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Gabrielle Giffords' Extraordinary Journey

On January 21, 2011, United States Representative Gabrielle Giffords was transferred from the University of Arizona Medical Center to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center's Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit. The Arizona congresswoman was shot in the head at pointblank range on Jan. 8 when an assailant opened fire outside a grocery store in Tucson, killing six people and wounding 13 others. She arrived at the hospital in

upgraded her condition from serious to good four days after her admission, and she was transferred to TIRR Memorial Hermann to begin the long journey facing those whose lives have been interrupted by illness or injury.

At the rehabilitation hospital, a multidisciplinary team of affiliated physicians, nurses and therapists who specialize in traumatic brain injury worked closely with Rep.

Giffords to develop the best combination of therapies for a return to function.

"Gabby was incredibly motivated from the beginning," says chief medical officer **Gerard Francisco, M.D.**, who was in charge of her care during her stay at the rehabilitation hospital.

"We work together like an orchestra, designing therapies that treat the whole person and expedite

recovery. She and her husband Mark played key roles in that orchestra."

Capt. Mark Kelly, a retired NASA astronaut and Navy captain, is his wife's biggest champion. "It was a tragic event with a huge impact on us

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Gabrielle Giffords and Mark Kelly

critical condition, and a portion of her skull was removed to relieve brain swelling.

In a press conference immediately following Rep. Giffords' transition to the Mischer Neuroscience Institute at Memorial Hermann, medical teams from both hospitals described her transfer of care as "seamless." She was medically stable when she arrived and began rehabilitation at the acute-care hospital the following day.

Rep. Giffords' physician team

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Oleg Y. Chernyshev, M.D., Ph.D.
Medical Director, TIRR Memorial Hermann
Sleep Medicine Center
Assistant Professor of Neurology, UTHealth
Medical School

Kris Conley, C.C.C.-S.L.P.
Speech-Language Pathologist, Adult and
Pediatric Outpatient Rehabilitation

Lynne Davis, Ph.D.
Neuropsychologist and Investigator at the
Brain Injury Research Center

**Mary Ann Euliarte, R.N., M.S.N.,
M.B.A., C.R.R.N.**
Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Operating Officer

Gerard E. Francisco, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Chair of the Department of PM&R, UTHealth
Medical School

Lex Frieden
Director, Independent Living Research
Utilization
Professor of Biomedical Informatics and
Professor of Rehabilitation, UTHealth Medical
School
Professor of Rehabilitation, Baylor College of
Medicine
The University of Texas System Chancellor's
Health Fellow on Disability

Martin Grabois, M.D.
Professor and Chair of the Department of
PM&R
Baylor College of Medicine

Jennifer Hale, P.T., D.P.T., N.C.S.
Physical Therapist at TIRR Memorial Hermann
Adult and Pediatric Outpatient Rehabilitation

Catherine Cooper Hay, O.T.R.
Staff Occupational Therapist at TIRR Memorial
Hermann

Jan Ivey, L.C.S.W.
Primary Therapist and Social Worker, Adult and
Pediatric Outpatient Programs

Carl Josehart
TIRR Memorial Hermann CEO

Joyce Leverenz, C.R.C.
Vocational Counselor, Adult and Pediatric
Outpatient Rehabilitation

**Mark Sherer, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.,
F.A.C.R.M.**
Senior Scientist
Director of Research and Director of
Neuropsychology
Clinical Professor of PM&R, Baylor College of
Medicine

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

This past Christmas marked the fifth anniversary of my arrival at TIRR Memorial Hermann in 2006, just a few months after TIRR merged with Memorial Hermann. Although



Carl E. Josehart, CEO

uncertainty accompanies any major change, we quickly discovered that the merger brought new energy and financial resources to our mission of helping rehabilitation patients reengage in full and meaningful lives.

In the months that followed, Mark Sherer returned as senior scientist and director of research, and we forged a new partnership with the Memorial Hermann Clinical Innovation and Research Institute, moving our research initiatives to a new level. Today, research at TIRR Memorial Hermann continues to expand through partnerships with local, regional and national institutions.

We've grown from 96 beds to 119 and added new technology. We've opened new procedure rooms, added

a Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency Program, and transformed our Outpatient Medical Clinic into a medical home for people with disabilities. In 2009, we celebrated our 50th anniversary and welcomed Gerard Francisco, M.D., in his new role as chief medical officer at TIRR Memorial Hermann and chair of the department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Medical School.

As we enter a new year, we once again face uncertainty in the post-reform world of healthcare. Throughout our history, we've risen to the challenge, and I'm confident that we'll continue to do so. I'm proud of the achievements of our team at TIRR Memorial Hermann. They're talented, innovative and committed to delivering the highest standard of care. Together, we've laid a firm foundation for success in 2012 and the years to come.

