rosenberg** at **(215) 587-3210**.

## **SCI RESOURCE & SUPPORT GROUP**

This group provides education, recreation and support opportunities to individuals with spinal cord injuries. Traditionally, meetings are held at Magee on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room. However, social outings are scheduled based on availability and pricing.

We are always looking for new topics. If you have an idea for a topic or would like more information, please call **Marie Protesto** or **Sonya Dibeler** at **(215) 587-3174**, or e-mail [poordinator@mageerehab.org](mailto:poordinator@mageerehab.org).

## **TENTATIVE TOPIC SCHEDULE**

October 2005	Animal Assistants
November 2005	Art Museum
December 2005	Holiday Party
January 2006	Open Forum
February 2006	Nutrition
March 2006	Bowling



Visit the Magee Peer Website at  
**[www.mageepeers.org](http://www.mageepeers.org)**

The Magee Peers Website is the first of its kind. The entire site is specifically for persons with spinal cord injuries.

[www.mageepeers.org](http://www.mageepeers.org) contains disability information and resources, learn about upcoming events, peer support, and the sale or donation of durable medical equipment. Links to OVR, DVR, and hireAbility are provided.

*Whatever you need to know is in there!*

## WHEELCHAIR SPORTS

### *SCI PEERS, SHARING EXPERIENCES*



Some great people have already turned out for this exciting new sport and we are always looking for more players for our inaugural Power Soccer season. Power Soccer is a

game ANYONE in a power wheelchair can play. Two teams of 4 power chair users attack, defend, and maneuver an oversized soccer ball in an attempt to score points on the opponent's goal. The game is similar to the nonstop action seen in a typical indoor soccer game. Power Soccer is the first competitive team sport designed and developed specifically for power wheelchair users. Power soccer players include persons with quadriplegia, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, head trauma, stroke and other disabilities.

Sports do more than exercise your body - they engage your brain. A catastrophic injury may have disabled your body, but your mind is fine and inner fire still burns. Watching sports and rooting for your team is fun, but nothing

compares to a little friendly competition. You can prove you can do it just as well (or maybe a little better) than the other guy. The will to win, the competitive spirit of an athlete is in no way limited or diminished because of the use of a wheelchair.

New players will be taught basic skills and strategies of the sport and play a modified schedule of games against local teams. Ball guards, uniforms and coaching will be provided in addition to most travel expenses for the competitions. If you have waited for the chance to compete in sports and been denied opportunities due to your need for a power wheelchair - your wait is over.

Please join us for our exciting first season! Our practices will be held on Saturdays from 1-3 p.m. at Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Street, Philadelphia. To sign up, please contact **Pat Thieringer** at [pthieringer@mageerehab.org](mailto:pthieringer@mageerehab.org) or **(215) 587-3412**.

## Life – Be in It

Staying active is the key to a happy and healthy life. Magee Rehabilitation and other Philadelphia agencies offer numerous specialized recreation opportunities at little or no cost. For more information on additional Magee sports and other specialized recreational opportunities, please consult the Magee Recreation Resource Guide. For a copy of the resource guide, please email **Pat Thieringer** at [pthieringer@mageerehab.org](mailto:pthieringer@mageerehab.org).

## MAGEE EAGLES WHEELCHAIR RUGBY



As their season begins, the Magee Eagles Wheelchair Rugby Team continues to build on last year's unprecedented

success with a second place finish at the Division II Wheelchair Rugby National Championships. This year's team features a strong core group of veterans, as well as a few new enthusiastic rookies who have already begun contributing to the success of the squad.

This year, the Eagles are scheduled to compete in regular season tournaments in Chicago, Pittsburgh, West Palm Beach, and

Boston. In addition, we will be hosting the 15th annual Beast of the East tournament at the Riverwinds Community Center in Thorofare, NJ, October 21-23, 2005. We hope that our tough tournament schedule will prepare us to make a strong drive to win the Division II National Championships this year.

As always, the Magee Eagles encourage all prospective players and volunteers to come out and join the quad rugby experience. Practices are held every Thursday from 6:00- 9:00 PM at Carousel House on Belmont Ave., Philadelphia.

Please contact **Pat Thieringer** at **(215) 587-3412** or **AJ Nanayakkara** at **(215) 205-3076** for more information.

## MAGEE SIXERS SPOKESMEN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL



The Magee Sixers Spokesmen is developing a new team to encourage rookie players to join their ranks this season. Practices will be held at Old Pine Street Center, 4th and Lombard Street in Philadelphia.

