

# THE PROJECT



FALL 2006

A PUBLICATION OF THE MIAMI PROJECT TO CURE PARALYSIS  
AND THE BUONICONTI FUND TO CURE PARALYSIS





## From The Co-Founder

The past twenty-one years have marked incredible growth for The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Soon we will see the culmination of our scientific cutting edge research efforts as we bring clinical trials to the human arena. This is medical history in the making – as they said **“IT COULDN'T BE DONE”** – and it is happening at The Miami Project. Based at the Lois Pope LIFE Center, The Miami Project is the largest, most comprehensive spinal cord injury research center in the world, employing over 200 scientists and technicians with a budget of almost \$20 million a year.

So many successful components have gone into creating, operating and maintaining this successful, remarkable and substantiated organization. The key word is and always will be DETERMINATION. The dogged determination and skills of our scientists led by W. Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D. and Barth A. Green, M.D. have led the world in the discoveries of cell regeneration, neuroprotection, pain and quality of life issues. Not only have spinal cord injured individuals been able to benefit from these breakthroughs but also those suffering from all neurological diseases including Stroke, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, Head Injury, Cerebral Palsy, etc. The whole scientific community looks to The Miami Project for new and innovated steps for these neurological cures.

While I congratulate our scientists on their accomplishments and dedication, I am proud of the undeterred determination of my son Marc in the fight for a cure for paralysis resulting from spinal cord injury. In essence, I believe he is the leader of the spinal cord injured community. Since his football injury in 1985, Marc has grown into an advocate for spinal cord injury research all over the world. He supports all recognized national SCI organizations that lend their names and untiring work to the mission of curing paralysis. I have seen this young man, faced with one of the most difficult blows life can hand out, evolve into a national leader, selflessly giving of himself to fight for a cure both emotionally and physically – and now Marc sees the results of his legacy coming into fruition. The Human Clinical Trials Program at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis will fulfill the hard work and dreams of Marc and his millions of friends. No longer will we debate if human trials are feasible. **THE TIME IS NOW** and we are ready and eternally grateful to each of you who have faithfully supported The Miami Project over the years.

Won't you join Marc, The Buoniconti Board, Drs. Dietrich and Green, the entire staff of The Miami Project and me in supporting these human trials? **WE CAN AND WILL CURE PARALYSIS** in our lifetime and rewrite medical textbooks all over the world! Thank you!

Nicholas A. Buoniconti  
Co-Founder

*“So many successful components have gone into creating, operating and maintaining this successful, remarkable and substantiated organization.”*

*The Human Clinical Trials Program at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis will fulfill the hard work and dreams of Marc and his millions of friends.”*





www.themiamiproject.org  
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**President and Founder**  
**The Miami Project**  
Barth A. Green, M.D.

**President and Founder**  
**The Buoniconti Fund**  
Nick A. Buoniconti

**Ambassador**  
Marc A. Buoniconti

**Scientific Director, The Miami Project**  
W. Dalton Dietrich, III, Ph.D.

**Executive Director, The Miami Project**  
Suzie Sayfie

**Editors**  
Maria J. Amador, B.S.N., C.R.R.N.  
Randy L. Medenwald

**Graphic Design**  
Robert Camarena

**Contributors**  
Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard, Teri Bendell, Scott Roy,  
Suzie Sayfie, Ronald Schultz, Alan Troop

**Photographs**  
Marc Buoniconti, Tom Burke, Rob Camarena,  
Douglas Roach, Alex Tamargo,  
The Buoniconti Fund, Ina Wanner

**Administrative Director**  
Diana Berning

**Director, Corporate Relations,  
Marketing and Events**  
Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard

**Director, Education**  
Maria Amador, B.S.N., C.R.R.N.

**Director, Development**  
Randy L. Medenwald

**Director, Communications**  
Scott Roy

**Director, National Chapters and Webmaster**  
Teri Bendell

**Director, Operations**  
Bill Sims

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## From the Scientific Director

This year, a major announcement concerning a clinical trial initiative was made that has moved the research at The Miami Project into an exciting new phase. This new phase is concentrating on moving bench work to the clinic. To do this, Miami Project scientists have been working very hard to obtain the necessary pre-clinical data that is required by the FDA to move cell therapies into people. In this communication, I'd like to briefly comment about some of our recent progress in this area.

We are preparing for a Phase I clinical trial to test Schwann cell transplantations as a treatment for patients with new spinal cord injury. The FDA requires that we show that this type of therapy has no adverse effects in a clinically relevant animal model. Thus, we are currently assessing the potential effects of Schwann cell transplantation on the formation of unwanted pain in various animal studies. If we find that this treatment does not produce any adverse effects, we can then move the therapy forward.

One of the major steps in translating work from the bench to the clinic is testing therapies in larger animal models. For several years, Miami Project faculty have been developing more clinically relevant models of spinal cord injury. Very few studies have been done in larger animals, but currently we need these studies completed to demonstrate the efficacy and safety. Recently, we transplanted Schwann cells into larger animals with cervical spinal cord injury. We are now assessing the effects of this treatment on hand function and electrophysiological outcome. We hope to show that this treatment leads to remyelination of injured fibers and improvement in hand function. Such a result would go a long way in providing the necessary information to move this therapy forward.

We continue to work on a combination therapy of Schwann cells, rolipram and db-cAMP that was published a couple of years ago by Miami Project researchers Damien Pearce and Mary Bunge. The researchers are currently looking at whether it is effective in chronic spinal cord injury. Many laboratories throughout the world are working on this and other combination therapies to demonstrate the best way in which to administer the drugs and cells. We remain optimistic about this therapy.

It is important to emphasize that work within The Miami Project has pioneered strategies that are currently being developed to target various other neurological problems. Many of you may have heard of the news of exciting findings from Johns Hopkins reporting that neurons grown from



*“We are preparing for a Phase I clinical trial to test Schwann cell transplantations as a treatment for patients with new spinal cord injury.”*

embryonic stem cells restore walking function to paralyzed rats. Interestingly, their treatment strategy used a combination of rolipram and db-cAMP that we recently used in our combination therapy targeting spinal cord injury. Major differences in their study were the type of cell used and the type of nerve damage treated. They used embryonic stem cells where as we used adult Schwann cell replacement strategies. As for the type of nerve damage, their animals did not have spinal cord injury, but had damage to a group of neurons that die in patients with Lou Gehrig's Disease or spinal muscular atrophy.

While there were differences in the neurological problem this treatment would target, an exciting finding in this recent study was that the transplanted cells appeared to make connections to muscles that controlled walking. Ultimately in spinal cord injury, in addition to rerouting axons within the spinal cord, functional connections will also have to be made in muscles that control voluntary walking and other movements. Thus, the work is extremely interesting to Miami Project researchers in that it shows promise in reestablishing connections from the spinal cord to the muscle groups. Finally, this recently published work using mouse embryonic stem cells now needs to be tested with human ES cells in larger animal models. Once again, steps such as these demonstrate the scientific rigor that Miami Project faculty and other colleagues feel is necessary to safely move experimental treatments from the bench to the clinic.

Stem cell research at The Miami Project is also gaining more and more momentum. Scientists are discovering ways in which we can turn embryonic stem cells into myelin-producing cells. Many individuals with spinal cord injury may have demyelinated axons that contribute to their neurological deficits. Thus strategies to induce remyelination by transplanting myelin-producing cells such as Schwann cells or oligodendrocyte precursors may improve outcomes. This year we published some exciting findings showing in a rodent model of spinal cord injury that transplantation of these oligodendrocyte precursors improves electrophysiological as well as behavioral functions. Other studies are utilizing stem cells to replace neuronal populations that may also be damaged after spinal cord injury. Although these investigations show great promise, much work is needed in the area of stem cells and reparative strategies.

I would also like to update you on how Miami Project researchers are interacting with biotechnical and pharmaceutical companies. Geron Corporation has announced that they plan to start clinical trials in 2007 using a human embryonic stem cell line in patients with spinal cord injury. We invited representatives from Geron to visit The Miami Project and heard about their pre-clinical work and plans to move a therapy to the clinic. Their representatives are currently considering collaborations with academic centers that could help with the replication of their pre-clinical work as well as test their cells in larger animals with spinal cord injury. Future discussions will include the potential participation in a clinical trial. Miami Project researchers interact with the industry to complement their research programs and help promote the most exciting work.

I hope this brief update highlights some of the work done by Miami Project researchers to move us closer to the goal of finding a cure for paralysis. We are all excited about the science and the progress. On behalf of all Miami Project faculty, we thank all of our supporters for their commitment to our program.

W. Dalton Dietrich, III, Ph.D.

Scientific Director  
The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis







*"The team effort of researcher and participant is of paramount importance. Working in partnership, with mutual appreciation and cooperation, is a meaningful and beneficial venture that offers help and hope to people today and is leading toward our final goal of a cure."*

The week following Hurricane Andrew was not the ideal time to travel to Miami for a 3-month stay. On the Florida Turnpike a seemingly endless stream of National Guard vehicles drove steadily southward, and troops in colorful camouflage garb and shiny black boots crowded the rest areas along the way. The devastation that lay ahead would not be a welcomed sight. Duty prompted the National Guard, but why would civilians willingly go into such an uncertain environment?

To me, the answer was simple. I was scheduled to participate in an arm muscle study at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis and was not going to allow the remnants of the hurricane, as serious as they were, to keep me from that task.

The year was 1992 and the small, metal-walled neurophysiology lab of Dr. Christine Thomas, assistant professor of neurosurgery who had joined The Miami Project in 1990, was then located in the Louis and Virginia Bantle Rehabilitation Research Center, lower level of Jackson Memorial Hospital's Rehabilitation Building. I was curious as to just what was going on at The Project, interested in finding

out more about how my SCI had affected motor impulses from my brain to other parts of my body, and willing to do my part in adding to knowledge that might one day be used when the time for an SCI cure treatment was at hand.

Today, the more modern and spacious laboratory facilities of now Professor Thomas can be found on the first and fourth floors of the Lois Pope LIFE Center. Here, 14 years later, is where I once again traveled to take part in a 24-hour hand function study. Spinal cord injured in 1968 at the C4-C5 level, with functional return to the C6 level following decompression-fusion surgery, I was intrigued to discover that near continuous activity was recorded from my hand muscles over the 24-hour monitoring. I found it personally rewarding to know that I could once again help Dr. Thomas piece together and advance the understanding of muscle function following SCI.

## The Studies

The research strategy of Dr. Thomas, which combines basic science and human study approaches, is unique. In a seemingly reverse way, she gathers data from muscles and nerves of human participants and then extends these findings in animal studies. Her research ultimately yields results that may either be useful in present rehabilitative strategies or in preparing treatment strategies for muscle function restoration. "What we've tried to do is use the human studies to define what happens after human injury and then take it to an animal situation," said Dr. Thomas. "In animals, we can try and repair the situation. And if we can do that, then maybe we can bring a treatment strategy back to people."

Involving quadriplegic participants, the current hand and leg studies in Dr. Thomas' lab address involuntary activity in paralyzed muscles. The hand study focuses on the recording of thumb muscle activity over a 24-hour period. "I am really interested in knowing how active

or inactive muscles are," commented Dr. Thomas. "Is muscle activity helping to maintain the integrity of your muscle? If the spinal cord regenerates tomorrow, you would want those muscles to be as strong and healthy as possible."

Long-term recordings of spasms in leg muscles is another issue of interest because the strength of these contractions can be severe. To some individuals such spasm activity can be problematic, while in others this may not be the case. The 24-hour leg muscle recording study can show when the spasms occur and how strong they are. Dr. Thomas further notes, "What we can also look at is how that muscle activity is changed when people take medication."

## The Motivation

An indispensable part of the research conducted by Dr. Thomas and her

obvious is the chance that the intervention under investigation will actually offer a therapeutic benefit. An example from the Thomas lab is the research that showed weakened triceps muscles in the arms of individuals with quadriplegia can be strengthened through the use of electrical stimulation. Regarding the design of this particular triceps muscle study, Dr. Thomas stated "We wanted to target a muscle that was really important to someone using a wheelchair."

Since the human studies at The Miami Project don't always offer immediate therapeutic benefit, one might ask of other motivations for participating. There are several reasons why people agree to be study participants, including wanting to know how one's injury has affected the conduction of nerve impulses down the spinal cord to muscles below. Also thinking that, if not in a present study then



Research Associates Sean Ferrell and Lillian Peterson collect data from research volunteer, Ron Schultz.

associates are the people with SCI who participate in the studies. They are part of a team effort. But what motivates persons to volunteer in such a scientific quest? The reasons vary, but the most

perhaps in a future one, some therapeutic benefit may result. Another main purpose of volunteering for study participation seems to be an altruistic feeling that one is contributing to the greater cause – helping



reach the goal of functional restoration in all who are spinal cord injured.

Beyond these reasons lies a humanistic element in the relationship between researcher and participant. The research team is not seen as a sterile group of data-seeking entities, but rather as caring and dedicated persons committed to the goal of improving the physical lives of others. There is pleasant and cooperative interaction in the working relationships formed, that in itself is rewarding.

## The Commitments

At the front of the Lois Pope LIFE Center from where we could glance over to the glass-walled room next door and see individuals with SCI using various exercise apparatuses, I met with 28-year-old Angel Arevalo. He and his mother Anna Arevalo moved from El Salvador to Miami so Angel could receive adequate medical treatment for the cervical SCI he sustained at the C6 level in an automobile accident in 2002. Angel participated in Dr. Thomas' hand muscle study earlier this year.

"The main thing is to help the cause," said Angel. He added that it might also help him find out something further about his condition. With a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and age on his side, Angel's future, along with that of many other individuals with SCI, may be positively impacted by what lies ahead on the road to functional improvement and a cure.

Having moved with his mother Sandra Adams to Miami after fracturing his neck at the C5 level in a diving accident in 2004, 31-year-old Barrett Adams also hopes for optimal post-injury improvement. Barrett was a participant in the hand muscle study of Dr. Thomas and colleagues last year. Regarding the study he stated, "If I can help, their goal is my goal."

Sabrina Cohen, living in Miami at the time of a paralysis-producing automobile accident at age 14 in 1992, later earned



Angel Arevalo and Ron Schultz share their experiences outside the Lois Pope LIFE Center.

a bachelor's degree in psychology and advertising. Using this training, she immersed herself in volunteer work and became an activist for an organization independent of The Miami Project that supports stem cell research. As for research participation, Sabrina took part in Dr. Thomas' leg muscle study in 2005 because, as one of only a few women participating, she felt there was a need and wanted to help. "I don't think I went in with any expectations," she said. "I did it because they needed help and they needed a quad to participate in the study."

Robin Cleary of Pembroke Pines, Florida was involved in training thoroughbred horses when in 1996 she was thrown while riding and sustained a C3-C4 level injury resulting in quadriplegia. With a goal of helping in the quest for SCI cure, assisted by her husband Brian, Robin established the Robin Cleary Paralysis Research Fund for The Miami Project to aid in the cause. Last year Robin participated in both the hand and leg muscle studies conducted by Dr. Thomas, giving her reason as "I feel I should participate or I would like to participate because I know how important the studies are and there aren't that many quadriplegics around that might have the time to do it." Adding her thoughts on the future of SCI cure research she stated, "I

have great expectations because I feel like that's just why I get up in the morning. I think they're doing a wonderful job."

## The Partnership

The team effort of researcher and participant is of paramount importance. Miami Project Education Director Maria Amador, who recruits study participants, has referred to this relationship as one of "mutual admiration." Working in partnership, with mutual appreciation and cooperation, is a meaningful and beneficial venture that offers help and hope to people today and is leading toward the final goal of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

By Ronald C. Schultz, Ph.D.

*Dr. Schultz has written a book about his personal experience with SCI, Looking Upward, published this year by PublishAmerica. Further information about Dr. Schultz and his book can be found online at <http://publishedauthors.net/ronaldschultz>. He may be contacted at [r.c.schultz@att.net](mailto:r.c.schultz@att.net).*

**Editor's note: The Miami Project wishes to acknowledge and thank all the people with SCI who have committed their time, resources, and efforts to advance scientific knowledge by their participation in research studies.**



# Multi-Purpose Molecules

Everyone who reads the newspaper or listens to the news these days knows that researchers feel stem cells show great promise in the quest for effective therapies for a variety of disorders. For the moment, most stem cell scientists see the need to answer some basic questions: how to make stem cells morph into exactly the cell type needed to treat spinal cord injury, how to ensure that they survive after implantation, they are not rejected by the immune system and don't start multiplying unchecked.

At The Miami Project, Assistant Professor Daniel Liebl, Ph.D. applies his training in molecular and developmental biology to get at the signals that stem cells need to form the cells of the nervous system and promote their survival. It was about a decade ago that Liebl, through a multi-laboratory collaboration supported by the Christopher Reeve Foundation, was first introduced to the idea of using his training to pursue better treatments for spinal cord injury. The experience gained as a research fellow at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center prepared him for the position of assistant professor that he has held at The Miami Project since arriving in the year 2000.

