Gary Dunbar - Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year

2015 E. Malcolm Field Society Gala

FNI Field of Hope - Sounds of the Valley
Friday, September 25, 2015

James E. O’Neill Memorial Lecture
FNI Makes a Difference in the Lives of People in Mid-Michigan and Beyond

Since its inception over a quarter century ago, FNI (Field Neurosciences Institute) has embraced the goal of helping others, with the specific mission of providing the highest quality programs of clinical care, education, and research for those individuals and families struggling with some disorder or the brain or spinal cord. Although many people in the Saginaw area are somewhat familiar with FNI programs, few people are familiar with the complete picture of the many special programs that are offered to help neurological patients and their families. The major impetus for the program came from the vision that was shared by Dr. Malcolm Field and his close friends and colleagues who joined forces in an effort to push the envelope of clinical care for victims of horrendous head injuries or devastating diseases to the nervous system, including stroke, traumatic brain or spinal cord injury, brain tumors, and neurodegenerative diseases (such as multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer’s disease). In this effort, FNI has helped attract local surgeons and neurologists to contribute in the effort to provide first-class clinical care for area patients. The additions of Drs. Naman Salibi and Joe Adel, who are an integral part of FNI and its mission, exemplify neurosurgeons who bring significant advancement in new and better treatments that are being applied to those afflicted with brain and spinal cord damage or dysfunction. The outstanding educational programs provided at the twice-weekly FNI Grand Rounds also provide a forum for advancing new ideas and procedures for treating neurological disorders. The generous contributions of the “greater FNI family” at our annual Fall fundraisers and the numerous gifts provided by so many friends of FNI throughout the year have provided support in the acquisition for critically important, state-of-the-art surgical equipment, such as the Stealth system (for operative imaging) and the CyberKnife (for pin-point radiation treatments) have helped elevate the clinical care for local neurological patients to a world-class level.

Our educational programs also provide top quality service to the region. Perhaps our most visible program is the ThinkFirst program. Many people have seen one of the FNI vans around the Mid-Michigan area, usually at local schools or at public events at which Mary Kunz or Tami Bersano and other staff members or volunteers are distributing literature and presenting talks on injury prevention, and are often seen fitting helmets for bicyclists, skiers, and snowboarders of all ages. FNI’s ThinkFirst program is nationally recognized and has served as a model program across the state and beyond. We provide injury prevention programs in most of the schools in the nearby counties, including Saginaw, Bay, Arenac, Iosco, Midland, Isabella, and (thanks primarily due to the generous support of the Nicholls Family) Gratiot. We provide our popular “Buckle Your Brain” program for bicycle safety in K-12 schools throughout the area, but also offer driver safety programs in area high schools, utilizing our driving simulator to indicated the hazards of distracted driving (texting or cell phone use) or impaired driving (under the influence). We not only partner with school districts, but with local and national businesses (e.g., McDonald’s) and municipal organizations (e.g., law enforcement agencies) to provide life-saving, injury-prevention programs like “Caught Being Safe” whereby kids wearing helmets while bicycling, skating, or snowboarding are rewarded by law enforcement officers and given coupons for a free dessert at McDonald’s.

FNI’s educational programs extend far beyond the “ThinkFirst” injury prevention strategies and include a host of special outreach initiatives, including “A Matter of Balance”, stroke screenings, and sponsorships of special events, such as “Thunder in the Valley Games” (nationally recognized venue for physically disabled to compete in a host of sporting events), hosting support groups, and setting up Special Grand Rounds (for area physicians and health care providers) as well as some public lectures for general audiences. Heather Clark and Mary Kunz are certified instructors for the “Matter of Balance” program, which helps educate those with balance problems to utilize exercises and strategies to reduce chances of falling. Heather also leads the local support group for multiple sclerosis patients and their families and caregivers, providing information on new drugs and strategies to deal with this disorder, as well as providing a critical social network for these people. Similarly, Mary leads our local spinal cord injury support group providing education and social network to help those with spinal cord injury with new ways to adapt to their situation. Mary and FNI Administrative Assistant, Maria Schwarz-Gonzalez, along with Tami Bersano and other staff members have provided critical support for Michigan Sports Unlimited, particularly in managing their annual Thunder in the Valley games, in which FNI has helped sponsor since its inception eight years ago. FNI Executive Director, Gary Dunbar, along with other staff members are frequent guest speakers for a host of service organizations and support groups (especially those for patients with Alzheimer’s, Huntington’s, or Parkinson’s disease) all around the state. In addition, FNI hosts several special Grand Rounds, including some involving particularly difficult case studies (designated for physicians and healthcare providers to provide their collective expertise to address) and those for the general public (providing new ideas and research results for treating a variety of neurological disorders, such as stroke or neurodegenerative diseases.

