

Guest Editorial

Greetings on this second issue of the JPRM on the topic of Spina Bifida. This issue provides a review of skin breakdown, tethered cord, Care of Adults with Spina Bifida, the Malone Antegrade Continence Enema (MACE), and spinal cord injury. Included are two original cerebral palsy articles regarding apolipoprotein E and Functional Motor Severity in CP and an Intensive Motor Skills Treatment Program for children with CP.

The First World Congress on Spina Bifida Research and Care was held in Orlando, Florida from March 15–18, 2009, and was a great success. There were nearly 400 attendees, representing over 20 countries. Dr. David McLone, who wrote the commentary in the last edition, received a lifetime achievement award to a standing ovation for his pioneering work with persons with Spina Bifida. The international flavor came through with individual paper presentations in the breakout sessions, showing some of the successes and struggles of providing care in different countries. The striking message was that the issues for this population are very similar across countries and cultures.

Despite a separate breakout related to transition and adult care, transition related issues were strongly represented in each of the other breakout sessions, which included Neurosurgery, Urology, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Therapies, Developmental Pediatrics, Neuropsychology and Nursing and Allied Health. Keynote speakers in each of the areas spoke on new developments in Spina Bifida care and research. Papers and posters were presented in each of the breakouts, with an impressive array of research findings. The abstracts from the presentations are available at the Spina Bifida Association website, www.spinabifidaassociation.org.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will be

publishing proceedings, including papers from the keynote speakers and summaries from each of the breakout sessions. This will be considered a complement and follow-up to the “Green Book” [1] which outlines a research agenda for Spina Bifida, from 2003. Plans are already being discussed related to future World Congress meetings. We hope to see you there, and look forward to your original research submissions both to the meeting and to this journal.

Guest Editors

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Reference

- [1] G.S. Liptak, (ed.), *Evidence-Based Practice in Spina Bifida: Developing a Research Agenda*, Spina Bifida Association, Washington, DC, 2003.