"The goal of my studies," says Liebl, "is to evaluate all aspects of the life of a neuron, from early stem cell differentiation to axonal growth, to synaptic formation and function, to cell death. We hope to improve the basic understanding of the mechanisms involved as well as develop therapeutic strategies to promote recovery."

To do this, his laboratory has focused its attention on a specific family of molecules, the ephrins. These molecules are key components of the central nervous system. They not only influence neural cell development – information that might be useful in manipulating stem cells in the adult brain to give birth to new nerve cells – but they also play a role in how axons grow and find their paths, and in how synapses are formed. They are important players in wiring the axon connections in the uninjured nervous system.

In the injured nervous system, not only do we need to restore function through cell replacement strategies, axon growth and proper rewiring of connections, we also need to protect the acutely

damaged cord from cell death. Ephrins participate in all these aspects and may be a critical component for restoring the nervous system following spinal cord injury.

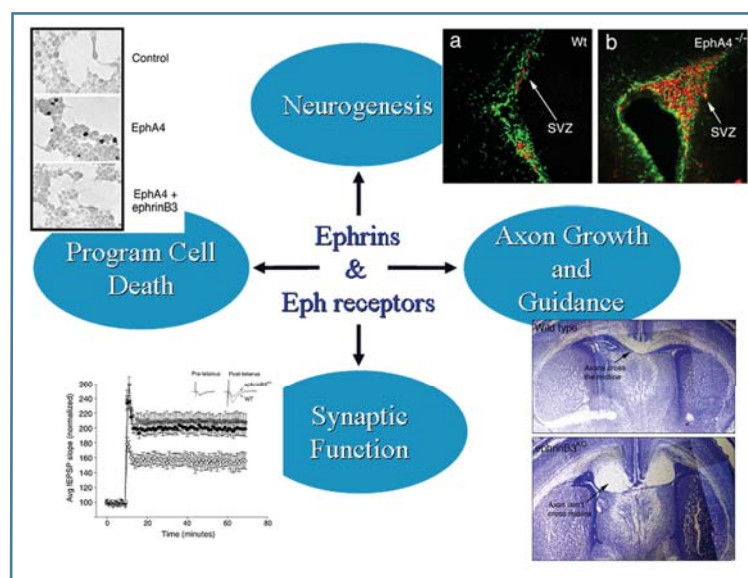
The fruits of Liebl's steady labor were revealed recently with the publication of several research articles. In one, he reports evidence that ephrinB3 contributes to the control of stem cell production, migration, and survival in the adult brain. Based on these findings, the lab is currently examining how ephrinB3 and its receptors might regulate nerve repair in animals with spinal cord injury.

"Specifically, we want to determine whether manipulation of ephrinB3 can improve the number of cells that ultimately differentiate into several neuronal cell types, such as neurons, oligodendrocytes, astrocytes, and microglia," explains Liebl. "We are also examining whether these molecules have similar effects on transplanted stem cells."

In two other studies, Dr. Liebl has looked at the role that ephrins play in the formation of synapses and the influence they have on the path that developing axons take. When Liebl inactivated ephrinB3, the proteins needed to maintain the synapses were disrupted. They also found that the absence of ephrins disrupted the path that specific axons normally take.

Dr. Liebl is currently translating these basic findings into new studies to determine if ephrins can regulate axon pathfinding and the formation and function of synapses in the injured spinal cord. By getting a clearer understanding of the responsibilities these important molecules have in normal nervous system development, Liebl hopes to use these molecules to develop treatments that will promote regeneration and help to properly rewire spinal cord circuitry.

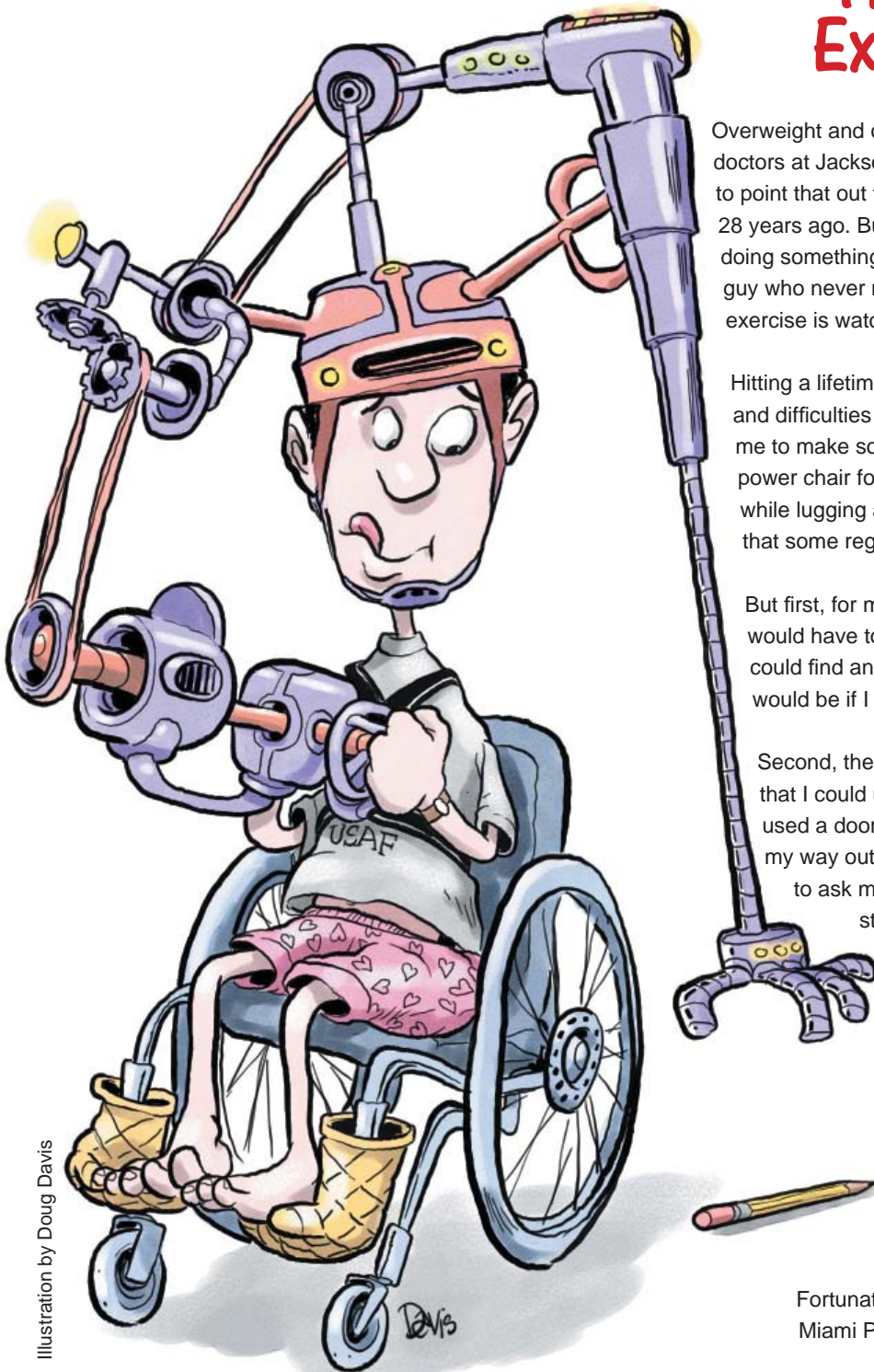
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*Ephrins and Eph receptors are important regulators of the stages of a neuron's life. Mice lacking these multi-purpose molecules are unable to form normal nerve cells (neurogenesis), have defects in axon growth, have impaired synapse function, and show increased nerve cell death.*

# Do-It-Yourself Gizmos

## The Poor Man's Exercise System



Overweight and out of shape is no way to go through life. The doctors at Jackson Memorial's rehab center in Miami were careful to point that out to me after the accident that left me a C6 quad 28 years ago. But knowing something doesn't necessarily lead to doing something about it. Especially if you're someone like me—a guy who never met a pizza he didn't like and whose idea of exercise is watching a game of volleyball at the beach.

Hitting a lifetime high in weight last year—with the aches, pains and difficulties that those extra pounds bring—finally convinced me to make some changes. Altering my diet and swapping my power chair for a power assist helped me drop 25 pounds. Still, while lugging around less weight made everything easier, I knew that some regular program of exercise was needed, too.

But first, for me to commit to exercising on a regular basis, it would have to be convenient. Traveling to and from a gym (if I could find an accessible one) would never work. The best thing would be if I could work out at home.

