

# INDIANA SPINAL CORD AND BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH FUND

## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

*Submitted May 17, 2013*

This report is in compliance with P.L. 234-2007. The report was compiled by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) and edited by Dr. Henry Feuer, Board Chairman.

**INDIANA SPINAL CORD AND BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH FUND (ISCBIRF)**  
**Annual Report for 2012**

The Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund was created by the 2007 Indiana General Assembly under Indiana Code (IC) 16-41-42.2-4. Recommendations for grant funding are made by the Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Board ('Board') to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). Board members are appointed by the Governor, Indiana University, Purdue University, Brain Injury Association, National Spinal Cord Injury Association, and Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana.

The fund is to be used for the following purposes:

1. Establish and maintain a state medical surveillance registry for traumatic spinal cord and brain injuries.
2. Fulfilling duties of the Board.
3. Funding research related to the treatment and cure of spinal cord and brain injuries, including acute management, medical complications, rehabilitative techniques, and neuronal recovery. Research must be conducted in compliance with all state and federal laws.

The Board is charged with the following duties:

1. Consider policy matters relating to spinal cord and brain injury research projects and programs.
2. Consider research applications and make grants for approved projects.
3. Formulate policies and procedures concerning the operations of the board.
4. Review and authorize spinal cord and brain injury research projects and programs to be financed under this chapter.
5. Review and approve progress reports and final research reports on projects.
6. Review and make recommendations concerning the expenditure of money from the fund.

Executive Summary:

The state appropriations for the ISCBIRF for state fiscal year 2012-2013 totaled \$1,523,634; an amount equal to last year. The State required a reserve of \$45,709, therefore the amount available for expenditure was \$1,477,925.

The table below summarizes the plan for expenditures during the 2012-2013 state fiscal year.

2012-2013 Budget / Commitments

Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund	
Grant funding	\$ 1,344,795
Peer review contract	\$ 45,000

Board Expense	\$ 1,000
Remaining 2012 conference costs / travel reimb	\$ 3,310
Unallocated	\$ 83,820
Reserve	<u>\$ 45,709</u>
Total	\$ 1,523,634

The Board met on several occasions – including the 2012 dates of 7/12, 10/04, and 12/13 to conduct official business and plan for the disposition of the fund, review research project progress reports, address requests for project extensions, finalize plans for the Spinal Cord and Brain Injury conference, and elect new Board leadership.

The Board issued a request for proposals in early in the 2012, with a deadline of May 21. A total of 28 proposals were received for the competition. After the peer review was conducted, proposals were ranked by score and 13 applications recommended to the Board for funding. This group of 13 applications was reviewed by the Board, along with comments from the peer reviewers, and eventually 12 were selected for funding. The total commitment valued at \$1,344,795. A list of 2012 awards is included as Appendix I.

A successful Spinal Cord and Brain Injury conference was held on June 8, 2012. A total of 100 physicians, scientists, faculty, nurses, rehabilitation specialists, students and special guests were in attendance for the full day meeting. It was held at the University Place Conference Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. The keynote speaker was Adam Taliaferro, a lawyer and motivational speaker from New Jersey. Mr. Taliaferro suffered a devastating spinal cord injury during a Penn State football game in September 2000, and was originally given only a 3% chance of walking again. He fought insurmountable odds and was able to walk again. His presentation offered the audience a glimpse of his inspirational recovery story and reiterated to those in the room the importance of the research they are able to conduct, specifically as a result of support from the ISCBIRF fund. In addition to Mr. Taliaferro’s presentation, several prior ISCBIRF award recipients presented on their research in plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and poster presentations. Special guest, Senator Patricia Miller, offered comments during lunch. A conference booklet is included in this report as Appendix II.

At the December 2012 Board meeting, the Board discussed plans for the coming year including issuing a 2013 request for applications and the renewal of the contract with the Indiana CTSI to perform administrative functions for the Board and oversee the annual grant process. The prior contract included managing the request for proposals and the application process, conducting the required annual peer review, providing post award research project follow-up and progress reporting, serving the board as administrator, and serving the ISDH as a liaison to the Board. ISDH recommended restoring the Board administrative functions to that state office. Therefore, the future Indiana CTSI contract will be limited to the annual peer review process and managing ongoing progress reporting for active ISCBIRF projects.

## Board Membership:

The Board Membership and Leadership underwent several changes during 2012. Dr. Chuck Dietzen, board certified physiatrist, vacated his governor appointed position early in the year. A request for a re-appointment was forwarded to the Governor's office. No new member was identified in 2012 to fill this vacant position. Chairperson Lance Trexler also announced his intent to step down from the Board, mid-year. Thomas Doehrman, a local attorney specializing in spinal cord and brain injury cases, was nominated by the Brain Injury Association of Indiana to fill this vacated position. Mr. Doehrman joined the board in October 2012. Paul Nelson, IU School of Medicine appointed neurosurgeon, announced his retirement. His seat on the Board was assumed by Dr. Gerry Oxford, Director of the Stark Neuroscience Research Center at Indiana University, in December 2012. A complete list of Board members is provided as an Appendix III to this report.

Dr. Lance Trexler continued to serve as Board Chairman and Dr. Henry Feuer Vice Chairman as elected in 2010. New officers were elected mid-year due to the change over in Board membership. Dr. Henry Feuer was elected Board Chairman and Dr. Alan Rebar, Purdue University, was elected and Vice Chairman.

APPENDIX I

Spinal Cord Injury / Brain Injury Research Fund – 2012 Award List

APPENDIX II  
2012 Conference Binder



### APPENDIX III

#### Spinal Cord Injury / Brain Injury Research Fund Board Membership List as of December 2012

1. Spinal Cord / Head Injury Person or Family Member\*\*  
Bob Setree  
President, Southern Indiana Traumatic Brain Injury Foundation
2. Physician / Neurosurgeon\*\*  
Henry Feuer, MD (Board Chairman)
3. Physiatrist, Board Certified APMR\*\*  
VACANT
4. Technical Life Sciences Industry\*\*  
Ronald D. Henricksen  
President and Chief Executive Officer, EndGenitor Technologies  
Partner and Chief Investment Officer, Twilight Venture Partners  
Chairman of Cytori Therapeutics, Inc.
5. Indiana University  
Gerry Oxford, PhD  
Executive Director, Stark Neuroscience Research Institute  
Indiana University School of Medicine
6. Purdue University (Board Vice Chair)  
Alan H. Rebar, DVM, PhD  
Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Executive Director of Discovery Park  
Purdue University
7. National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
Janeen Earwood  
Director of Rehabilitation, American Senior Communities
8. Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana  
James Malec, PhD, LP, ABPP-Cn, Rp  
Research Director, Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Foundation
9. American Brain Injury Association / Brain Injury Association of Indiana  
Thomas Doehrman, Esq.  
Board Certified Civil Trial Advocate (NBTA)  
Doehrman Chamberlain Attorneys at Law

\*\*Governor appointed positions.