Carl E. Josehart
Chief Executive Officer
TIRR Memorial Hermann

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Carl E. Josehart, CEO
Gerard Francisco, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Mary Ann Euliarte, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A., C.R.R.N.
Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Operations Officer
Mark Sherer, Ph.D., A.B.P.P., F.A.C.R.M.
Director of Research
Susan Thomas, Editor
Karen Kephart, Writer
Steve Stanley, Designer

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Winter 2012

We have opportunities for outstanding rehabilitation professionals. If you are interested in joining our team at U.S. News & World Report's No. 4 rehabilitation hospital, contact Monica Kinnard, recruitment consultant, at 713.797.7281 or Monica.Kinnard@memorialhermann.org. All available opportunities can be viewed at memorialhermann.org.

www.tirrmemorialhermann.org, www.ilru.org

FEATURES

TIRR Memorial Hermann's New Sleep Medicine Center Provides State-of-the-Art Inpatient Care

"Sleep disorders are common after a traumatic brain injury, stroke or other neurological illnesses, and may deter full participation in a rehabilitation program," says **Oleg Y. Chernyshev, M.D., Ph.D.**, who recently joined TIRR Memorial Hermann as medical director of the hospital's new inpatient Sleep Medicine Center. "We believe strongly that sleep disorder management in the rehabilitation setting facilitates recovery."

A diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and fellowship-trained sleep medicine

injury, post-traumatic headache and other disorders.

"We provide rehabilitative care for a range of disorders, but the majority of our patients are recovering from stroke, traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury," says Dr. Chernyshev, who is an assistant professor of neurology at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston (UTHealth) Medical School. "Damage to the neurological system can cause disruption of sleep. For instance, we've found that ischemic stroke patients often have sleep disruptive disorders



New Sleep Medicine Center

like obstructive sleep apnea, circadian misalignment, hypersomnia or insomnia, as well as other conditions that should be addressed as part of the rehabilitation plan. Patients with cervical spinal cord injury may have sleep-related breathing disorders or periodic limb movement disorder. Medications we give patients may also disrupt sleep and affect consciousness. If the patient isn't alert enough to fully participate in rehabilitation, recovery will be slower. For this reason, we believe that aggressive management of sleep disorders is important."

At the Center, certified polysomnographic technologists perform polysomnograms, multiple sleep latency tests, maintenance of wakefulness tests, ambulatory portable sleep studies and actigraphy for the diagnosis of sleep-related breathing disorders, nocturnal oxygenation

problems, narcolepsy, bruxism, periodic limb movement disorder, difficulty maintaining sleep, unusual behavior during sleep, REM behavior disorder, sleep-related esophageal reflux, hypersomnolence, insomnia, sleep-wake schedule disruption and other disorders.

"Before we opened the Sleep Medicine Center, our only method of performing sleep studies on inpatients who could not be moved was to contract with an outside vendor to bring in portable equipment, or to document how many hours the patient was awake during the night," says chief medical officer **Gerard Francisco, M.D.** "I've had a special interest in sleep medicine since I was in training. When Dr. Grotta mentioned that he was going to hire a sleep specialist, we agreed that we could work together to realize a long-term dream. We're very pleased to have Dr. Chernyshev on our medical staff."

James C. Grotta, M.D., who is chief of neurology at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, professor and chair of the department of Neurology at the UTHealth Medical School and co-director of the Mischer Neuroscience Institute, recruited Dr. Chernyshev, who had trained with him while completing his neurology residency and a vascular neurology fellowship. "Sleep disorders have gained attention in the last decade," Dr. Grotta says. "It's one of those diagnoses, like attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, that is prevalent but was not fully recognized until recently. We're discovering that in many cases chronic headaches, depression and some dementias are caused by lack of sleep. Dr. Chernyshev

Sleep Medicine Center continues on page 6

The Challenge Program Teaches Community Re-entry Skills One Day at a Time

In early August 2009, Eric Pfalzer suffered a traumatic brain injury in a motocross accident. He was transported by air ambulance to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, where he remained in a coma for 13 days. He was discharged to TIRR Memorial Hermann on August 27, and walked

journey, watching him blossom as he improved.”

Between January and mid-June, when he graduated from the Challenge Program, Pfalzer spent several days a week engaged in an interdisciplinary approach that addresses the physical abilities, memory strategies, interpersonal communication, and vocational and problem-solving skills needed for long-term success. Like all participants in the program, he built strength, learned new skills and gained confidence.

The Challenge Program’s success has led to a tripling of its census in the last three years to the current average of 60 clients. “We adapt our approach to the needs of

our clients,” says vocational coordinator **Joyce Leverenz, C.R.C.** “Our basic philosophy is this: if our clients can return to the community and be involved, they will improve. Some clients go back to work toward the end of their program here, and we follow them at work by staying in touch with their managers. Therapy restores function, but there may be deficits. We help them around the problems.”

