Reaping the Benefits of Continuing Education

The rapidity of progress in the field of spinal cord injury underscores the pressing need for continuing education. More than ever before, SCI professionals and their patients are benefiting from collaborations that mine the advances in basic science, technology, neuropsychology, engineering, therapy, rehabilitation research, and clinical care. The special content in this issue of *The Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine* exemplifies the benefits of these collaborative educational efforts. In addition to the abstracts and awards from this year’s 33rd Scientific Meeting of American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA), we present the highlights of the (APS) 53rd Annual Conference of the American Paraplegia Society held in 2006.

Our featured special article is William H. Donovan, MD’s Munro Lecture, which he presented at the APS conference. Dr. Donovan’s presentation, which was ranked #1 by conference attendees, was a fascinating look at the origins of spinal cord injury medicine, the current state of SCI research, and the avenues for future exploration. We are pleased to capture the essence of that memorable presentation, “Spinal Cord Injury—Past, Present and Future,” for our readers. Our APS Highlights also include details of the top ranked presentations and posters, as well as photos of the annual awards and special recognitions.

This issue also features the platform and poster abstracts for ASIA’s May 30-June 2, 2007 meeting in Tampa, with special designations for award-eligible abstracts, and recognition of invited lecturers and recipients of the Synthes Resident Research Award and the first annual “David Apple Award for Excellence in Publishing in SCI Rehabilitation Research.” The Apple Award is a newly established author award that recognizes the best SCI-related article published during the previous year by an ASIA member. Named in honor of David Apple, MD, it is sponsored by ASIA, Shepherd Center, and Thomas Land Publishers.

Meetings of professionals in SCI obviously offer invaluable opportunities to stay abreast of developments, interact with colleagues and acknowledge excellence in the field of spinal cord injury medicine. Right now is the time to plan to attend the upcoming 2007 North American Spinal Cord Injury Conference and Disability Expo to be held at Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Kissimmee, Florida, August 27–29. The meetings of APS, American Association of SCI Nurses (AASCIN), American Association of SCI Psychologists and Social Workers (AASCI PSW) and the Therapy Leadership Council in Spinal Cord Injury will be held in conjunction with this comprehensive convocation sponsored by United Spinal Association. In addition to fine clinical and scientific programs and many opportunities for continuing education credit and collegial interaction, the location near Orlando offers a wealth of entertainment and recreational opportunities for friends and families. You may register at each of the professional societies’ web sites, or via the official conference web site at www.sciconference.org.

By actively participating in SCI meetings, you will reap personal and professional benefits, and contribute to improving the care of individuals with spinal cord injury and dysfunction.

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