In addition, as part of its educational mission, FNI supports neuroscience nursing by helping in the annual Neuroscience Nursing Golf Outing (used for educating nurses for neuro-nursing licensing and conference travel) and by providing the FNI Neuro-Nursing Scholarship for nursing students from Saginaw Valley State University who aspire to gain expertise in neuro-nursing. FNI also sponsors neuroscience research fellowships for area college students who want to be involved in neuroscience research. FNI also provides summer and year-long internships for high school and college students who desire to augment their learning with hands-on, cutting-edge neuroscience research experience offered at the FNI lab in Saginaw. Many of the volunteer student interns go on to successful careers in the biomedical fields and give credit for their ability to get into top-ranked colleges and universities or land their first-choice career opportunity to the invaluable research experience they received at the FNI lab in Saginaw.

The third major aspect of FNI’s mission is to promote research in the neurosciences. Again, FNI has provided major support in the advancement of both clinical and pre-clinical research efforts. Led by Heather Clark, our clinical research program has been involved in several national research projects, ranging from testing new devices to reduce pain generated by degenerative disc disease to a variety of new treatment paradigms for a large range or neurological disorders, including stroke, traumatic brain injury, and neurodegenerative diseases (such as Multiple Sclerosis). Unfortunately, this past year FNI lost one of its most prolific PIs (principal investigators) with the untimely passing of Dr. Barbara Jahnke. Nonetheless, the addition of new PIs, along with the steady contributions of Dr. Field, who serves as a PI on numerous clinical studies, will provide a solid foundation for building on the past and new educational research studies in the future.

The pre-clinical research program at the FNI lab is gaining international recognition. The FNI lab in Saginaw is headed by Drs. Mee-Sook Song and Panchanan Maiti, who have particular expertise in delineating some of the causes and potential treatments for neurodegenerative diseases, especially Alzheimer’s disease (AD). This past year, Dr. Song has prepared two important manuscripts, one for her work on use of brain derived neurotrophic factor for preserving function of cultured neurons from AD mice and the other for her work on proteins changes that occur during hypoxia (a cellular model of stroke). Drs. Dunbar and Song, along with Heather Clark, are also working with Dr. Salibi on a project designed to assess the role of bacterial infection in degenerative disc disease. Dr. Maiti has produced a major manuscript on the effects of a he is working on two new therapeutic approaches to treat AD and other neurodegenerative diseases by using a form of the dietary substance, curcumin (called nano-curcumin), as well as the use of a small-molecule drug, called GM1 ganglioside.
A major impetus to our pre-clinical research program at FNI is the collaborative partnerships we have maintained with Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) and Central Michigan University (CMU). Collaborative projects with Drs. Rosalyn Sweeting (who has an expertise in assessing genetic abnormalities), Charles Weaver (whose expertise is delineating possible causes and treatments for AD), and Jeff Smith (whose expertise is developing treatment strategies for traumatic brain injury) has produced fruitful results during the past couple of years, including several presentations at scientific conferences and published articles. Not only has this collaboration led to new scientific discoveries, they have provided unprecedented research opportunities for students at SVSU. Similarly, the collaborative arrangement with CMU has produced an extraordinary array of scientific findings and generated world-class research opportunities for students. Under the direction of Drs. Gary Dunbar and Julien Rossignol, the FNI lab at CMU produces scores of presentations and publications annually, including major translational research discoveries, such as the use of genetically modified adult stem cells for treating Huntington's disease (a discovery at the FNI lab at CMU that is the basis of a $17 million grant to collaborators at the University of California, Davis to use this treatment protocol in clinical tests on human Huntington's disease patients). The more recent discovery at CMU's FNI lab in a new method of producing induced pluripotent stem cells is gaining international attention, as it may provide a promising approach for replacing brain and spinal cord cells lost in a variety of disorders, many of which are being studied in the FNI lab at CMU, including stroke, spinal cord injury, brain tumors (glioblastomas), Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, as well as Huntington's disease. Beyond the scientific discoveries, the FNI lab at CMU has been a national model for student-centered research opportunities, producing more award winning student researchers in neuroscience than any lab in the state, and perhaps the nation (which was the primary reason that CMU's undergraduate neuroscience program was selected as the country's best in 2013).