The program offers client services in four areas, depending on individual needs: independence services focused on safety and productivity at home and in the community; volunteer services that assist clients in structured activities outside the home; employment services that teach compensatory strategies and provide

support for a return to work; and educational services that prepare high school and post-secondary school students to succeed when they return to school.

Jeanette Farah is also a recent graduate of the Challenge Program. Following a stroke in February 2011 and acute care treatment at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, she was admitted to TIRR Memorial Hermann as an inpatient. After a week of therapy she was discharged and assigned to the Challenge Program.

“The best thing about the program is that it’s so comprehensive,” Farah says. “They attack the problem at all levels. I graduated last November, and at graduation we have the opportunity to say a few words to the staff and patients, so that people in the program can see our successes. I told them that it wasn’t easy. Some days you just don’t want to be there, but it’s important to stick with it. Thanks to their help, I’m back at work. I can’t thank them enough.”

Eric Pfalzer, a mechanical engineer, returned to his position at Hoerbiger Group part-time in August 2011, two years after his accident. A year earlier, he’d proposed to Katie, and they were married on October 15, 2011.

“Recovery has taught me patience,” he says. “A brain injury is not a broken leg. It’s hard work and it’s slow, and you have to take it one day at a time.”

“Watching Katie and Eric together as a couple really touched my heart,” Ivey says. “When we work with people so closely for such a long period of time, we feel like we become part of the family for a time. I think of recovery as taking life back piece by piece. We want our clients to have as much of their lives back as they can get.” ♦



Eric and Katie Pfalzar

out of the rehabilitation hospital two and a half months later – on his own. “It was a miracle,” says his wife, Katie Pfalzer.

In January 2010, Pfalzer entered TIRR Memorial Hermann’s outpatient Challenge Program, which provides specialized services focused on community re-entry skills critical for the transition to independent living, school or work following brain injury. **Jan Ivey, L.C.S.W.**, was assigned as his primary therapist.

“I remember the first day Eric walked through the door,” Ivey says. “He wanted everything to be fixed tomorrow. He was incredibly dedicated to his therapy, and his family was very supportive. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to walk with him through his rehabilitation

NIDRR Renews Funding for Southwest ADA Center

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) has awarded the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) program at TIRR Memorial Hermann a five-year, \$6-million Regional ADA Technical Assistance Center Program grant. The award marks the fifth consecutive cycle of funding for the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) ADA Center, the region’s leading resource on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability rights laws.

“Our goal at the Southwest ADA Center is full inclusion and integration into society of individuals with disabilities – especially those with severe disabilities – and improvement of the services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act,” says **Lex Frieden**, director of the ILRU. “To that end, we provide outreach, training and technical assistance, and disseminate information to individuals, groups and organizations who have rights and responsibilities under the ADA.”

Building on its 20 years of experience serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, the Southwest ADA Center will continue its mission over the next five years with a special focus on minority individuals with disabilities, postsecondary institutions, small businesses, veterans with disabilities, employers, the

The award marks the fifth consecutive cycle of funding for the DBTAC Southwest ADA Center, the region’s leading resource on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability rights laws.

hospitality industry, emergency preparedness organizations and individuals newly covered by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. “We’ve been successful in reaching across a broad spectrum of need, ranging from large international corporations to local small businesses,” Frieden says. “We’ve worked with school systems and municipalities, and have been

engaged in issues ranging from hurricane preparedness to advising major hotel chains and the airline industry on how best to serve people with disabilities. Over the years, we’ve seen a major shift in attitude. Twenty years ago, businesses and organizations wanted to be sure they were meeting the ADA’s minimum requirements to avoid penalties. Today, they view people with disabilities as an important segment of the economy.”

The renewed grant has allowed the Southwest ADA Center to start new initiatives, including a blog called “Life from Another Perspective” for the 29 Houston Community Newspapers, which serve the Greater Houston suburban market. Future plans include expanded media outreach to Hispanics in the southwestern United States, and to Native Americans with disabilities. “We’ll work more closely with the travel industry in the next five years to help them meet new ADA requirements, and we’re also focused on helping employers provide job opportunities that fully engage people with disabilities in the workforce.” ♦

EMR One Year Later

A year has passed since TIRR Memorial Hermann began the transition to a paperless environment by implementing electronic medical records (EMR) and computerized physician order entry (CPOE), bringing evidence-based medicine to the point of care.

“Our EMR system is now fully

Euliarte and chief medical officer Gerard Francisco, M.D., say that affiliated physicians have embraced the concept and are true partners in taking the EMR system to new levels.

implemented, and we’re on the downside of the learning curve,” says **Mary Ann Euliarte, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A., C.R.R.N.**, chief nursing officer and chief operating officer at TIRR Memorial Hermann. “We’re now at the stage where we can look back at what we’ve accomplished and set standards for documentation. As we fine-tune the system, we’re beginning to realize new opportunities for auditing via the EMR. For example, some of our required regulatory audits were done manually – we’d have to pull the chart and go page by page. Now we can complete the audits at amazing speed. The ability to access and review data through the EMR allows us to evaluate protocols and assists us in determining

their effectiveness in improving the quality of care.”

