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Shepherd Center Honored for Public Service

Posted October 1, 2007

The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) has awarded its 2007 Distinguished Public Service Award to the founders of the Shepherd Center, an Atlanta catastrophic care hospital specializing in the treatment of people with spinal cord injury and disease, acquired brain injury, multiple sclerosis and other neuromuscular disorders, and urological problems.

The AAPM&R, comprised of more than 7500 rehabilitation physicians, presents the Distinguished Public Service Award annually to individuals who have made a significant impact in the rehabilitation field.

This year's award honors Alana, Harold and James Shepherd for their work and leadership at Shepherd Center during the past 32 years, as well as their advocacy efforts for all people with disabilities.

The Shepherds founded Shepherd Center in Atlanta in 1975. After James Shepherd suffered a paralyzing spinal cord injury in a 1973 diving accident, the Shepherd family became frustrated by the lack of rehabilitation hospitals in the Atlanta area at that time. James traveled to Colorado for treatment, and after returning home, he and his parents began plans to establish the first rehabilitation treatment facility in the Southeast.

The award was presented during the AAPM&R's 68th annual meeting on Sept. 29 in Boston. Previous honorees include Senators Edward Kennedy, Bob Dole and Orrin Hatch, as well as Jerry Lewis and the late Dana Reeve.

Experts Convene to Address Chronic Pain

Posted September 17, 2007

Pain management specialists from around the country will gather at the 14th Napa Pain

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Conference on October 5-7 to learn advanced techniques for helping patients who live with chronic pain.

Sponsored by Eric Grigsby, MD, founder and medical director of SpectrumCare Pain Treatment Center in Napa, California, the conference will examine recent developments in chronic pain care as well as coach professionals in developing their own practices.

Physicians, allied health professionals and other practitioners will receive training in chronic pain management through lectures, workshops, and a hands-on intraspinal infusion lab. These sessions will cover intraspinal techniques in pain diagnosis and treatment; treating pain caused by cancer, terminal illness, and neuropathic injury; the effect of opioid therapy on the endocrine system; and treating chronic pain in the elderly.

A business management seminar to coach healthcare professionals in developing the business side of their practices will complement the clinical emphasis of the conference. Led by Michelle Byers of MB Business Consulting and Dr. Grigsby, the seminar will examine business and management strategies for private healthcare practices.

All proceeds will benefit the Margaret Dunn Grigsby Foundation, a Grigsby family foundation that supports numerous health related non-profit organizations in the U.S. and Africa.

September is Pain Awareness Month

Posted September 5, 2007

September is National Pain Awareness Month, dedicated to increasing understanding of pain issues and supporting the more than 70 million Americans who suffer from chronic pain daily, according to The National Pain Foundation (NPF).

The month-long pain awareness effort coincides with coverage of federal data indicating that sales of five commonly prescribed pain medications have almost doubled over the last eight years. The NPF, an educational and support organization for pain patients and their families, views this as a positive sign that pain is being taken more seriously by the medical profession.

"More health professionals now understand that pain must be adequately treated to improve function and quality of life in those who live with chronic pain conditions," said NPF Chairman Albert Ray, MD, past president of the American Academy of Pain Medicine. "The trend of not understanding chronic pain is reversing with recent advances in pharmaceuticals, more research and improved scientific understanding of pain as a disease."

Chronic pain is the number one cause of adult disability in the United States, affecting one in three Americans. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, pain costs the U.S. economy \$100 billion annually in lost workdays, medical expenses and related expenses. Unmanaged pain also wreaks havoc on patients, their families and friends.

A multidisciplinary approach to pain treatment and management can help people with pain regain greater control of their daily lives, said Dr. Ray. Pain can be managed in a variety of ways, including opioid and non-opioid medications, neuromodulation that employs electrical stimulators for the nervous system, and a wide range of non-traditional methods, including acupuncture, physical therapy, massage and behavioral and psychological treatments that alter the way a person's brain processes pain information.

For more information, visit www.nationalpainfoundation.org

Physiotherapy Associates Names New Director

Posted August 20, 2007

Physiotherapy Associates has appointed Curt M. Selquist, former company group chairman with Johnson & Johnson, to its board of directors.

During his 36-year career with Johnson & Johnson, Selquist led a number of its domestic and international health care businesses. Selquist is an active leader with several health care organizations, including the National Alliance for Health Information

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