Second, the system would have to be set up in such a way that I could use it without any help. About 12 years ago, I'd used a door-mounted Thera-Band exercise band to exercise my way out of a shoulder injury. It had worked fine, but I'd had to ask my wife to set it up each time I wanted to use it. I stopped as soon as I could.

Third, it couldn't take up too much space or look too institutional. I needed something that wouldn't make a room look like a neighborhood gym.

And last, I didn't want to go broke buying or building it. With a history of quitting every exercise program I'd ever tried, I hardly wanted to spend thousands on some machine. I needed a poor man's exercise system.

Fortunately I'd run into such a system while visiting The Miami Project. They'd built a whole exercise program

using Thera-Band elastic bands and found it as effective as one using much more expensive weight machines.

They'd mounted theirs on the back of a door, so I had little doubt that mine could be conveniently located in my house. And it would be inexpensive—The Miami Project's had been built for less than \$75.

First, I searched the Web and found that Thera-Band had recently developed elastic bands which could clip on and off, rather than having to be tied. They were perfect for my purposes. I ordered an assortment of them, along with both soft and hard grips.

Once they arrived, I made an appointment with Robin Smith at Miami Physical Therapy Associates. Robin had already built his own system, using a two-by-four mounted vertically on a column, with eyehooks screwed in at different heights and Thera-Band bands tied into them.

We took my bands, clipped them in but soon found that neither the regular handles nor the soft handles that I'd ordered worked well with my C6 grip. Robin recommended a pair of wrist cuffs with D rings and, using them, we worked out a series of eight exercises that would exercise and strengthen all of my important muscle groups.

For my system, Robin recommended placing eyehooks near the floor, at navel height and another well above my head. I reviewed the regime with Dr. Mark Nash at The Miami Project, who agreed with Robin's recommendations. He also suggested squeezing my shoulder blades together while doing my rowing exercises (to loosen the scapulas) and starting my downward and upward diagonal exercises under tension.

A friend and I then designed my actual system. Rather than using a single 2-by-4 mounted to the wall, we opted for an 8-foot-long 4-by-4 mounted vertically, with a

36-inch crossbeam mounted horizontally at 33 inches. Eyehooks would be screwed into the wood to hold the Thera-Band strips—one at 2 inches to hold the bands for upward diagonal exercises, one at 31 inches for high and low rowing and internal and external rotation exercises, and one at 84 inches for downward diagonal exercises. The top of the center beam would also act as a shelf where I could store the 5-pound hand weights I'd use for my biceps and deltoid exercises.

Rather than using wrist cuffs with D rings, which would be difficult to take on and off, I found a pair of weight lifting cuffs on the Internet, each inset with curved, steel hooks. Clipping brass rings into each exercise band made hooking them easy.

To keep the bands for the diagonal exercises under tension, as Dr. Nash suggested, we installed shoulder hooks to the left and right side of the 4-by-4, one pair at 28 inches and the other at 48 inches. Additional eyehooks were installed to store spare bands—one on either side of the center hook—and additional shoulder hooks screwed in to hold cuffs and other exercise equipment.

After experimenting with different strap lengths, I found that 12-inch bands worked best for the bottom and center hooks and 18-inch bands were needed for the top hook. Extra tension could be added by simply adding another wrap of strap around my hand or adding more distance from the wall. And even more resistance could be added by either moving up to thicker bands or doubling up on the bands used.

In all, the materials for the system cost just \$166.68 plus tax and shipping. I'm pleased to say that it works great. I'm into the regime now—three sets of 10 reps for each exercise, done three times a week, the whole process taking about 45 minutes. I'm pretty sure that I'll stick with it—although there are times that I do dream of stopping for pizza and beer.

But I know, even if I backslide every once in a while, I'll still have my poor man's exercise system hanging on the wall.

By Alan F. Troop

*This article was reprinted with permission from New Mobility Magazine. Alan F. Troop is a published author and can be reached through his website at [www.dragonnovels.com](http://www.dragonnovels.com).*

**Editor's note: A circuit resistance training (CRT) program using the Thera-Band exercise system described here was compared to CRT using more expensive and space-consuming exercise equipment. In a study published in 2002, Associate Professor Dr. Mark Nash and colleagues reported no difference in exercise responses between the two exercise systems. (published in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Volume 83, February 2002.)**

## Exercise is For Every Body

For further information about physical activity after paralysis, contact **National Center on Physical Activity and Disability (NCPAD)**

NCPAD is committed to empowering people with disabilities to become healthier and more active. They offer a variety of resources to help people with disabilities become more active. Resources include exercise videos for people with SCI, one for tetraplegia and another for paraplegia.

Contact NCPAD at:  
online: [www.ncpad.org](http://www.ncpad.org)  
email: [ncpad@uic.edu](mailto:ncpad@uic.edu)  
voice mail: 1-800-900-8086  
mailing address: NCPAD  
Department of Disability and Human Development  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1640 West Roosevelt Road, Suite 711  
Chicago, IL 60608-6904



# BARTH A. GREEN, M.D.

*Helping your fellow man is not just a responsibility, it is a privilege. Words are meaningless if not followed by an action. Achieving closure on commitments is the true measure of success.*

These thoughts were engrained in Barth Green early on as he grew up on the south side of Chicago as the son and grandson of family physicians, each of whom made significant commitments to serve disadvantaged patients. His mother, Sonia, was a strong advocate for civil rights and social justice, both as an educator and community activist.



*Jeremy, Barth, Jenna, Kathy and Jared Green*

During his medical school years at Indiana University, Dr. Green experienced for the first time the extraordinary courage and integrity of paraplegics who volunteered in the spinal cord injury research laboratory where



*Dr. Green serving in the U.S. Army Reserve*

he worked. He quickly developed a deep admiration for these individuals whose lives were abruptly changed by paralysis. They inspired him to make a life-long commitment to pursue effective treatments and ultimately a cure for paralysis. During his neurosurgical residency training at Northwestern University in Chicago, he developed not only his special

interest in spine surgery, but also continued his research journey into the many challenges of paralysis.

Upon completion of his residency in 1975, he married his wife of 31 years, Kathy, a nursing instructor. By this time, Dr. Green had already established a national reputation as a researcher and was recruited to develop a clinical spinal cord injury program at the Jackson Memorial/University of Miami/VA Medical Center. Soon after his arrival, Dr. Green was instrumental in creating the first state-wide system for the care of spinal cord injury victims. He successfully lobbied to establish an impaired drivers trust fund to promote injury prevention programs and to support the treatment of patients from the accident scene to life-long care. At the same time Dr. Green developed his clinical and research programs, he maintained a long-term commitment to the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corp. His rank increased from lieutenant to colonel by the time he retired in 2002.

By 1985, Dr. Green had reached a point of frustration and despair due to the increasing challenges of obtaining research funding from NIH. He was almost ready to throw in the towel and abandon the research after 20 years of hard and productive work at about the same time that Marc Buoniconti suffered his tragic injury. In the months before and following Marc's accident, half a dozen men and women from some of the most high profile and important families in South Florida, and nationally, suffered similar

*"Barth is truly a remarkable man, he grabs hold of his vision, puts together a plan and surrounds himself with people that can make it a reality."*

spinal cord injuries. Instead of quitting, Dr. Green found a new source of energy and opportunity by joining hands with these families, along with their friends and colleagues. Together they founded The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, which today, has become not only the largest, but more importantly, one of the most productive and credible spinal cord injury and paralysis research centers in the world.

In his 30 years of clinical practice, a week never passed without Dr. Green presenting newly paralyzed patients and their families with the grim diagnosis and prognosis traditionally associated with spinal cord injury and paralysis. As The Miami Project nears its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary, Dr. Green still walks the halls of the hospital talking to newly injured patients and their families. ***What's different today is that after discussing the diagnosis and short-term prognosis, Dr. Green is able to state with great confidence and authority that "a cure for paralysis is now a feasible goal."*** Because of the cutting edge studies, The Miami Project's Scientific Director Dr. Dalton Dietrich and his stellar team of neuroscientists and clinical researchers, ***"it's no longer a matter of if, but a matter of when."*** Nick Buoniconti sums it all up when he speaks of Dr. Green – "Barth is truly a remarkable man, he grabs hold of his vision, puts together a plan and surrounds himself with people that can make it a reality."

Another of Dr. Green's interests and passions includes helping the people of Haiti. Ten years ago, Drs. Green and Arthur Fournier co-founded Project Medishare for Haiti. This organization provides medical care for tens of thousands of Haitians in the most isolated and underserved regions of their nation – the plateau central. Project Medishare is staffed by volunteers, including

physicians, medical students, nurses and allied health professionals from the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center plus other public-spirited citizens from all over the U.S. They have established a 24-hour, 7-day a week hospital and clinic, and recruited and trained dozens of local healthcare workers who provide care to thousands of victims of poverty, including patients with HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. Other holistic programs include creating an industry for food production and distribution. In addition to their focus on the medical education and training of a new generation of American and Haitian healthcare providers specializing in global health, Dr. Green spends several weeks per year working in the central plateau with the Project Medishare team.