Euliarte and chief medical officer **Gerard Francisco, M.D.**, say that affiliated physicians have embraced the concept and are true partners in taking the EMR system to new levels. “Medical staff members are now able to access hundreds of plans for delivering care and transmit them electronically



Mary Ann Euliarte, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A., C.R.R.N.

EMR continues on page 6

Extraordinary Journey continued from page 1

as a family. But you keep working because you don't want that to be the end result. The injury Gabby suffered kills 95 percent of the people who sustain it. The 5 percent who remain typically don't recover very well, but she's done remarkably well. Her continuous improvement motivates

Rep. Giffords' physician team upgraded her condition from serious to good four days after her admission, and she was transferred to TIRR Memorial Hermann to begin the long journey facing those whose lives have been interrupted by illness or injury.

her to go further and do more. Carl Josehart and his team really went out of their way to do everything they possibly could to make our experience at TIRR Memorial Hermann as positive and productive as possible."

On May 18, neurosurgeon Dong

Kim, M.D., director of the Mischer Neuroscience Institute and chair of the Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Medical School, performed a successful cranioplasty to replace the piece of Rep. Giffords' skull that was removed on Jan. 8. He attached a plastic, computer-generated implant to her skull, along with a shunt to drain fluid, eliminating the need for a protective helmet.

On June 8, she celebrated another milestone - her 41st birthday. After her discharge from TIRR Memorial Hermann in mid-July, she began a program of intensive physical therapy and speech therapy at TIRR Memorial Hermann Adult Outpatient Rehabilitation. On most days, she's driven from the home she shares with her husband near his former employer NASA to the outpatient rehabilitation center.

Kris Conley, C.C.C.-S.L.P., speech-language pathologist, works with Rep.

Giffords three days a week. "She's got heart. She's focused. She's amazing. She is indefatigable and just absolutely determined to do everything she possibly can to return," Conley says. "She's one of those people you meet in life who just touches everyone. There's something very, very special about her. I can understand why she's been called the most positive member of Congress. She's a joy to work with."

"A brain injury like hers is a kind of hurricane, blowing away some words and phrases and leaving others almost within reach, but buried deep," says Capt. Kelly in a new book, *Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope*, written by the couple with the help of writer Jeffrey Zaslow.

"Our main goal for now is continued hard work and continued progress. 2011 was tough for us, and we're hoping for a good 2012," he says.

His wife remains confident. "I will get stronger," she says. "I will return." ♦

Sleep Medicine Center continued from page 3

brings a lot to the table. He's exceptionally well trained, and his new position will allow him to integrate knowledge and training to help rehabilitation patients with neurological issues."

Dr. Chernyshev will also be engaged in research focused on the bidirectional relationship between obstructive sleep apnea and stroke, new therapies for normalization and regulation of sleep, and the relationship between sleep and recovery from stroke, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury.

For more information about the TIRR Memorial Hermann Sleep Medicine Center, call 713.797.7743. ♦

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to the appropriate department or individual to be carried out. The entire care team is on the same page, with no time lag in the sharing of information," Dr. Francisco says. "They can access the interdisciplinary plan of care and at a quick glance get a full picture of the patient's status."

Physicians can pull spreadsheets that graph trends based on lab tests or blood pressure results, and they no longer have to be on a nursing unit to order a medication for a patient. "It's an evolving process because we're still discovering ways to make the EMR more efficient," Dr. Francisco says. "We're very diligent in ensuring that all the changes we make are beneficial to the patient."

Physicians can pull spreadsheets that graph trends based on lab tests or blood pressure results, and they no longer have to be on a nursing unit to order a medication for a patient.

An added benefit for clinicians is avoiding sifting through stacks of paper to find pertinent patient information. A recent study in the *American Journal of Nursing* found that bacteria on paper can survive for at least three days and up to one week. EMR eliminates a major source of paper-transmitted bacteria: the patient chart. ♦

ON THE MOVE

TIRR Memorial Hermann Welcomes Oleg Y. Chernyshev, M.D., Ph.D.

Oleg Y. Chernyshev, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the medical staff of TIRR Memorial Hermann as medical director of the hospital's new Sleep Medicine Center, with a concomitant appointment



Oleg Y. Chernyshev, M.D., Ph.D.

as assistant professor in the department of Neurology at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Medical School. A diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Dr. Chernyshev comes to TIRR Memorial Hermann from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, where he was an attending physician. He specializes in early screening, diagnosis and management of sleep apnea in acute ischemic stroke patients to facilitate recovery from stroke, and in the incorporation of sleep medicine methodology in the development of innovative tools that enhance the recovery of patients with traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, post-traumatic headache and other disorders.