The continued strong support and generous contributions to FNI will ensure its ability to make a difference in the lives of people in Mid-Michigan and beyond. The dedicated work of our Operations Manager, Cheri Burk, Administrative Assistant, Maria Schwarz-Gonzalez and Development Assistant, Eva Zazo, as well as the extraordinary efforts of the FNI Board of Directors, and especially our Chairperson, Martha Ann Joseph, will ensure that FNI will be able to continue to fulfill its mission and elevate its vision to new heights in the coming years. None of this would be possible, however, without the strong commitment of all the “Friends and Family of FNI” who generously donate their time, talent, and treasure in our shared quest to prevent, effectively treat, or even cure the neurological problems faced by virtually every family on the planet. We at FNI are most grateful for your generous support in this noble effort and hope we can count on your continual support in our efforts to help those who need it most.

E. Malcolm Field Soceity Gala
May 21, 2015

The 17th annual Gala was held at Horizon’s Conference Center and featured presentations by Dr. Field and Dr. Joseph Adel on new treatments for stroke and brain tumors. Dr. Field gave an overview of changes to neurological surgery throughout the years, particularly how innovations like CyberKnife have improved treatments and outcomes.

Dr. Adel presented treatments for stroke. He joined Dr. E. Malcolm Field and Dr. Naman Salibi at St. Mary’s of Michigan Neurosurgery Associates in 2014. He is a board certified dually trained neurosurgeon in endovascular interventional procedures as well as open vascular surgeries. He specializes in cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgery conditions, including intracranial techniques in endovascular neurosurgery.

The FNI Saginaw Valley State University Nursing Scholarships were presented by Judith P. Ruland, PhD, RN, CNE, Dean College of Health and Human Services to Michael Busch and Heather Hurney, both RNs at St. Mary's of Michigan.

2015 St. Mary’s Neuroscience Nursing Golf Outing
Saturday, August 15, 2015
Apple Mountain Golf Course
Freeland, MI

call 989-497-3117 to register or sponsor
Gary Dunbar named Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year

Central Michigan University neuroscience professor Gary Dunbar’s passion for teaching and mentoring has transformed the lives of hundreds of students throughout his 33-year career at CMU, all while guiding CMU’s neuroscience program to national prominence.

On this foundation, Dunbar has earned recognition as a 2015 Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year, sponsored by the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan.

Dunbar, a CMU alumnus, is a nationally recognized leader in neuroscience education. He developed and has nurtured CMU’s undergraduate neuroscience program, leading it to be named the country’s top program in 2013.

Dunbar has attained national recognition for his program of student-centered research and actively garners experiential learning opportunities for his students. Working alongside him, Dunbar’s students have conducted hands-on research, primarily using stem cells, that has resulted in significant findings related to the stroke, as well as diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Huntington’s.

“Dunbar’s passion for developing strong, independent thinkers is evidenced in the way he structures his classes and his research laboratory and also in the leaders who have emerged from his mentorship,” CMU Provost Michael Gealt said. “All of the students who have the opportunity to work with Dunbar comment on his commitment, the amount of time he devotes to them and his accessibility.”

