We are delighted to report that as of October 1, 2017, MossRehab and Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute have received their 5th consecutive 5-year award from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research as a TBI Model System (TBIMS). Under the direction of Tessa Hart, PhD and John Whyte, MD, PhD, the Moss TBIMS will join 15 other centers across the US for the 2017-2022 project cycle. Watch future issues of this newsletter for more information about local and collaborative projects that will roll out over the next few years.

Congratulations to all involved!

In 2003, Bridget Kaiser “woke up” at MossRehab Hospital, having no idea that she had been a passenger in a serious car crash weeks earlier. What she did know was that her legs didn’t work anymore and that she felt like she was “freaking out.” Her mother was in the room and told her about the accident. There followed intense frustration as Bridget knew that she knew how to do things like walk and write, but couldn’t make her body do them. In the grueling days that followed, she celebrated every achievement with her family and her treatment team: “The first time I stood for a full minute, you would have thought I won the Olympics!”

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Meet Rachel Raucci, our newest TBIMS participant recruiter and data collector. Rachel, who hails from Pine Bush in New York’s Hudson Valley, received her Bachelors’ degree in Neuroscience from Ursinus College in 2017, with minors in Biology and Environmental Studies. Rachel now lives in Manayunk and enjoys exploring Philadelphia in her spare time. She also plays tennis and likes to read, hike, and surf Netflix. Welcome to the Moss TBIMS, Rachel!
Update about the MEMRI-D-TBI: Clinical Trial on Severe Memory Impairments due to TBI

The Moss TBIMS continues its involvement in a 5-year treatment study funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, entitled Multicenter Evaluation of Memory Remediation after TBI with Donepezil: The MEMRI-TBI-D Study. This study is testing a treatment for memory deficits, which are among the most common complaints after TBI. Participants are randomly assigned to receive donepezil or placebo (an inert pill) daily for 10 weeks. Donepezil is a safe, FDA-approved medication that boosts the levels of a neurotransmitter (naturally occurring chemical in the brain) which is thought to be important in memory functioning.

This study is still open to enrollment. If you have experienced a TBI and you have difficulty remembering everyday material such as events, conversations, or things you want to do, you might be able to participate.

What is involved:
A screening interview and examination will take place first, to make sure you are eligible.
Eligible participants will then be in the outpatient treatment phase of the study for 10 weeks, which includes medical monitoring and assessment of memory function and other aspects of daily life.
A family member or friend who spends a lot of time with you will answer questions about what they think of your memory and functioning.
You will be reimbursed for your time and transportation costs.

If you’re interested in finding out more, please contact:
Shira Neuberger at 215-663-6432 or neubergs@einstein.edu
Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute

Websites to Watch: LoveYourBrain

Loveyourbrain.com: LoveYourBrain Foundation is a community of individuals dedicated to brain injury prevention and healing. Former professional snowboarder Kevin Pearce founded LoveYourBrain after a near-fatal snowboarding accident. Kevin promotes awareness of brain injury and what it means to love your brain through motivational speaking, retreats, and educational programs. Visit this website to learn more about upcoming community programs and resources to help those affected by brain injury.

EMPOWERMENT and SUPPORT GROUP INFORMATION

PENNSYLVANIA EMPOWERMENT GROUP
The Elkins Park Empowerment Group meets on the second Monday of each month from 5:30PM at 60 Township Line Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027.

For more info, contact Debbi Eisen at 215-663-6857.

NEW JERSEY SUPPORT GROUP
The New Jersey Support Group meets most months on the fourth Tuesday from 3:00-4:00 at 135 S. Broad Street, Woodbury NJ 08096.

For more info, contact Dayna Scott at 856-853-9900.
The Moss TBI Model System

The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research has designated MossRehab as a Model System for traumatic brain injury since 1997. The TBI Model System program seeks to improve lives by creating and disseminating new knowledge about the course, treatment and outcomes of TBI.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (TBIMS) Centers for the current funding cycle (2017-2022)