After earning his medical degree at I. M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy in Russia, Dr. Chernyshev completed a combined clinical neurology residency and doctorate at the same institution, where he focused on cerebral mechanisms of migraine

pathogenesis. During his residency and doctoral program, he completed a clinical and research fellowship at the Houston Headache Clinic, followed by a neurosonology fellowship at the UTHealth Medical School Stroke Center. He is certified in neurosonology by the American Society of Neuroimaging.

Following an internship in internal medicine at Atlantic City Regional Medical Center in New Jersey, he completed a neurology residency and a vascular neurology fellowship at the UTHealth Medical School, followed by a sleep medicine fellowship at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.

Dr. Chernyshev was awarded the

After earning his medical degree at I. M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy in Moscow, Russia, Dr. Chernyshev completed a combined clinical neurology residency and doctorate at the same institution

American Sleep Medicine Foundation/American Academy of Sleep Medicine's 2010 Physician Scientist Training Award in the Best Science category. He has received other research awards, including the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center/Institute for Cardiovascular Disease and Imaging Intramural Research Support Award and the Russian Presidential Grant.

He is a member of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, American Academy of Neurology, American Stroke Association, American Headache Society, International Headache Society and World Stroke Organization. He is an author and coauthor of research published in numerous medical journals, including *Neurology*, *Stroke*, *Headache*, *Cerebrovascular Diseases* and others.

Joanne McGee, Ph.D., Joins TIRR Memorial Hermann Adult and Pediatric Outpatient Rehabilitation

Clinical neuropsychologist **Joanne McGee, Ph.D.**, has joined the staff of the Challenge Program at TIRR Memorial Hermann Adult and Pediatric Outpatient Rehabilitation.



Joanne McGee, Ph.D.

Her addition brings to three the number of neuropsychologists serving the program, which provides specialized services focusing

on community re-entry skills critical for the transition to independent living, school or work following brain injury.

Dr. McGee received her doctorate in clinical behavioral medicine psychology with a specialization in neuropsychology at the University of North Texas in Denton, followed by postdoctoral training at Tulane University Medical Center's Neuropsychology Laboratory in New Orleans. Prior to joining TIRR Memorial Hermann, she was clinical director at ResCare Premier Texas in San Marcos, where she oversaw treatment programming for seven residential facilities providing residential rehabilitation, supported living, vocational rehabilitation and community reintegration services for individuals with brain injury. She currently holds a faculty appointment as adjunct professor in the College of Education at Texas State University in San Marcos.

On the Move continues on page 8

Known for her advocacy work on behalf of people whose lives have been interrupted by brain injury, Dr. McGee served as the 2010-2011 chair of the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council (TBIAC)

Prior to joining TIRR Memorial Hermann, Dr. McGee was clinical director at ResCare Premier Texas in San Marcos, where she oversaw treatment programming for seven residential facilities providing residential rehabilitation, supported living, vocational rehabilitation and community reintegration services for individuals with brain injury.

Legislation and Policy Committee. She is a former presiding officer of TBIAC, and during her 2006-2008 term, legislation was passed ensuring insurance coverage in Texas for cognitive rehabilitation services after brain injury and the establishment of the Office of Acquired Brain Injury at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. She has worked with that office to help youth with brain injury in the juvenile justice system, and has served on the Veterans Jail Diversion Committee to assist veterans with brain injury find support and services.

Dr. McGee is a member of the American Psychological Association, National Academy of Neuropsychology, Austin Neuropsychological Society and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. She has authored or coauthored numerous articles and made invited presentations to state and national brain injury organizations, including the North American Brain Injury Society, the National Academy of Neuropsychology, the American Psychological Association and the Brain Injury Association of Texas.

Rehabilitation Innovation Award Winners Announced at TIRR Memorial Hermann's Annual Research Luncheon

John Whyte, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute (MRRI), delivered the Charles C. Beall Lecture to 75 invited guests on November 10, 2011, at the second annual TIRR Memorial Hermann Research Luncheon in Houston. The luncheon is an annual event focusing on research under way at the rehabilitation hospital.

Beall, who died in February 2010, served TIRR Memorial Hermann for 10 years as CEO and for 29 years as a board member. Dr. Whyte, who is also director of attention research at MRRI and director of brain injury research at Drucker Brain Injury Center at MossRehab, has received numerous awards and honors for his outstanding research, lectureship and work as a pioneer in the field of brain injury rehabilitation.