At about the same time that he co-founded Project Medishare, Dr. Green met Harry Horgan, a paraplegic who had a dream and vision that was impossible to resist. Together they founded Shake-A-Leg Miami which annually serves over 6,000 children and adults with physical, mental and economic challenges. By combining water-based recreation programs with an educational curriculum, a unique model has been created that is recognized and lauded, both nationally and internationally.

For the past 10 years, Dr. Green has served as professor and chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of



*Helping the people of Haiti*

Medicine and as president of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Among all of his accomplishments, he is most proud of the joint venture with his wife Kathy. His three wonderful children – Jeremy, a 4<sup>th</sup> generation doctor pursuing a career in dermatology; Jared, a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at the University of Miami and a radiologist to be; and Jenna, a junior at Duke University – all share his commitment to humanity.



*Dr. Green standing on the dock at Shake-A-Leg Miami*



# Miami Project Faculty Notes

The **Department of Neurological Surgery/The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis** is ranked third among competing departments of neurological surgery for funding received from the National Institutes of Health.

**Mary Bartlett Bunge, Ph.D.**, the Christine E. Lynn Distinguished Professor in Neuroscience, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Science degree at the May commencement ceremony



*Mary Bartlett Bunge, Ph.D.*

from her alma mater, Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Bunge started her renowned scientific career with a Bachelor of Science in biology from Simmons College that later led to a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

This prestigious honorary doctoral degree emphasizes the

pioneering contributions that Dr. Bunge has made in elucidating the structure and function of cells that form myelin, and more recently, in developing novel combination strategies to improve repair of the injured spinal cord. We are very fortunate to have such an outstanding senior investigator making significant contributions to the programs at The Miami Project.

**Mark S. Nash, Ph.D., FACSM**, associate professor, has been appointed to the foreign faculty of the Department of Neurobiology at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. The department is headed by Åke Seiger, M.D., Ph.D., who served as the inaugural scientific director for The Miami Project. Dr. Nash will serve as co-head of a doctoral dissertation examining cardiovascular diseases, risks and treatments after spinal cord injuries, and will conduct allied research with Richard Levi, M.D., Ph.D. and Claes Hultling M.D., Ph.D. of the Karolinska Institute, Rehabilitation Station Stockholm and the Spinalis Foundation.



*Mark S. Nash, Ph.D., FACSM*



*Edelle Field-Fote, Ph.D., P.T.*

**Edelle Field-Fote, Ph.D., P.T.** was recently appointed as the new chair of the muscular, skeletal and rehabilitation sciences study section for the National Institutes of Health. This is the first time a physical therapist has been assigned to this position and is a testament to Dr. Field-Fote's commitment and hard work toward advancing research related to spinal cord injury and rehabilitation.

**Nancy L. Brackett, Ph.D., HCLD** was invited to join the editorial board of the Journal of Andrology. She also was an invited speaker at the 2006 American Urological Association meeting where she presented: "Fertility in men with spinal cord injury: New insights."



*Nancy L. Brackett, Ph.D., HCLD*

The Miami Project is looking forward to a close affiliation and collaboration with **Diana D. Cardenas, M.D., M.H.A.**, a new member of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's neuroscience community. Dr. Cardenas has been named chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and comes from the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle where she was professor and chief of service of rehabilitation medicine. A recognized leader in the field of spinal cord injury, Dr. Cardenas will also have a secondary appointment with The Miami Project where her clinical expertise and research experience in conducting multi-center investigations will be an asset.



*Diana D. Cardenas, M.D., M.H.A.*



# Companions for Axon Growth

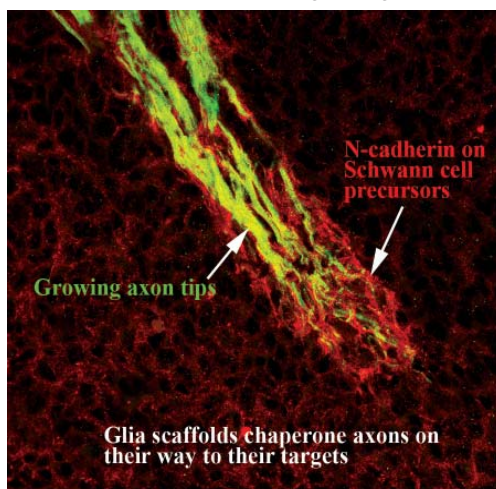
Because of its natural ability to regenerate, the peripheral nervous system is an ideal system to study regeneration. If researchers can understand how axons interact with growth-supportive cells and overcome the growth-inhibitory environment, they expect to apply this knowledge within the injured spinal cord.

Recent studies have for the first time shown a close relationship between the growing tip of an axon (growth cone) and the Schwann cell precursors. These precursors are progenitors of the supportive cells (glia) in peripheral nerves that will give rise to Schwann cells. The first author on these studies, Dr. Ina Wanner, was fortunate to have been able to bring together two groups of experts in Schwann cell biology: Drs. Patrick Wood and Mary B. Bunge at The Miami Project, and Drs. Rhona Mirsky and Kristjan Jessen at the University College London. While a post doctoral associate in Dr. Wood's lab, Wanner spent two weeks in London in the Jessen lab. This visit was the beginning of a fruitful collaboration between both groups.

One of the projects on which these investigators collaborated was to study in minute detail the movement of the growth cones towards their targets during the formation of peripheral nerves in development. They analyzed the immediate environment around the growing nerves as they neared their targets and found that Schwann cell precursors and growth cones form a close

companionship. These cells form a scaffold for the extending growth cones until they reach their final targets in arms and legs.

Dr. Wanner has also been clarifying where a known growth-promoting molecule, N-cadherin, is located and how it functions as axons make their way to their targets. She found that N-cadherin enables the accompanying supportive cells to embrace the growing axons and keep them tightly bundled. Evidence



suggests that axons pass through inhibitory areas best when tightly bundled and that the glia assure this bundling of growing axons so they can reach their proper connection sites most efficiently. Once axons have found their target, glial cells no longer express N-cadherin. It is re-expressed, however, after peripheral nerve injury where its growth-promoting ability could contribute to successful regeneration. These results provide evidence that the expression of N-cadherin in glia is a key element for axon outgrowth, bundling and pathfinding.

Further study has also revealed that inducing the expression of N-cadherin in more mature Schwann cells results in restoration of their ability to interact with axons and support their growth. Wanner's studies explain how N-cadherin and the relationship of axons with Schwann cell precursors support axon growth and the formation of connections in growing as well as regenerating peripheral nerves.



## International Outreach

**The Miami Project has trained researchers from more than 30 different countries.**

A major role of The Miami Project is providing education and training for the next generation of neuroscientists. This aspect of The Miami Project's mission is equally as important as conducting the research that will lead to a cure. Our long-term educational goal is to increase the number of scientists and laboratories working on paralysis research and central nervous system disorders around the world. Students and young scientists beginning their careers gain skills from The Miami Project's state-of-the-art comprehensive research and academic environment. The Miami Project has provided specialized training to scientists who go back to their respective countries to continue their research.

### Pre-Doctoral Training

372 graduate, undergraduate, and high school students have trained at The Miami Project.

22% worked toward a Ph.D. in Neuroscience under the mentorship of Miami Project faculty.

### Post-Doctoral Training

131 Research Fellows and Post Doctoral Associates carried out independent research in collaboration with Miami Project faculty.

Many moved on to faculty positions at other institutions.

### Visiting Scientists

179 visiting lecturers have participated in The Miami Project's Visiting Lectureship Series since it was initiated in 1987.

25 Visiting Scientists have carried out work in Miami Project laboratories.

# Successful Clinical Trials: Working Toward International Consensus

Attaining success in clinical trials for SCI repair is going to require international collaboration. Currently, scientists at The Miami Project are involved in serious discussions with colleagues throughout the world to reach agreements on the appropriate steps to take when planning and developing a clinical trial for SCI. The central issues under consideration include deciding which promising pre-clinical treatment strategies should be advanced to clinical trial, when this should occur, and how the studies should be designed.

Progress toward international coordination has come as a result of meetings in 2003 and 2004 organized by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the International Campaign for Cures for Spinal Cord Paralysis (ICCP), respectively. Since then, the international discussions that have ensued have identified several important considerations for the future of clinical trials in SCI and have recently led to the development of guidelines for conducting studies of human subjects with SCI.