New players will be taught basic skills and strategies

of the sport and play a modified schedule of games against local teams. Sports chairs, uniforms and coaching will be provided in addition to most travel expenses for the sport. If you love the game, you have to try this physically demanding team sport!

In addition to our new rookie team, we have a group of veteran players on a Division II team which will be playing a very competitive schedule this season. Many of their tournaments will feature the top twenty

teams in the country. With this schedule we hope to prepare for a run to the Final Four of the Division II National Wheelchair Basketball Association National Championships.

This is the tenth season the Philadelphia 76ers, one of 19 NBA teams sponsoring wheelchair basketball teams, have partnered with Magee to help support the Magee Sixers Spokesmen. As members of the Sixers Organization we play a halftime exhibition at the Wachovia Center, publish a team media guide, receive tickets to Sixer Games and participate in Sixers' Charity events.

To find out more about the Magee Sixers Spokesmen team or obtain our full schedules contact **Pat Thieringer** at **(215) 587-3412**.

Mark your calendar for two local events:  
The Carousel Tournament, February 10-12, 2006  
and the Sixers Halftime exhibition at  
the Wachovia center on January 31, 2006.

*All home games are free and open to the public.*

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### THINK FIRST



To help prevent disabling head and spinal cord injuries among children, teens and young adults, Magee's Think First Program holds dynamic presentations at schools. Our program is part of the nationally coordinated Think First program. Presentations consist of injury prevention lessons and testimonials from adults with disabilities.

If you have a spinal cord injury or brain injury and are interested in changing behaviors and saving lives, please consider joining Think First and speaking to students. Since Magee values your experience we will reimburse you for your time.

If you are interested or know of a school that would like to host one of our assemblies, please call **Joe Davis**, Think First Coordinator, at **(215) 587-3400**.

### NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

The Narcotics Anonymous group meets every Sunday at 7 p.m. in room 222-224. All are welcome to this safe environment for addressing the issues of addiction.

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This group meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Magee's Cafeteria. For more information about NA or AA, please call Joe Davis at **(215) 587-3400**.

### hireAbility

*hireAbility* is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities seek employment throughout Philadelphia and South Jersey. Headquartered at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital with offices in Blackwood, NJ, *hireAbility* works with a number of area businesses and receives daily updates on open positions in the region.

The organization also partners with various community agencies that provide computer and assistive technology training as well as other skills training. In addition, *hireAbility*

can refer you to organizations that provide housing programs, transportation information and other services designed to help individuals return to work.

For more information, please call **(215) 587-3080**.



## LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED

The Legal Clinic for the Disabled provides free civil law legal services to low-income individuals with physical disabilities. Located at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, the nonprofit organization can help with cases involving wrongful evictions, consumer fraud, employment discrimination and failure to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Other services include estate planning and benefits counseling.

The Legal Clinic would like to work with you regarding any of the above issues. For more information about direct representation of outreach programs, please call **(215) 587-3350**.



## PATIENT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER & MEDICAL LIBRARY

Are there wheelchair accessible hotels in Philadelphia? Where can I buy a home access ramp? How does my injury affect my spouse and family members? What are the latest therapies related to my injury or medical condition? These questions are the order of the day for the Magee Patient Family Resource Center and Medical Library.

Staffed by a Medical Librarian, our facility has a unique collection of books, journals, tapes and other media to answer questions related to physical disability. Guests are also free to use our computers for Internet access and browse our leisure reading collection of daily newspapers, popular fiction, books on tape and large print books.

For more information, contact **Laura Koepfler, MLS, Library Service Manager**, at **(215) 587-3423** or **lkoepfler@mageerehab.org**.

**Hours of operation:**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday:  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday:  
8:30 am - 8:00 pm



## THE ARTS

### MAGEE PLAYERS



Magee Rehabilitation Hospital is hosting a theatre arts program for individuals with disabilities in the

Philadelphia region. This marks the sixth year Magee has provided this program. Participants will study a number of performing

art genres including improvisation, play writing, mime, acting and comedy. The class is also designed to help individuals enhance memory, analytical and communication skills, body awareness, creativity, self-confidence, public speaking, flexibility and social skills. Classes are held 1 - 3:30 p.m. on Fridays through December. Registration for the class is \$15. For more information or to register, please call **(215) 587-3063**.