The recipients of three TIRR Memorial Hermann Rehabilitation Innovation Awards were announced at the luncheon. The competitive awards make it possible for any staff member to play a role in the hospital's mission to conduct clinically inspired research that benefits rehabilitation patients. Each year, a Pilot Award of up to \$50,000 is granted to an experienced investigator to fund an innovative pilot project that will lead, ultimately, to federal funding for expanded research studies. Two staff awards, ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000, support smaller projects designed to give therapists, nurses, social workers and other staff hands-on experience in research with mentoring by experienced investigators.

Neuropsychologist **Lynne Davis, Ph.D.**, received the \$50,000 Pilot Award to

support her project "Evaluating Work Readiness in Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury: Development of an



Lynne Davis, Ph.D.

Online Interview Tool." She will use the award to develop a standardized measure of work readiness in patients recovering from traumatic brain injury. Currently, no such measure exists. Her project was selected for the award by two experienced peer reviewers for the National Institutes of Health, both of whom are affiliated with The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

This year's Staff Awards went to **Catherine Cooper Hay, O.T.R.**, for her



Catherine Cooper Hay, O.T.R.

study of "The Effectiveness of Using the iPad to Improve Orientation Sequencing and Independence with Basic ADL Tasks in Subjects Who Have Sustained an Acquired Brain Injury" and to

Jennifer Hale, P.T., D.P.T., N.C.S., for



Jennifer Hale, P.T., D.P.T., N.C.S.

"Comparison of an Advanced Ground Reaction Design Ankle-Foot Orthosis and a Traditional Articulated Ankle-Foot Orthosis on Gait and Balance in Individuals with Hemiparesis." Proposals submitted for the Staff Awards were reviewed by senior researchers at TIRR Memorial Hermann.

"We'd like all of our staff members to have the opportunity to be involved in research," says **Mark Sherer, Ph.D., A.B.P.P., F.A.C.R.M.**, senior scientist, director of research and director of neuropsychology at TIRR Memorial Hermann. "There's close integration of our research staff and clinical staff, which is mutually beneficial for both. Researchers have the opportunity to base their investigations on important clinical issues, and clinicians can learn how to bring new discoveries to the bedside, which ensures that we continue to provide the highest quality care."

Rehabilitation Solutions Advanced Case Management Conference Scheduled for February

TIRR Memorial Hermann's advanced case management conference featuring nationally and internationally recognized experts in the field of rehabilitation will be held on February 22, 2012. The one-day Rehabilitation Solutions program provides up-to-date information about current treatment techniques and research initiatives that affect people with catastrophic injuries and illnesses.

The program carries 6.0 CEUs for registered nurses, certified case managers, social workers, CRCCs and CDMSs. Registration for the event, which will be held at the United Way of Greater Houston located at 50 Waugh Drive, is \$30 for Memorial Hermann employees and \$50 for non-Memorial Hermann employees. Registration opened in December. To register online, visit www.tirrmemorialhermann.org, or call 713.797.7229 to be added to the mailing list for a conference brochure. ♦

ACCOLADES

Gerard Francisco, M.D., Presents Walter J. Zeiter Lectureship

TIRR Memorial Hermann Chief Medical Officer **Gerard E. Francisco, M.D.**, presented the 43rd Walter J. Zeiter Lectureship on Saturday, Nov. 19, during the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) Annual Assembly. He

Dr. Francisco challenged educators to rethink how training is being delivered to remain relevant to the general needs of the discipline, and the individual needs and learning styles of trainees.

spoke on "The Pursuit of Excellence in Physiatric Education and Practice," discussing the challenges and opportunities rehabilitation professionals face in maintaining quality PM&R training responsive to the evolving needs and changing demographics of people with disabilities. He challenged educators to rethink how training is being delivered to remain relevant to the general needs of the discipline, and the individual needs and learning styles of trainees.

The Walter J. Zeiter Lectureship was established by the AAPM&R in 1961 to honor psychiatrists who have made consistent contributions to the specialty and have earned the respect and admiration of their peers. Each year, the lectureship is awarded to a psychiatrist who shared Dr. Zeiter's qualities of statesmanship, scholarship, executive leadership and warm friendship.

Martin Grabois, M.D., Recognized by the Association of Academic Psychiatrists **Martin Grabois, M.D.**, has been named a Distinguished Member of the Association of Academic Psychiatrists.

The award recognizes distinguished psychiatrists of international status who are major contributors to the field through teaching, research and scholarly publication.

Dr. Grabois, who is professor and chair of the department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Baylor College of Medicine, is currently president-elect of the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) and will succeed to the presidency at the annual meeting in February 2012. He recently attended the AAPM board of directors meeting in Chicago, and as chair of the strategic planning committee, presented an update of the 2010 strategic plan. With 2,000 members, the AAPM is the primary organization for physicians practicing the specialty of pain medicine in the United States.

Texas Governor's Office Renames Annual Disability Employment Awards for Lex Frieden

The Texas Governor's Office Committee on People with Disabilities recently renamed its annual employment awards program after disability rights champion and independent living movement leader **Lex Frieden**, one of the architects of the Americans with

Disabilities Act of 1990.