One set of guidelines, published in 2005 in the journal *Spinal Cord*, was authored by 30 prominent scientists in SCI research from North America and Europe. The scientists from The Miami Project who contributed to this effort were Drs. W. Dalton Dietrich, Mary Bartlett Bunge and James Guest.

Another collaborative effort has been sponsored by ICCP. ICCP is a body of affiliate not-for-profit organizations working to fund research into cures for paralysis caused by SCI. Its members include The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis (USA), Christopher Reeve Foundation (USA), Institut pour la Recherche sur la Moelle Epinière (France), Japan Spinal Cord Foundation, Paralyzed Veterans Association (USA), Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation (Canada), Spinal Cure Australia, Spinal Treatment Australia, Spinal Research (United Kingdom), and Wings for Life (Austria).

ICCP assembled a 13 member international panel to analyze current information on clinical trial plans, progress and outcomes. Neurosurgeon and scientist Dr. James Guest from The Miami Project served on this panel. The aim of this effort is to promote the use of rigorous clinical trial methods in the translation of experimental discoveries to individuals with SCI. The panel's observations and recommendations for conducting trials in a consistent, safe and effective manner are documented in a series

of peer-reviewed articles that will soon appear in the journal *Spinal Cord*.

In addition to international efforts to establish guidelines for conducting clinical trials, The American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) standardized its International Standards for Neurological Classification of SCI, commonly referred to as "ASIA scores". This was a major contribution toward getting clinicians and researchers throughout the world to use the same standardized tool to assess patients with SCI. Practically all clinical trials related to SCI use the ASIA classifications in their outcome measures.

The success of future clinical trials in SCI, however, will require

new standardized and sensitive data collection tools. The new tools are important so that adequate comparisons between patients, centers and countries regarding injuries, treatments and outcomes can be made. The professional organizations ASIA and the International Spinal Cord Society have sponsored efforts to develop an International SCI Data Set. This dataset will assure that uniform data collection takes place across collaborating centers. Dr. Eva Widerström-Noga from The Miami Project has been closely involved with this effort.

*This type of collaboration should help accelerate the translation of promising new therapies to successful clinical trials.*

Other collaborative efforts have been directed at developing more accurate and sensitive outcome measures that are capable of detecting small functional changes. The European Clinical Trial Network supported by the International Spinal Research Trust and the North American Clinical Trials Network supported by the Christopher Reeve Foundation are teaming up to define the natural history of SCI and to develop standard measures for treatment success. The China Spinal Cord Injury Network is also bringing eight Chinese medical centers together to move SCI therapies to clinical trial.

It is hoped that the establishment of these important international collaborations and the development of clinical trial guidelines and standards will lead researchers throughout the world to use a common framework for the design and analysis of clinical trials. This type of collaboration should help accelerate the translation of promising new therapies to successful clinical trials. The Miami Project is contributing to these international collaborations to prepare for and coordinate clinical trials in SCI repair. With this continued international cooperation, successful clinical trials will become a reality.

“HAVING EXPERIENCED PARALYSIS FIRSTHAND, I FEEL ESPECIALLY FORTUNATE TO HAVE HAD A POSITIVE OUTCOME DESPITE A VERY NEGATIVE PROGNOSIS. I VOWED THAT I WOULD DO WHATEVER WAS IN MY POWER TO ASSIST THOSE ON THEIR WAY TO FIND A CURE.”

This year, Gloria and Emilio have donated one million dollars from the Gloria Estefan Foundation to the Human Clinical Trials Initiative at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Their vision and resources will lay the foundation for this most exciting phase.

Known far and wide as the “Queen of Latin Pop,” Gloria Estefan is one of the most recognized artists in the world. Billions have heard her, millions have seen her perform and over 70 million of her albums have been sold worldwide, making her the single most successful crossover performer in Latin music history. A five-time Grammy Award-winning singer, actress, songwriter, philanthropist and humanitarian, this superstar’s career is paved in platinum.

Gloria was presented with the “American Spirit Award” given by the Pepperdine University Hispanic Council in August 2005. Gloria and Emilio Estefan were presented with the National Artistic Achievement Award by the U.S. Congress on July 4, 2005, commemorating the Capitol’s Fourth 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Gloria was also presented with the International Women’s Forum Hall of Fame award and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute chose her to be the recipient of their 2001 Medallion of Excellence for Community Service. In 1997, she founded the Gloria Estefan Foundation, aimed to reach those who struggle outside the safeguards of society by promoting good health, education and cultural development.

After her own brush with paralysis, in March of 1994, Gloria teamed up with The Miami Project to serve as the Capital Campaign Director for The Miami Project’s new building campaign that raised over \$40 million dollars. Today The Miami

Project’s home, the Lois Pope LIFE Center, is a state-of-the-art facility that has brought together some of the most prominent neuroscience researchers in the world. She also serves as a Buoniconti Fund Board of Director, and honorary chairman of Destination

Fashion and The Buoniconti Fund NASDAQ 100 events. Gloria received The Buoniconti Fund Humanitarian Award at the Great Sports Legends dinner in 2003.

It has been said that extraordinary leaders are ordinary human beings who possess an extraordinary vision and put all of their passion, drive and ambition to bring it into fruition. This is what has made Emilio Estefan one of the most successful producers the music industry has experienced. His passion, unquestionable faith, and ability to keep his Latin roots alive in everything he does have made Emilio’s vision a trademark, a unique sound and a symbol of credibility and prestige.

After transcending the limiting beliefs surrounding the Latin music scene and of the artists that have been an integral part of its foundation, Emilio has been able to bring to life an unparalleled vision. As a true visionary, Emilio has continually experimented and pushed the envelope of blending Latin, pop and world rhythms that have created a unique style and personality. Emilio has been instrumental in shaping, developing and directing the

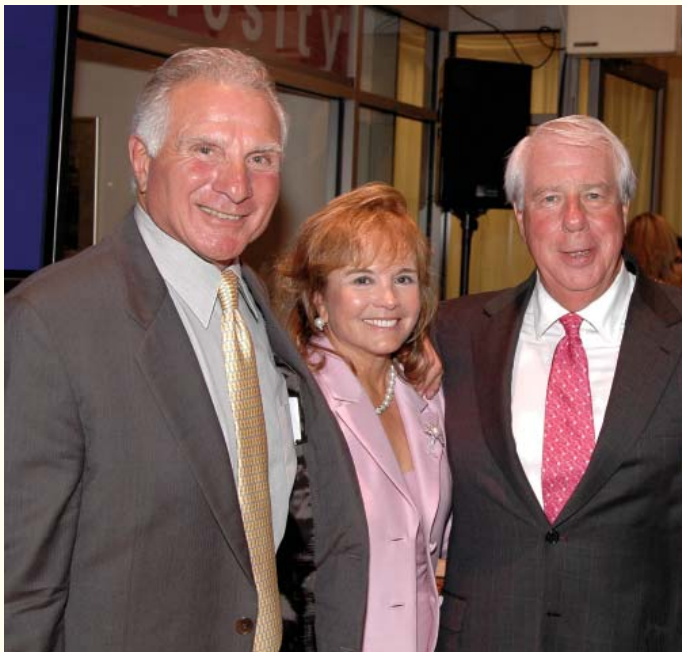


careers of Gloria Estefan, Carlos Ponce, Ricky Martin, Marc Anthony, Jon Secada, Alejandro Fernandez, Victor Manuelle, Carlos Vives, Jennifer López and Shakira, among many others.

Among the many awards and honors that Emilio has received are Honorary Doctorate degrees from Barry University, University of Miami and Florida International University. He also received the Sammy Cahn Lifetime Achievement Award by the Songwriters Hall of Fame and was honored by the Secretary of State, Colin Powell. Emilio received the 2005 BMI Songwriter of the Year Award and will receive his star on the Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, to go along with the one he received in Miami in 1997.

Gloria and Emilio affirm that when a vision is born from a place of love and respect (The Miami Project), it will only grow when you put passion and commitment behind it. The results continue to speak for themselves amongst everyone in the spinal cord injured community. The entire Miami Project family applauds the extraordinary efforts of this outstanding philanthropic couple.





“SWANEE AND PAUL STAND AS LEADERS OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY AND SERVE AS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.”

Paul and Swanee have seen the incredible growth of the cutting edge research programs at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. They have supported every research program and event at The Miami Project.

This year, Swanee and Paul have donated one million dollars to the Human Clinical Trials Initiative. Their vision will ultimately make a cure for paralysis a reality.