To Dunbar, this award is very special.

“This award recognizes what attracted me to this profession, which is to help provide a nurturing learning environment for undergraduates,” Dunbar said.

One example of Dunbar’s life-changing influence is the story of CMU alumnus Charles Weaver. As an undergraduate student at CMU, Weaver was struggling as a student and as an athlete on CMU’s baseball team. Dunbar encouraged Weaver to keep working in his lab. That encouragement, along with the experience in the lab, helped Weaver to not only graduate but also go on and get his doctorate in neuroscience. He currently teaches at Saginaw Valley State University.

“I was fortunate to have many role models and outstanding mentors throughout my life,” Dunbar said. “However, it is during the undergraduate years when many students, including me, have the greatest need for the care, empathy and guidance that will help them set the courses of their lives.”

The Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year award program recognizes the outstanding contributions made by faculty from Michigan’s public universities to the education of undergraduate students. Each of Michigan’s 15 public universities were invited by the Presidents Council to nominate a faculty member who has had a significant impact on student learning through various media, including teaching excellence and student advising.

Dunbar is one of three in the state to receive the award. A ceremony was held April 10 to recognize the awardees at the Lansing Convention Center.

James E. O’Neill Memorial Lecture to feature Nassir Ghaemi

This year’s lecture will feature Nassir Ghaemi MD MPH, an academic psychiatrist specializing in mood illnesses, especially bipolar disorder. He is Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, where he directs the Mood Disorders Program. He is also a Clinical Lecturer at Harvard Medical School, and teaches at the Cambridge Health Alliance.

Dr. Ghaemi will discuss his book *A First-Rate Madness: Uncovering the Links between Leadership and Mental Illness* which "explores the psychological and psychiatric research on positive aspects of mental illness, and applies those studies to great historical leaders. [Dr. Ghaemi] shows that our greatest crisis leaders suffered from mood illnesses (depression or bipolar disorder), while those who failed tended to be mentally healthy. This is not a coincidence. This study challenges many of our common sense assumptions about mental health, which reflect stigma against mental illness.”

The James E. O’Neill Memorial lecture series was established in 2003 to honor the late Saginaw educator, legislator and community servant. Co-sponsored by SVSU and the Field Neurosciences Institute, the series is intended to dynamically reflect O’Neill’s passion for excellence in government, education and the neurosciences, and to provide opportunities for people to learn about public service from individuals who have unselfishly contributed to the betterment of the human condition.
Field of Hope - Sounds of the Valley
Friday, September 25, 2015

Join us for FNI’s annual fundraiser on Friday, September 25th at the Temple Theatre. This year’s event will feature a variety of acclaimed and local performers. Come and enjoy your favorites and get a taste of the tremendous talent produced in the Saginaw Bay area.

featuring:
Dave Bennett
Rod Bieber
Nathan Bieber
Mike Brush
Rob Clark
Darbi Dunbar
Gary Dunbar
Honesty Elliott
Catherine McMichael
Julie Mulady
New Reformation Band (Outside)
Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma
Leigh Shindelar

Sponsorships are available now!
Show-only tickets will be available at the Temple Theatre box office starting August 14, 2015.

Proceeds from Field of Hope - Sounds of the Valley will be used to acquire equipment in support of an FNI initiative in rehabilitation research. FNI’s efforts will be aimed at accelerating the ability of stroke and other neurological patients to return to a more normal life style.
We have been busy with our clinical trials working in the areas of Multiple Sclerosis, glioblastoma, stroke and genetic swabbing for individualized medicine. The following descriptions will provide a glimpse into our ongoing and new studies.

Degenerative Disc Tissue Culture Study: Naman Salibi, MD
The purpose of this study is to determine if bacteria may be present in tissue taken from degenerated intervertebral disks in patients diagnosed with degenerative disc disease of the lumbar spine. We are taking disc tissue and doing cultures and staining to determine if the tissue contains bacteria. Articles have been published in the medical literature that suggests bacteria may be present in degenerative disc tissue and this study will explore to what extent it might be present and contribute to the disease process. Although samples have been taken from participants, no cultures have been positive for bacteria thus far.