"I am very honored by this recognition, which is as much a reflection of the outstanding work of my colleagues as it

is of my own achievements," says Frieden, who is The University of Texas System Chancellor's Health Fellow on Disability, a professor of biomedical informatics and rehabilitation at The University of Texas

Accolades continues on page 10

Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and director of the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) program at TIRR Memorial Hermann. He was appointed by President George W. Bush as chair of the National Council on Disability in 2002, and also served an eight-year term on the United Nations Panel of Experts on the Standard Rules for Disability. He is author or coauthor of more than 60 articles on independent living, disability rights and rehabilitation, and has received two Presidential Citations for his work in the field of disability.

The Committee on People with Disabilities has worked since 1979 to highlight the efforts of employers to hire and retain employees with disabilities. Each year during October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a local committee

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in Texas hosts the Annual Employment Awards Ceremony, and the winners in each of several categories are announced and introduced. The first presentation of the Lex Frieden Employment Awards took place at this year's award ceremony in Austin on Oct. 25, 2011, hosted by the Austin Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities. Frieden gave the keynote address at the awards, which have been presented annually since 1979 to employers, entrepreneurs

and professionals in the field of disabilities, for exemplary actions, methods and practices.

This year's award winners are Scott Tisdall of Walgreen's in Waxahachie, who received the committee's highest honor, the Governor's Trophy; Professional Contract Services Inc. in Killeen, honored with the Large Employer Award; Johnson Controls in San Antonio, which received the Medium Employer Award; Taco Cabana #278 in Austin, honored with the Small Employer Award; the Laredo Independent School District, recognized with the Non-Profit Employer Award; and the Texas RehabACTion Network of the Coastal Bend in Corpus Christi, winner of the Martha Arbutuckle Award for a Local Committee. For more information about the winners, visit http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/awards/employment_awards_winners/. ♦

ON THE PODIUM

Grabois M. Complex Regional Pain Syndrome: Etiology, Classification and Evaluation.



Martin Grabois, M.D.

Invited presentation to the American Congress of Rehabilitation Meeting (ACRM) in Atlanta. Dr. Grabois recently received the ACRM Distinguished Member Award for his service to the field and the organization.

Grabois M. Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Classification, Diagnosis and Treatment; Muscle Pain Syndromes: Diagnosis and Treatment. Invited presentations at the International Summit Forum on Development

and Prospect of Minimally Invasive Diagnosis and Treatment of Pain Medicine in Shenzhen, China.

Grabois M. Guidelines for Establishing Medical Rehabilitation in Developing Countries; Managing Chronic Pain in Rehabilitation Diagnosis. Invited presentation to the 4th International Congress of Avapes on Rehabilitation and Inclusion. Dr. Grabois also attended the Rehab International Executive Committee and Assembly meeting in his role as treasurer.

Grabois M. Fibromyalgia: Diagnosis Criteria and Differential Diagnosis and Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. Invited presentation to the Annual Congress of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation



Mark Sherer, Ph.D.

in Orlando, Fla. in November. He is past president of the AAPMR.

Sherer M. Assessment and Treatment of Impaired Self-Awareness.

Invited presentation to the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nov. 2-5.

William H. Donovan, M.D., delivered three lectures as a visiting professor at the University of Rochester in New York on October 14 and 15. He spoke to faculty and residents on "Respiratory Management and Pain Management following SCI" and to consumers and professionals on "Spinal Cord Injury: Past, Present and Future."



William H. Donovan, M.D.

and Treatment of Pain Medicine in Shenzhen, China.

Cindy Ivanhoe, M.D., chaired "Comprehensive Clinical Management" sponsored by Scientiae on Oct. 22 in Austin, Texas. She was guest editor of *Brain Injury Professional* magazine's issue on spasticity and has been named to the American Academy of Physical



Cindy Ivanhoe, M.D.

Medicine and Rehabilitation's Concussion Task Force. She was course director of "Medical Complications of Mild Traumatic Brain

Injury" at the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation conference held in Orlando, Florida, Nov. 17-20.

TIRR Nursing was well represented at the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses conference held in Las Vegas in November. Presenters included **Ann Gutierrez, R.N., C.R.R.N., C.B.I.S.**, "Providing Education for the Hispanic Patient That is Culturally and



Ann Gutierrez, R.N., C.R.R.N., C.B.I.S.



Kerry Davis, R.N., C.R.R.N., C.B.I.S.

Literacy-Level Appropriate;" **Kerry Davis, R.N., C.R.R.N., C.B.I.S.**, and **Debbie McCormack, R.N.**, "Connecting the Dots: Communication, Education and Family Adaptation." Poster presentations were made by **DeAnn Roberts, R.N., C.R.R.N.**, "Restraints: A Quality Improvement Project;" and **Becky Thayer, R.N., C.R.R.N.**, and **Sarah E. Lake-Wallace, Pharm.D., M.S.**, "Quiet



DeAnn Roberts, R.N., C.R.R.N.