Swanee and Paul DiMare love Miami because of its diversity of cultures, the energy it exudes, and the strong commitment from the community to make the “Magic City” truly magical. Swanee grew up in Coral Gables, and feels passionately about giving back to her city and the state that she loves. A graduate of Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame she supports an endowment that helps to continue higher education. Paul DiMare is president of DiMare Brothers, Inc., DiMare Homestead, Inc., DiMare Johns Island, Inc., DiMare Ruskin, Inc., DiMare Tampa, Inc., and DiMare Fresh, Inc., and is treasurer of DiMare, Inc.

Swanee serves on the Board of Trustees of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and has co-chaired the Gala in the Garden. She and Paul are also members of

the Chihuly at Fairchild Steering Committee, and lead sponsors of the International Mango Festival. Swanee is a member of the

Board of Trustees of the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and the Board of Trustees of the Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium. In January 2001, Governor Jeb Bush appointed Swanee to the state of Florida Nature Based Heritage and Tourism Advisory Committee. In this capacity, Swanee serves as a volunteer traveling to various parts of the state, and meets with members of the committee to make recommendation on how to promote Florida’s natural beauty, rural areas, and historical sites.

Swanee has also co-chaired the American Red Cross Ball. As a result of her efforts she was awarded the Loly and Conway Hamilton Award. She served as a Red Cross Ball Humanitarian Chairman in 2005 and in 2006, she once again took on the leadership role of Ball Chairman.

Swanee and her husband Paul are members of the Merrick Society, a philanthropic group of donors who support the University of Miami. They are very active supporters of The Miami Project.

In February 2004, Swanee was recognized by The Miami Project as one of South Florida’s 10 Women of Substance and Style at The Project’s premiere event Destination Fashion.

In addition, Swanee and Paul support the American Cancer Society, Kristi House, the Camillus House, the Community Partnership for the Homeless, the Baptist Health Foundation and The Alpha One Foundation. Swanee is also active in the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program and the Performing Arts.

Paul’s professional and community involvement includes his role as founder and chairman of Florida Farmers, Inc., director of The American Red Cross of Greater Miami and The Keys, member of the University of Miami Board of Trustees, director of the First National Bank of South Florida, president of the Florida Tomato Committee, chairman of the Florida Tomato Exchange, Dade County Farm Bureau, Farm Share Advisory Board, founder of The Paul J. DiMare Foundation, St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Scituate, Massachusetts, Miami Museum of Science Board of Directors, Community Partnership for the Homeless Board of Directors, Baptist Hospital South Florida Foundation Board of Directors.

Paul was named the 1998 Agriculturist of the Year, Dade County Farm Bureau and was given the Award of Appreciation by Governor Jeb Bush. Paul was elected to the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2005.

The entire Miami Project family applauds the extraordinary efforts of this outstanding philanthropic couple.



## "MARGARET LEFT A LEGACY OF KINDNESS, LOVE AND COMPASSION TO ALL SHE TOUCHED."

The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis would like to honor and thank Margaret M. Ripley and the Ripley family for their generous \$500,000 donation for stem cell research. In 1986, Margaret's youngest son, Tim, was in a motorcycle accident on his way back to school at Arizona State University when a car made a turn directly across his path. The subsequent surgery to repair a torn aorta left Tim paralyzed.

Margaret, known as Peggy to her loved ones, saw stem cell research as the most promising area of medical research for treating spinal cord injuries as well as numerous other medical conditions. Peggy recognized the importance of private funding of stem cell research because of current governmental restrictions on federally funded research. Most of all, Peggy felt that making a donation to stem cell research was a way to continue helping Tim after her death. On September 21, 2005, Peggy passed away.

Margaret M. Ripley was born in Bluefield, West Virginia, on May 12, 1931. Her father was an executive at Jewell Ridge Coal Corporation, a company that had been co-founded by her grandfather. Peggy had three older brothers, Bobby, G.W. and Jimmy. Peggy attended high school at the National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C and majored in government at Sweet Briar College. She spent her junior year of college in Paris and returned there after graduation to study at the Sorbonne. In 1954, Peggy began work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies.

In 1957, Peggy married Richard Ripley and had three children: St Clair, Huston and Timothy. In 1961, the family moved to Morristown, NJ where Peggy worked as a volunteer with the Junior League. In one project of which she was particularly proud, she helped organize a research and information center for women seeking a return to school, employment or volunteer work. The project was in keeping with her interest in the political, economic and social empowerment of women, an awareness that was gaining momentum during the 1960s. In the 1990s, Peggy was an active member of the Literacy Volunteers of America.

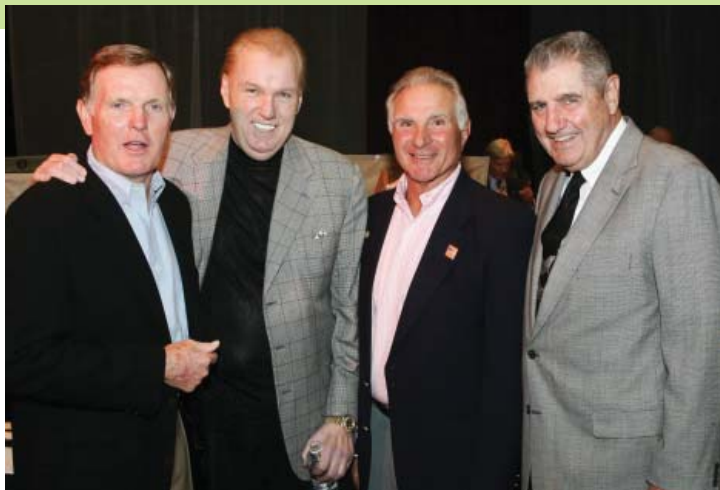
Peggy is survived by her three sons. St Clair, an actor and musician, has appeared in plays in the London fringe and off-off Broadway in New York. Huston is making a name for himself as a visual artist and has exhibited his work extensively. After his injury, Tim continued his studies at Arizona State University and received a degree in mechanical engineering and is a computer programmer.

Peggy was a gentle, calm, easygoing woman who had a keen sense of adventure and passion for traveling. She left a legacy of kindness, love and compassion to all she touched.

## Seven and Keeps Going

When media mogul and Buoniconti Fund board member Roger King wants to achieve a goal, he just never stops. King showed his enthusiasm and passion for the cause as he hosted the Seventh Annual Roger King Celebrity Golf Invitational to benefit The Buoniconti Fund. King enlisted his friend, real estate magnate Donald Trump, to be the presenting sponsor of the two day extravaganza for the second year in a row

at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. King's friends and business associates flew in from around the country to play in the golf tourney with celebrities including Bob Griese, Gerry Cooney, Dick Anderson and Harry Carson to name a few. *Inside Edition's* weekend anchor Don Criqui served as master of ceremonies for the "Golf Ball" dinner and introduced King who stood up and promised to help find a cure for paralysis.



*Bob Griese, Roger King, Nick Buoniconti and Earl Morrall*

## The Second Annual Celebrity Polo Match & Gala

What do Oscar Award Winning Actor Tommy Lee Jones, NFL Hall of Famer Nick Buoniconti, *America's Most Wanted* TV host John Walsh and the fast paced game of polo have in common?

They were the main ingredients in a one-of-a-kind event that combined the talents and passions of each – Jones for his acting and polo playing ability, Buoniconti for his unrelenting drive to help find a cure for paralysis and Walsh for his passion to make a difference.

Now throw in the fashion house of Hermès as a presenting sponsor and that equals a smashing team. The Second Annual Celebrity Polo Match & Gala, presented by Hermès, a unique fundraising event held at the International Polo Club Palm Beach in Wellington, raised nearly \$600,000.

This amazing event featured a celebrity polo match with a riveting game played under the bright lights featuring Tommy Lee and Dawn Jones, John Walsh, Tim Gannon, Mathias Hermes, John Goodman and Salvatore Ferragamo.



*Bonnie Mandich, Kathy and Barth Green, M.D., Nick and Marc Buoniconti, Dawn and Tommy Lee Jones, Lynn Buoniconti*

Guests bid on phenomenal auction items as they indulged in sumptuous cuisine, enjoyed live entertainment including an Equestrian Carnival and a special performance from famed horse trainer Mario Luraschi, flown in from France just for this event.

"The International Polo Community brings

a great deal of beauty, art and exciting sport into the world at a great peril to life and limb. It is a natural partnership with The Miami Project to seek a cure for what has been thought of as terminal spinal cord injury. With the development of stem cell research, we all want to take the word terminal out of the equation," said Tommy Lee Jones.