CDX-110 Vaccine for Glioblastoma
CellDex-110 phase III study has been approved and we are now screening patients. This is the next phase, the phase III part of this research study, for the treatment of brain cancer. We are also currently in long-term follow-up in the phase II portion of the study.

Studies Under Contract/IRB Review:

Enroll-HD: Huntington’s Study
Enroll-HD is a global longitudinal, observational study of Huntington’s disease that collects a common set of data for all participants across all sites around the world. Blood samples for DNA and cell lines are collected. All data and samples will be available to share with researchers to answer important questions about HD.

Enroll-HD will help the research community by:
• Providing clinical data and biologic samples to help better understand the human biology of Huntington’s disease – there is still a lot we don’t know
• Determining what interventions work to improve the care of people with HD
• Developing better, smarter clinical trials
• Promoting the recruitment of clinical trial participants

PROSPER
Patient-centered Research into Outcomes Stroke Patients prefer and Effectiveness Research. PROSPER is a multi-center study that will evaluate post-discharge functional status, disability, depression, and quality of life in stroke survivors. PROSPER is being offered as a sub-study to select GWTG-Stroke hospitals. This project is led by Dr. Adrian F. Hernandez of the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI), in collaboration with the American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association’s GWTG-Stroke Program.

Pharmacokinetics Testing (PGT)
Pharmacokinetics testing (PGT) is on route to personalized medicine and increasing positive outcomes with respect to medication selection. Because reactions to medications vary with individual genotype and phenotype, some clinicians think that PGT should be considered as a part of treatment selection and evaluation. The primary objective of this study is to evaluate whether genetic testing affects physician prescribing behaviors. The study will look at the incidence of adverse events, hospitalizations and emergency room visits following a change in medication based on the genetic testing results. The study will assess changes in quality of life when appropriate medication and dosage is selected based on pharmacokinetic testing.

Clinical Research

Dr. Barbara Jahnke
May 23, 1959 - June 11, 2015

Barbara completed her undergraduate degree at Alma College and then later graduated from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. She completed her residencies at Eastern Virginia University and Georgetown University. While at Georgetown, Barb completed specialty training with The Kurtzke Disability Status Scale (DSS) in Multiple Sclerosis, which is still the gold standard today. Barbara was the first person to complete a Sleep Study Fellowship from the University of Michigan in 1990. She had been practicing Neurology since 1990 with a sub-specialty in sleep disorders. Barbara was a sub-investigator and a primary investigator on many clinical trials at FNI, including Sleep, Alzheimer’s, Multiple Sclerosis, Stroke, migraine, and epilepsy. Dr. Jahnke was a great mentor and friend and will be greatly missed by all of us at FNI.

Support/Resource Groups

Spinal Cord Injury Resource Group
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
September 15
November 17
contact: Mary Kunz
mkunz@stmarysofmichigan.org or 989-497-3075

Multiple Sclerosis Resource Group
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
September 8
October 13
November 10
contact: Heather Clark
hclark@stmarysofmichigan.org or 989-497-3023

(both held at St. Mary’s of Michigan Towne Centre conference room)

See www.fni.org for all calendar events, including Grand Rounds educational opportunities
Our pre-clinical research program continues to be very productive. Researchers at the FNI lab at CMU (under the direction of Gary Dunbar and Julian Rossignol) have submitted another manuscript for publication and have several other papers in various stages of preparation during the past 3 months.

On May 2nd, the FNI Executive Director gave a presentation on FNI-sponsored research at the Presidential Symposium of the American Society for Neural Therapy and Repair (ASNTR) conference in Clearwater Florida. He was joined by Dr. Jan Nolta of the University of California, Davis who presented the FNI-sponsored research that is leading to the clinical trials for treating Huntington’s disease (HD) at UC Davis. The symposium was very well received as were the student presentations given by FNI researchers Ryan Welchko, Jessica Matyas, and Gabrielle Shall. All these students were selected for the 2015 ASNTR Travel Awards.