Becky Thayer, R.N., C.R.R.N.



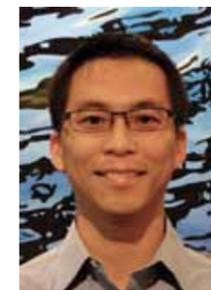
Sara Lake-Wallace, Pharm.D., M.S.



Lisa Thomas, R.N., C.R.R.N.

Zone for Medication Preparation. **Lisa Thomas, R.N., C.R.R.N., C.B.I.S.**, presented a paper on "Easing Transition to the Community with a Nurse-Initiated Program for Post-discharge Telephone Contact." **Ann Gutierrez**, who coauthored a chapter in *The Specialty Practice of Rehabilitation Nursing, Core Curriculum*, held a book signing at the conference.

Jasper Yen, Ph.D., has joined the UTHealth Motor Recovery Laboratory at TIRR Memorial Hermann as a



Jasper Yen, Ph.D.



Sheng Li, M.D., Ph.D.

postdoctoral research fellow, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health grant awarded to **Sheng Li, M.D., Ph.D.** Dr. Yen will work on motor recovery of upper-extremity function after stroke. ♦

IN THE NEWS

Members of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' therapy team were featured in an article that ran in the Nov. 20 issue of the *Houston Chronicle*. Included were speech pathologist **Kelley Warren Kirst, M.S., CCC-SLP, CBIS**, OT assistant **Dawn Phillips, COTA**, and music therapist **Maegan Morrow, MT-BC, NMT, CBIS**.

Lex Frieden wrote about support the Southwest ADA Center provides for people with disabilities in "The Irony of It All" in yourhoustonnews.com, Nov. 23.

Former patient **Ebony Horace** was featured in "Family Counts Its Blessings After Time of Hardship." *The Lufkin News*, Nov. 25.

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Courney Capps Shumway underwent rehabilitation at TIRR Memorial Hermann after a reaction to anesthesia stopped her heart. *The Lufkin News*, Nov. 25.

Maegan Morrow, MT-BC, NMT, CBIS, discussed her use of melodic intonation therapy and other techniques to aid in Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' recovery. *KTAR.com*, Nov. 20. Morrow was also featured in an article entitled "Music Can Help Retrain an Injured Brain," *USA Today*, Nov. 27. ♦



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MESSAGE FROM THE CMO

Over the past five years, I've had the pleasure of watching TIRR Memorial Hermann grow in new and positive



Gerard E. Francisco, M.D., CMO

ways. The merger of TIRR with Memorial Hermann in May 2006 and the arrival of Carl Josehart as CEO the following December were significant events. They

opened the door to many opportunities for physicians, beginning with an influx of financial support that has allowed us to add new rehabilitative technology and expand our medical, therapy and support staff.

We've dramatically increased our research efforts. When I joined the

medical staff in 1997, I told my colleagues that I came to TIRR Memorial Hermann not just for the first R, which stands for rehabilitation, but also for the second R - research. Since then, we've built a strong research infrastructure that closely intertwines with our clinical practice, benefiting both our patients and our researchers.

Our philosophy of close collaboration had led to a true partnership between physicians and administration. During the last five years, we've forged a stronger link among physicians, residents and administration. Last fall we took it a step farther and invited Carl to join us as a faculty member of the department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Medical School.

After the merger five years ago, I

remember a colleague from New York wondering whether TIRR Memorial Hermann had lost its glory. Without thinking hard, I said, "If that's true, then we'll have to create a new glory." The strong partnership of physicians and health care executives, new knowledge gained through research, creative thinking and an environment that supports innovation have made us what we are today and will be for many decades to come: one of the best rehabilitation institutions in the world.

*Gerard E. Francisco, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
TIRR Memorial Hermann
Chair, Department of Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation
UTHealth Medical School*

About TIRR Memorial Hermann

TIRR Memorial Hermann is a 119-bed nonprofit rehabilitation hospital located in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. Founded in 1959, TIRR Memorial Hermann has been named one of "America's Best Hospitals" by *U.S. News & World Report* for 22

consecutive years. TIRR Memorial Hermann provides rehabilitation services for individuals with spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, strokes, amputations and neuromuscular disorders.

TIRR Memorial Hermann is one of 12 hospitals in the not-for-profit Memorial Hermann system. An integrated healthcare system,

Memorial Hermann is known for world-class clinical expertise, patient-centered care, leading-edge technology and innovation. The system, with its exceptional medical staff and more than 20,000 employees, serves Southeast Texas and the Greater Houston community.

TIRR is a registered trademark of TIRR Foundation.