## ACE For A Cure



*Barth Green, M.D., Emilio, Emily and Gloria Estefan, Rich McCarthy, Marc Buoniconti, Tommy Lee and Dawn Jones and Nick Buoniconti.*

The Nasdaq-100 Open, the fifth largest tennis tournament in the world, opened up their courts to The Buoniconti Fund. This dynamic duo teamed up with Mercedes-Benz who presented the Second Annual

Mercedes-Benz "ACE for a Cure" event at the tennis site. Revelers indulged in a rockin' party surrounded by luxurious cars at their Mercedes-Benz Lifestyle Center. But there was more - an opportunity to buy a drawing ticket to win a 2006 Mercedes-Benz SLK280.

Partygoers sipped on frothy concoctions and nibbled on sumptuous cuisine as celeb hostess Grammy Award winner Gloria Estefan and radio personality Footy revved up the crowd that included Oscar

Award winner Tommy Lee Jones, Nasdaq-100 Open Tournament Chairman Butch Buchholtz, The Miami Project co-founders Nick Buoniconti and Dr. Barth Green to name a few.

The hip-hop partygoers witnessed a phenomenal fashion extravaganza produced by the Village of Merrick Park that featured their top fashion houses including La Perla, Diane Von Furstenberg, Jimmy Choo, Adolfo Dominguez, Furla, Schedoni, Etro, Betsey Johnson, Roberto Cavalli, Donald J. Pliner and Luca Luca. The highlight of the fashion show featured a celebrity model appearance by Olympic Gold Medalist and the fastest swimmer in the world, Gary Hall, Jr. who strutted down the runway in a stylish bathing suit.



## Second Annual Indian Creek Golf Invitational



*Paul DiMare, Marc Buoniconti and Swanee DiMare*

Swanee and Paul DiMare have done it again. In addition to donating one million dollars to The Miami Project, the DiMares' served as Presenting Sponsor of the Second Annual Buoniconti Fund Golf Invitational at the Indian Creek Country Club. Golfers and sports celebrities including Julius "Dr. J" Erving, Lawrence Taylor, Earl Morrall, Nat Moore and Ed Reed teed off for a dazzling day of golf, competed in on-course contests including the possibility of taking home a Williamson Cadillac Hummer and a Warren Henry Jaguar convertible and all ended the day with a celebratory awards ceremony dinner and silent auction. Continental Airlines served as the official airline sponsor for the event. Next year's event will be on Friday, April 27, 2007.

## Eighth Annual Kevin Kitchenfsky Golf Invitational

In 1996, Kevin became paralyzed while working on a construction site. Determined to walk again, Kevin and his family have been raising money for research and care programs ever since. "This golf tournament is just one of the many fundraising events my foundation has done over the years," said Kevin Kitchenfsky.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, more than 92 golfers played at the Shadowbrook Inn & Resort in Tunkhannock, PA. Every year this tournament becomes larger and more successful. "I can't begin to thank my family and the Tunkhannock community enough for the support they give me every year. I know that soon scientists will develop a cure for paralysis," said Kevin.

## Tournament of Hope

Under the leadership of tournament founder Dr. Alfred Arcidi, Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital's Tournament of Hope took place on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Haverhill Country Club in Massachusetts. Over 120 golfers came out for this much anticipated event. Each year, the golf outing is supported by many Boston area sports stars including Gino Cappalletti, John Havlicek, Ronnie Lippett, Tom Yewcic, to name a few, as well as Miami Project Board Members Nick Buoniconti, Dick Anderson and John Gray.

"This event involves so much of Dr. Arcidi's time and that of his staff who produce the event themselves. They ask for very little help from The Miami Project, but year in and year out contribute a significant amount of money in order to find a cure for paralysis," said Board Member John Gray.

## The Women's Guild Installation Luncheon

The Women's Guild is a group of devoted women who share a commitment to help Miami Project scientists find a cure for paralysis by raising the money necessary to fund their research programs. For more than nineteen years, these dedicated women have brought in new members and produced fun and interesting events to attend. On May 17, The Guild held their annual Installation Luncheon. 2006-2007 Officers are:

<b>Co-Presidents:</b>	<b>Lenore Elias</b> <b>Terry Buoniconti</b>
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	<b>Bernice Kronick</b> <b>Dorothy Barrie</b> <b>Precious Knox</b>
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	<b>Diana Berning</b>
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	<b>Ruth Platoff</b>
<b>Historian:</b>	<b>Kay Peters</b>
<b>Tree of Hope Chairperson:</b>	<b>Sandy Mueller</b>
<b>Hope-A-Gram Chairperson:</b>	<b>Judy Mann</b>



*Judy Mann, Rivian Lubin, Bernice Kronick, Kay Peters, Linda Tommasino, Lenore Elias, Terry Buoniconti, Phyllis Meyers, Lois Fogel, Toby Arbeiter, Diana Berning and Alysian Sherota.*

A special thank you goes to outgoing Co-President Toby Arbeiter for all of her hard work.

# The National Chapters of The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis

*In 1992, the National Chapters of The Buoniconti Fund were formed by a dedicated group of volunteers in Miami and New York City to raise funds for and awareness of the unprecedented research ongoing at The Miami Project.*

Through the efforts of these volunteers, the Chapters' foundation was built enabling the National Chapters to further its outreach throughout the country.

One example of this outreach is with our Philadelphia Chapter formed just two years ago by Volunteer Regional Director Sally Woolf. "A few years ago, my son-in-law became a paraplegic as a result of a car accident. Subsequently, a friend of mine told me about The Miami Project. While my husband and I were in Florida, we decided to visit The Miami Project. We were very impressed with everything about it, especially the research being done toward finding a cure for spinal cord injury. We decided to create the Philadelphia Chapter. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response from friends, family members and the Philadelphia and suburban communities to our endeavor."

"It has been so rewarding for us to see the Philadelphia Chapter become so successful in such a short time. We set goals and went beyond them. There is certainly lots of hard work involved, but the committee is so dedicated and invigorated by the cause, that the hard work and challenges become less "work" and more about fun and accomplishing goals. We have a great time doing this and feel very good about it too," said Woolf.

Over the course of the years, we have been extremely fortunate that many of our individual and corporate sponsors continue to support our meaningful cause today.



*Bob Reese, Logan Baker, Commissioner Bill Kerdyk (Coral Gables, FL) and Josh Katsur at the Orlando Chapter's Ninth Annual Buoniconti Fund Golf Tournament*

They have helped us build upon the foundation started by our National Chapters more than 14 years ago. We offer special thanks to all of our volunteers and supporters that have invested their time, energy and dollars to support the research at The Miami Project.

To learn more about our National Chapters and upcoming events, visit our website at [www.thebuonicontifund.com](http://www.thebuonicontifund.com). To become involved in a Chapter in your area, or to establish a new Chapter, please contact Teri Bendell, Director of National Chapters via email at [tbendell@miami.edu](mailto:tbendell@miami.edu) or call 1-888-STAND UP.



*Teri Bendell and Tony Scott at the Baltimore Chapter's Inaugural Crab Feast*



*Scott Roy, Nick Buoniconti (Orlando), Nick Carbone (Tampa Bay) and Jim Hoy (Pittsburgh) celebrate in Miami*



*Gina Azzolini (Northern New Jersey), Joel Thompson (Atlanta) and Sally & Steve Woolf (Philadelphia) at the 2005 National Chapter Summit*



# OUT AND ABOUT TO BENEFIT A CURE



*Swanee DiMare and Christine Lynn*



*Gary Abramson, Jim and Maddy Berlin and Pennie Abramson*



*UM President Donna Shalala and Tim Gannon*



*Lois Pope and Suzi Goldsmith*



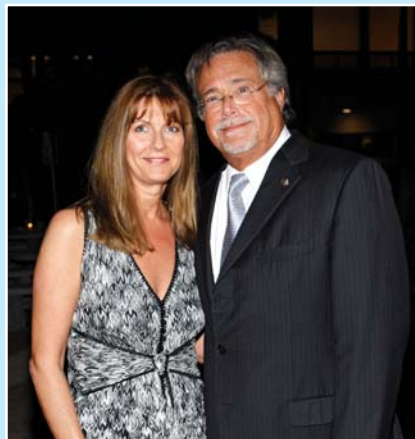
*DJ Kerr, Jackie and Steve Poliakoff*



*Bud and Ann McDougal*



*Marcy and Bob Haupt*



*Madeleine and Micky Arison*



*Emerson Fittipaldi, Rossana Fanucchi, Valesca and Mathias Guerrand Hermes*



*Eugene and Anna May Conese and Elaine and Jon Krupnick*



*Maurice Zarmati and Linda Coll*



*Lindy Colson, Terry Buoniconti and Dean Colson*





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## THE PROJECT

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