On May 11th, CMU hosted the annual meeting of the Michigan Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience (MISFN). Three researchers from the FNI lab at CMU won top honors: Ryan Welchko was selected as the 2015 Founders Award winner for outstanding research (on devising new ways to convert adult stem cells into dopaminergic neurons for treatment in Parkinson’s disease. Gabrielle Shall won the Outstanding Graduate Research Poster award for her work with Parkinson’s disease. Lucas Huffman won the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Poster Award for his work on glioblastomas.

In Saginaw, the FNI pre-clinical research team, led by Drs. Mee-Sook Song and Panchanan Maiti has also had a productive quarter. Mee-Sook and her team have been focusing on sporadic cases of Alzheimer’s disease (AD), especially in connection with type 2 diabetes and stroke, two risk factors for AD development. They have been studying the mechanisms of how these two age-related diseases contribute to AD pathologies. Three graduate students, Cameron Learman, Tia Hall and Leela Paladugu have been working with Dr. Song on the projects listed below.

**Project 1:** We have developed an in vitro experimental model that mimics neuropathy observed in diabetic Alzheimer’s disease using primary neuronal cell cultures made from mouse brains with diabetic inducing chemical (STZ). Diabetic-associated neurodegeneration are studied in STZ-treated cultured neurons. In addition, we investigate neuroprotective effects of Liraglutide (a drug that is clinically being prescribed for diabetic patients) on STZ-induced neurodegeneration. This work will provide a valuable model for diabetic-associated Alzheimer’s pathology, with possible insulin signaling impairments, neuronal death, neurite degeneration, and tau abnormalities. This work may also reveal the potential use of anti-diabetic drugs for treating Alzheimer’s disease. Their work was presented at this year’s MISFN meeting on May 11th. In addition, a manuscript from this work is in preparation and will be submitted to “Neurobiology of Aging or Neuropharmacology”.

**Project 2:** We have also developed a model for oxidative-stress-induced neuropathies that are common to stroke and AD patients. We have been focusing on amyloid pathology by looking at transitions of toxic beta amyloid peptides to oligomer and fibrillar species. We want to combine data from in vitro and in vivo experiments on mechanisms of beta amyloid oligomerization and aggregation to understand how this oligomerization/fibrillization process is affected by unique pathological condition such as oxygen or glucose deprived stress that occurs during ischemic strokes and AD. This work will provide how the pathological complications in stroke potentially contributing to AD pathogenesis. We plan to apply therapeutic approaches based on our experimental observation, and the first line of treatments will be amine oxidase inhibitors. For this work, we will have collaboration with scientists at University of Alberta. A manuscript “Inhibition of p53 attenuates ischemic stress-induced activation of astrocytes” has been just accepted by “Neuroreport”. Mee-Sook and summer volunteers continue working on a following study with a potential collaboration.

**Project 3:** We have submitted an animal protocol for developing a diabetic AD animals that we will use to test GLP-1, an anti-diabetic drug, as a neuroprotective agent in AD pathology. We also utilize this model to study impaired vascular system and to use for therapeutic research.

**Project 4:** Dr. Panchanan Maiti has initiated a project looking at the therapeutic effects of curcumin in cell and animal models of HD and AD. Dr. Maiti brings a wealth of expertise and technical skills and promises to be a huge benefit for future FNI research.

**SVSU Collaboration**
A manuscript from collaboration work with Dr. Charles Weaver “The effect of Enterococcus faecalis on tau pathology in cultured primary rat cortical neurons” has been submitted to “Brain Research Bulletin” and is also in the last step to be finalized.

**Volunteers**
The FNI pre-clinical research team has accepted volunteers this summer (Addie Lofts, Sarah Mooney, Jeremy Weaver, Nathan Tometich, and five high school students).

**Future Research Projects**
We are hoping to expand our clinical research into the rehabilitation area and include the expertise of Dr. Rick Backs, who is the Director of the Driving Evaluation, Education, and Research (DEER) Center at CMU in collaborative projects to devise effective rehabilitation programs for victims of stroke and other neurological disorders.

