

**INDIANA SPINAL CORD AND BRAIN INJURY
RESEARCH FUND**

**2007 ANNUAL REPORT/
2008 PRELIMINARY PLAN**

Submitted January 18, 2008

This report is in compliance with P.L. 234-2007 and contains information generated from 6 months of work on the part of nine Board members and one staff member. This report is funded by the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund.

This report was compiled by Annette Seabrook of Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana and edited by Susan Perkins of Indiana State Department of Health.

INDIANA SPINAL CORD AND BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH FUND
Annual Report for 2007

Executive Summary: The Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund was created by the 2007 Indiana General Assembly. At this time a Board for the Fund was created and 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 the duties of the board,
3. Funding research related to 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 research projects,
- (3) Formulate policies and procedures concerning the operation 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 and final research reports on projects,
- (6) Review and make recommendations concerning the expenditure of money from the fund.

The Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund and Board were effective July 1, 2007.

Work began immediately to develop the nine-Member Board with the following appointments:

- a. National Spinal Cord Injury Association appointed its representative: Mrs. Janeen Earwood, in July, 2007.
- b. Brain Injury Association of Indiana appointed its representative: Dr. Lance Trexler, in July, 2007.
- c. Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana appointed its representative: Mrs. Annette Seabrook, in July 2007.
- d. Indiana University appointed its representative: Dr. Paul Nelson, in July, 2007.
- e. Purdue University appointed its representative: Dr. Alan Rebar, in August, 2007.
- f. Governor appointed positions were made in November, 2007:
 - i. Mr. Bob Setree (individual with a spinal cord or head injury or who has a family member with a spinal cord or head injury)
 - ii. Dr. Henry Feuer (physician who has specialty training in neuroscience and surgery)
 - iii. Dr. Chuck Dietzen (physiatrist holding board certification from the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)
 - iv. Mr. Ronald Henriksen (representative of the technical life sciences industry).

Once Board Membership was established, the first Board meeting was scheduled for December 12, 2007. Actions that occurred at this initial meeting included:

- a. Introduction of Board Members,
- b. Overview and discussions regarding the history of the law creating the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund,
- c. Explanation of funding mechanism and current status of fund,
- d. Overview of current status of the Indiana Trauma Registry,
- e. Discussions regarding objectives and funding priorities for the Fund,
- f. Discussions regarding the establishment of grants – types and process,
- g. Discussion concerning security of the funding mechanism in the future (updates regarding 2008 Legislative Session),
- h. Plan for 2008.

Currently, the fund contains over \$622,960 (December 12, 2007). As previously stated, the first six (6) months were dedicated to the establishment of a Board to oversee the distribution of funds. Although no funds were distributed in 2007, the Board initiated the development of By-laws and Funding Priorities and Objectives. The Board deemed it important to conduct a symposium to discuss the current state of research in Indiana related to spinal cord and brain injuries, and to identify opportunities for future research.

2008 Preliminary Plan:

Moving into 2008, the Board will approve by-laws and funding priorities, elect officers, finalize contractual agreements for scientific review committee, host a statewide research symposium and develop grant application process, including a scientific review committee.

The statewide research symposium will be located in central Indiana. Attendees will include individuals currently active in or interested in further pursuing spinal cord and brain injury research, governmental agencies, advocacy groups and representatives of those with these disabilities. Presentations will occur regarding epidemiology of spinal cord and brain injuries, including costs of these injuries and burden to the state (i.e. Medicaid system), and will also include a summation of currently funded/active projects within the state. Break-out sessions will be incorporated by the groups to identify priorities and opportunities for future research. This information will serve as a basis for future directions of the Fund.

The first Indiana grants are to be awarded in the latter part of 2008. Grant priorities are for translational research. Initial grants will focus on seed grants, pilot grants or matching grants that will have the ability to attract additional federal dollars to the state of Indiana. A focus will be on projects that have the potential of positively impacting health care costs, returning individuals to the community/workforce or serve as a stepping stone to further economic opportunities. A scientific review committee will be utilized to assure projects funded are appropriate and in line with the mission of this fund. The scientific review committee will rank projects in a fashion similar to that utilized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and recommendations will be made to the Board, who will determine the disbursement of funds and which projects receive funding. All projects funded will require a report regarding progress and status of the project.

Projects that are funded shall acknowledge the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund in all projects/publications.

Funds will continue to accumulate and earn interest as the first year's allotment is realized. Funds will not revert to the general fund while planning and organization is taking place.

Next steps are to formulate an agenda and present proposed plan to the Governor, the Legislature and possibly the media to show that funding is being spent according to findings of the symposium and the current state of research in Indiana. Once these opportunities are identified, funding will be disbursed, and research will commence. Reports and detailed receivables will ensure compliance and return on investment.

Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund 2008 Preliminary Plan

First Quarter

- Approve By-laws
- Elect Officers
- Finalize contractual agreements for Administrative Support and Scientific Reviewers
- Develop Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Symposium. Symposium to be held in central location and bring together representatives from throughout the state to discuss current research activities, as well as future opportunities and priorities. Governmental, academic, advocacy and health care organizations to be represented, as well as representation for individuals with these disabilities.
- Create draft of initial grant offerings and grant review process

Second Quarter

- Host the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Symposium
- Finalize grant review process including types of grants, grant cycles, applications and processes for distribution
- Work with ISDH on contractual agreements for next period
- Assess opportunity for development of web page within ISDH

Third Quarter

- Develop scientific review panel
- Announce call for first grants and accept applications for first grant cycle
- Identify needs surrounding collaborative state medical surveillance registry for traumatic spinal cord and brain injuries.

Fourth Quarter

- Announce first recipients of grants from the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund
- Analyze process of first grant cycle for improvements in 2009
- Dependant upon identified grant cycles, begin process for next grant cycle

Spinal Cord Injury/Brain Injury Trust Fund Board Membership List

(** - Governor appointed position)

1. Spinal Cord/Head Injury Person or Family Member**

Bob Setree

President, Southern Indiana Traumatic Brain Injury Foundation

2. Physician/Neurosurgeon**

Dr. Henry Feuer

3. Physiatrist, Board Certified APMR**

Dr. Chuck Dietzen

Medical Director, Easter Seals Crossroads

4. Technical Life Sciences Industry**

Ronald D. Henriksen

President and Chief Executive Officer, EndGenitor Technologies

Partner and Chief Investment Officer, Twilight Venture Partners

Chairman of Cytori Therapeutics, Inc.

5. Indiana University

Dr. Paul B. Nelson

Chairman and Betsy Barton Professor

Department of Neurological Surgery

Indiana University School of Medicine

6. Purdue University

Alan H. Rebar, DVM, PhD

Senior Associate Vice President for Research

and Executive Director of Discovery Park

Hovde Hall

7. National Spinal Cord Injury Association

Janeen Earwood

Director of Rehabilitation, American Senior Communities

8. Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana

Annette Seabrook, Therapy Program Manager

Inpatient Spinal Cord and Orthopedic Programs

Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana

9. American Brain Injury Association/Brain Injury Assoc. of Indiana

Lance E. Trexler, Ph.D,

Director, Dept. of Rehabilitation Neuropsychology

and Program Director for Neurobehavioral Services

Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana