

STATE OF MARYLAND
STATE BOARD OF SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH

Susan Pendleton, Chair

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
State of Maryland
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 300 (Ch. 513) of the Acts of 2000 -
2009 Legislative Report of the State Board of Spinal Cord Injury Research

Dear Governor O'Malley, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

The State Board of Spinal Cord Injury Research (the Board) was established by House Bill 300 during the 2000 legislative session to administer a Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund. The Board is charged with awarding research grants aimed at restoring neurological function in individuals with spinal cord injuries. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention provides administrative support to the Board. Pursuant to this legislation, the Board is directed to submit this annual legislative report on its activities and progress.

In April 2007 four projects, selected from 21 proposals submitted, were each awarded \$200,000 in funding for a two-year period, which ended in March 2009. All grantees have submitted final reports detailing the outcomes of their research. The four selected projects were:

(1) University of Maryland School of Medicine, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center - **Title of Research:** "ASIA Motor, Functional and Health Related Quality of Life Outcome in Traumatic Central Cord Syndrome, A Prospective Randomized Study;"

(2) The International Center for Spinal Cord Injury at Kennedy Krieger Institutes. **Title of Research:** "Functional Eclectic Stimulation and Remyelination following Spinal Cord Injury;"

(3) University of Maryland School of Medicine, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Department of Surgery - **Title of Research:** "Does Aggressive Blood Pressure Management after Acute Spinal Cord Injury Improve Functional Outcome?;" and

(4) Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Department of Pharmacology - **Title of Research:** "TGF- β Signaling as a Therapeutic Target in Spinal Cord Injury."

In March, the Board began soliciting grant proposals with a planned award date of June 1. The Board also began assembling a Peer Review Panel of nationally recognized researchers in the field of spinal cord injury research to review the proposals that were submitted and provide comments to the Board. Eighteen researchers requested and received the Request for Proposals and 11 proposals were submitted. However, funds are not currently available. When a request is made by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for these funds from the Maryland Insurance Administration, the collecting agency under House Bill 300, the peer review process will go forward and grants then awarded. The Board requests that funding appropriations in fiscal 2011 be returned to the level originally set forth in House Bill 300 thus allowing for more continuity in research grants awarded.

On behalf of the members of the State Board of Spinal Cord Injury Research, I thank you for affording us the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Susan Pendleton, Chair
State Board of Spinal Cord Injury Research

cc: John M. Colmers, Secretary
Frances B. Phillips, R.N., M.H.A.
Russell W. Moy, M.D., M.P.H.
Audrey S. Regan, Ph.D.
Wynee Hawk, R.N., J.D.
Sarah Albert, MSAR # 0746