In addition to this, we are hoping to start research projects using a new in vivo imaging system which will be purchased with the funds of the last FNI Fall Fundraiser. This magnificent piece of equipment will allow FNI researchers with the ability to follow the fate of implanted stem cells in the living animal brain and will be a huge boost to several planned research projects.

**FNI Welcomes Panchanan Maiti, Ph.D.**

We are delighted to have Dr. Maiti join our research team. We anticipate a very productive year ahead, with hopes of gaining even more insights into the mechanisms underlying the causes and perhaps finding ways to overcome the pathological processes involved in neurological disorders. Dr. Maiti received Bachelors and Masters degrees from Vidyasagar University, India and a PhD. in Physiology (Neurobiology) from Community Health Defense Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences, India. Before FNI, Dr. Maiti was employed as a Postdoctoral Scholar, Dept. of Neurology, and the Dept. of Medicine of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and as Postdoctoral scholar, Dept. of Neurology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.
Injury Prevention

Spinal Cord Injury Resource Group
Bi-Monthly meetings have brought many resources and education to over 20 people per meeting. We continue to offer resources to each other as well as providing resources and support to newly injured individuals with physical disabilities. We have received $300 in grant funds from the Spinal Network Program and Hollister, Inc. to help with transportation for those who otherwise would not be able to attend meetings. Remaining 2015 meeting dates are: September 15th, and November 17th, 2015.

ThinkFirst for Kids
Since the beginning of the fiscal year we have educated in over 38 schools and 32 community events. This includes educating over 7,000 families, and have fit and distributed over 4,000 helmets in our St. Mary’s service area, including Standish and Tawas areas.

Caught Being Safe
We have distributed 60,000 McDonald coupons to uniformed personnel throughout Michigan to help encourage and reward the use of bike helmets and safe behaviors in children and adults. Below are a few comments from participating organizations:

“I like this program. Makes some contacts with police positive rather than all bad.” – Officer Joe Scheid- Coldwater Police Dept.

“This is an AWESOME program which helps bridge the gap with children in the community.”
~ Detective Mark Lytle – Allegan Co. Sheriff’s office

“Thank you for sending these cards to us each year. Our crew gets just as excited as the kids get when they pass them out!”
~ Carla McCormack – Lapeer County EMS

“This is a great program. Thank you!!”
~ Trooper Grant Guzikowski – Michigan State Police

A Matter of Balance
St. Mary’s of Michigan, Field Neurosciences Institute now offers an eight-session, educational and strength training program for adults 50+

The Matter of Balance program emphasizes practical strategies to reduce fear of falling and increases activity levels. Participants learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable, set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors and exercise to increase strength and balance.

Each FREE session is from 9 to 11 a.m. at Center Courts, 3320 N. Center, Saginaw.
To maximize outcomes, participants are encouraged to attend all eight sessions. To register or inquire about additional schedules and custom classes call Heather at 989-497-3023. Classes will begin again in September.

Positive changes from attendees taking this class:

“how I walk - slower, lift feet higher, walk heel to toe”

“better lighting in all of my bedrooms and grab-bars are being installed in the bathroom”

“I’m more willing to walk outdoors even if the ground is uneven”

“checking my home for rugs that are not good and replacing with more safe rugs”

Spring Into Safety
The 3rd Annual Spring Into Safety, presented by SafeKids Greater Thumb and Saginaw Area, was held on May 9, 2015 at St. Mary’s Towne Centre. FNI was there to provide custom-fitted helmets and valuable safety lessons for the children. Children visited several stations where they learned about bike, driving, boating, water, fire and car seat safety, among other very important topics, and were also entered into drawings for several bikes and scooters. Don’t miss this great event next year!
In Memoriam

John W. McCraw
9/16/1929 - 5/29/2015

John served on the Field Neurosciences Institute Board of Directors from 2000 to 2012 and as an Honorary Member from 2012 to 2015. His talents in the legal profession benefitted our community as did his generous contributions to numerous area charities. John and his wife Liz, who passed in 2014, were involved in nearly all functions of the Field Neurosciences Institute, serving on various committees and assisting with fund raisers and special events. Field Neurosciences Institute wishes to express its profound appreciation and gratitude for his years of outstanding service to the Institute and for his many accomplishments.

