
University of Washington Rehabilitation Medicine Newsletter
May 2004

1. University of Washington, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine ranked #1 again for NIH funding.
2. Jodie Haselkorn, M.D., MPH, Associate Professor, leads development of Spasticity Management Guidelines for Multiple Sclerosis.
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1. University of Washington, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine ranked #1 again for NIH funding.

We are very pleased to report that the University of Washington, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine has been ranked #1 again for NIH funding amongst all Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation departments nationally. In fiscal year 2003 we had \$3.8 million dollars in NIH funding, with nine grants. This is over twice as much as the #2 University (Columbia) at \$1.9 million dollars. This is the eighth year in a row in which we have been ranked either #1 or #2 nationally. It also represents more than a doubling in NIH funding for our department since 1999. Congratulations are extended to all the departmental faculty and staff who have made this possible. Full details of the national ranking can be found at <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/award/rank/physmed03.htm>.

2. Jodie Haselkorn, M.D., MPH, Associate Professor, leads development of Spasticity Management Guidelines for Multiple Sclerosis.

The Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers, supported by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, has recently published Spasticity Management Guidelines for individuals with multiple sclerosis. This comprehensive document was put together by an esteemed panel, which was led by Jodie Haselkorn, M.D., MPH, who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Director of the VA M.S. Center of Excellence West. Also on the panel was Jim Little, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine, and Assistant Chief of Spinal Cord

Injury at the Seattle VA. The guidelines are a comprehensive review of the literature with summary recommendations for how to best treat spasticity in individuals with multiple sclerosis. For further information about the guidelines contact Dr. Haselkorn at <Jodi.Haselkorn@med.va.gov>. Copies of the guidelines can be obtained by e-mailing Tina Trott at <tina.trott@mscare.org> at the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers.

3. Peter Esselman, M.D., Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine Co-Chairs Faculty and Staff Campaign at Harborview.

We were pleased to learn that Peter Esselman, M.D. has volunteered to serve as Faculty Co-Chair on the 2004 Harborview Staff Campaign. This is running under the theme “We are family”. The staff campaign has raised a total of nearly \$1.5 million dollars since it started in 1992. The goal this year is \$300,000. There are many very important funds that contribute to patient care and funding the Harborview mission. A full listing of funds for those interested is available for UW employees at <https://hmcweb.washington.edu/go/sc>. Many thanks to Dr. Esselman for contributing his time to this important cause. Dr. Esselman can be reached at <esselman@u.washington.edu> (but if you call or email, don't be surprised if you're asked for a donation).

4. Kathleen Bell, M.D., Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine, leads discussion on mild traumatic brain injury.


Kathy Bell, Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine led a discussion on “Mild traumatic brain injury: Current thoughts on diagnosis and management” May 6th in the Turner Auditorium at the University of Washington. In this discussion, she presented what happens with a concussion and focused on the neurophysiological and pathological changes that occur after a mild head injury. This was coordinated via Telemedicine to Idaho Virtual Grand Rounds and broadcasted live throughout Idaho. For further information, Dr. Bell can be contacted at <krbell@u.washington.edu>.

5. Harborview Rehabilitation Nurses participate in Nurses Week.

Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit nurses at Harborview, Beth Hall, RN and Adora Moncada, RN participated in a celebration of Nurses Week by contributing to a poster display at Harborview. Beth and Adora were invited by virtue of the fact that they had presented papers or posters at professional conferences over the prior year. These activities were part of the week long recognition for Nurses Week that included the unveiling of a commissioned painting of a nurse by Harborview employee, Mary Larson, RN.

6. Chuck Bombardier, Ph.D. and Diana Cardenas, M.D. receive accolades for their presentations at the American Spinal Injury Association meeting.

We were pleased to hear that Dr. Chuck Bombardier's poster on “Symptoms of major depression in people with spinal cord injury: Implications for screening” received the Best Poster Award at the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) meeting this month in Denver. In addition, Dr. Diana Cardenas won second place in the Best Paper Award category for her



paper on “Etiology and Incidence of Rehospitalization after Traumatic SCI: A Multicenter Analysis”. Dr. Cardenas’ co-authors included Jeanne Hoffman, Ph.D. (UW Rehabilitation Medicine), Steven Kirshblum (Kessler Institute), and William McKinley (Medical College of Virginia). Congratulations to Drs. Cardenas and Bombardier.

7. Efforts continue to introduce undergraduate students to disability studies.

Dr. Kurt Johnson, Associate Professor in Rehabilitation Medicine, together with Dennis Lang and Sherrie Brown, have been teaching several undergraduate courses in Disability Studies, within the Law, Society, and Justice program in Political Sciences at the University of Washington. Dennis Lang has taught the introductory course on disability studies, Kurt Johnson has taught the disability law and policy course, and Sherrie Brown has taught international human rights and disability. We have been encouraged by the excellent evaluations, with some reporting “this is the best course I have ever taken”. These faculty are now considering whether a Minor in Disability Studies might be proposed to the University of Washington. These efforts are critical in educating our undergraduate students, and the public at large, regarding disability.

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