In Memory of

John McCraw
Jim & Cheryl Alden
Edward & Deann Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Barst
Patricia Bierlein & Patrick Sellenraad
Bradd Chiachillo
Joseph & Margaret Dautcher
Joe & Carol DeFrancesco
Joseph & Margaret Dashner
Bradd Chisholm
Patricia Bierlein & Patrick Sellenraad
Jim & Cheryl Alden
John McGraw

Dr. & Mrs. E. Malcolm Field
Martha Foley & Daniel Fredendall
Mr. D. Randall Gilner
Gillespie Group
Ann Marie Goidosik
Greca/Greedy Family
George & Janie Gugino
Dr. & Mrs. Gregory Hertzler
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Hurley
Mary James
Charles & Lea/Anne Jansen
Stephen & Patricia Joka
Frank & Mary Johnson
Martha Ann Joseph
William Jungerfeld & Melanie Kaminski
Patrick & Sue Kaltenbach
Patricia Karp
Phadje & Sachivalai Keopunna
Martha Kinmon
Dale & Mary Krueger
Barry & Mary Latarte
Thomas & Kayleen Lawler
Geraldine LeFevre
Edward & Susan Lynch
Nicholas & Grace Makrianis
Masud Lahor Law Group
Ruth McDonald
Joan Meyer
Michael & Eleanor O’Connor
Patrick & Kristine O’Connor
Tom & Shelley O’Connor
John & Theresa Schmude

The Family of James & Florence O’Shea
Butch & Nancy Ethington
Sue Packer
Jon & Mary Fordlund
Martha D. Garber
Jim & Sharon Gathmann
Phyllis George
Susan & Thomas Godlewski
Gerald & Mary Gray
Sharon Marvin Griffin
Fred & LaVon Grunewald
Paula Hampson
William & Sally Hanley
Robert and Carolyn Hansen
Mary Hansen
Gerald & Wendy Hardy
Harvey’s Home Services
Tom & Diane Johnson
Donald & Beverly Johnson
Donald & Gayle Johnson
Jacqueline Johnson
Martha Ann Joseph
Claude & Esta Katt
Nancy Kuyer
Colleen & J.F. Lafontaine
Roger & Verna Lark
Patricia Lathrop
Nancy Porter Lipson
Herb & Elaine Marson
E. Douglas & Valda Masak
John & Jerilyn McFarlane
Dr. Daniel Mettger
Robert & Shirley Mettger
John & Kathy Miller
Eugene & Leona Naylor
James & Doris Niemi
Joseph O’Connell
Patricia M. O’Donnell
Jo Ann Papenfuss
Stephen & Janet Papenfuss
Leo & Patricia Pavlo
Eleanor Pernat
Jeanne Peters
Penelope Phelps
Bonnie Reid

A & D Home Health Care, Inc.
Absolute Building Maintenance
Advanced Diagnostic Imaging, P.C.
Dr. Raana Akbar & Dr. Waheed Akbar
Waheed Akbar M.D.

Dr. & Mrs. E. Malcolm Field

John Bintz
Bobbie Kohn, and daughters Kathy, Susie, and Baby
Les Borelli
Martha Ann Joseph

Maybelles Bruh
Martha Ann Joseph
Wesley J. Bucker
Lori & Frank Longmore

Dr. & Mrs. E. Malcolm Field

Martha Ann Joseph

Paul Durst

Robert J. Hunter
Geraldine LeFevre

Barbara Jahns
Kathryn Kellow

Elizabeth McCraw
The Family of James & Florence O’Shea

Bob Maul
Dawn Garber

Maybelles Bruh
Martha Ann Joseph
Wesley J. Bucker
Lori & Frank Longmore

Dr. & Mrs. E. Malcolm Field

HealthSource Saginaw

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