**TBI IN THE NEWS**

*ABLE Act Signed into Law* - The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act made its way through the House and Senate and was signed into law by President Barack Obama in late December. The ABLE Act will allow individuals with disabilities and their families to save and accumulate funds in tax-free savings accounts before the end of 2015.

These accounts can pay for housing, transportation, home health, and other eligible expenses without jeopardizing benefits and eligibility for Medicaid or Social Security benefits. [Click here to learn more](#) about the Act and its potential impacts on your life from the National Disability Institute.

**PARENTING FOR ADULTS WITH A TBI**

Raising a child is never easy, but the problems that often arise after a traumatic brain injury can make parenting even more challenging. To address the specific task of parenting with a TBI, researchers at TIRR Memorial Hermann and Baylor College of Medicine have published a new manual which explains how TBI can affect parenting, discusses some of the common challenges faced by parents with TBI, and offers some suggestions and tips to help parents deal with these challenges. [Check out the manual here](#). This manual is also available in Spanish. You can also check out a [past Brain Injury Research Center report on parenting post TBI](#).
BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH
March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. As part of an ongoing campaign to educate the public about the incidence of brain injury and the needs of individuals who are injured and their families, the Brain Injury Association of America takes the month of March to conduct outreach and continue to promote the many types of support that are available. Learn more about Awareness Month activities here.

As a part of Brain Injury Awareness Month, the Brain Injury Research Center of Mount Sinai will be participating in the MOUNT SINAI BRAIN AWARENESS FAIR on Thursday, March 19, 2015. The event will be held in the Guggenheim Pavilion from 2:00–6:00 PM and aims to help local school children, their parents, and community members learn about basic concepts in brain health and brain science.

TBI FACTSHEETS
The Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (TBIMS), funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, is a specialized program of care in TBI that carries out innovative and high-quality research, provides patient care, and offers other services to improve the health and overall quality of life for individuals. As a member of the TBIMS, the BIRC conducts research to help inform the development of resources meant to address the needs of those living with TBI. Among those resources are a series of TBI Factsheets, produced by the Model System Knowledge Translation Center, which delve into the different aspects of life post-TBI. You can check out the TBI Factsheets by clicking here. These factsheets are also available in Spanish.

Email us at birc@mountsinai.org and tell us what you’d like to learn more about so that we can cover it in one our next issues!

Resources for Healthcare Professionals

HEALTH INFORMATION TOOL FOR EMPOWERMENT (HITE)
Learn more here ...

HITE is a NYC-based online resource for social workers, discharge planners, and other information and referral providers. HITE’s comprehensive customizable directory helps the NY health and social services workforce provide fast, accurate linkages for uninsured and low-income individuals in the community.

It contains thousands of searchable resources in the Greater New York City area that not only list the name, address, and phone number, but also information about intake procedures, languages spoken, hours of operations, directions, and more.

ENGAGING POLICYMAKERS: A SELF-PACED COURSE
Learn more and register here ...

Are you involved in rehabilitation research? Do you have an interest in sharing your research with policymakers? If so, you may be interested in an online course provided by the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center, a national center dedicated to making research meaningful to those with TBI, SCI and Burn Injury.

The 'Engaging Policymakers' course is a 2-hour, self-paced online course designed to teach rehabilitation researchers how to facilitate interaction and increase engagement with policymakers. The course will help participants learn the value of and strategies for engaging policymakers.
Research Study Highlights

TBI AND HEALTH IN OLDER ADULTS: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

The Brain Injury Research Center at Mount Sinai Medical Center is seeking people who had a traumatic brain injury (TBI) when they were at least 40 years old, are at least 1 year post injury and were hospitalized for the injury.

Interested individuals will have the opportunity to participate in either 1 or 2 interviews designed to learn more about brain injury and aging.

Interviews can be completed over the phone or in person and will include the following:

- a brief test of your thinking abilities
- questions about your health and your functioning after your brain injury.

Compensation will be provided for your time. If you are interested, please call Gabrielle Guetta at (212)-241-0818 or email her at gabrielle.guetta@mountsinai.org.

PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING IN TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

This new study aims to evaluate daily activities and skills for everyday functioning. This project will enroll adults with TBI who are at least 1-year post-injury and are experiencing difficulties with everyday tasks. This may include difficulty with preparing meals, maintaining a schedule, and coming up with solutions to problems.

This project will also enroll healthy individuals who have not sustained TBIs to serve in a comparison group. Individuals without a TBI must not have any neurological diagnoses.

All individuals involved in the study will visit Mount Sinai once for about two hours to complete the following:

- a screening for medical, mood, and demographic history
- performing of three everyday tasks (such as making coffee)
- an assessment of cognition (thinking skills)

Compensation will be provided for your time. If you are interested, please call Colette Elliott, Ph.D. at (212) 241-5250 or e-mail her at colette.elliott@mountsinai.org.
Publication Highlight


This paper provides an overview of a series of projects that used the Brain Injury Screening Questionnaire (BISQ), a structured self-report screening tool developed by the Brain Injury Research Center of Mount Sinai, in diverse settings and samples to screen for lifetime history of traumatic brain injury (TBI). The projects involved the collection of information on self-reported history of TBI with chronic symptoms and associations between TBI and social, academic, or other problems.

To read more, access the full paper by clicking here.

Links from this Newsletter

The URLs below correspond to the links in this newsletter. If you are unable to open up a link in this newsletter, simply copy and paste the corresponding link below into your web browser for easy access!

RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH TBI & THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

TBI IN THE NEWS
• http://www.realeconomicimpact.org/Public-Policy/ABLE-Act.aspx

PARENTING FOR ADULTS WITH A TBI
• http://tbicommunity.org/resources/publications/Parenting_for_Adults_with_TBI_Manual.pdf
• http://tbicommunity.org/resources/publications/Parenting_for_Adults_with_TBI_Manual_Spanish.pdf
  
If you cannot access the third link, go to tbicentral.org and click on Publications, then click on Consumer Reports.

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH
• http://www.biausa.org/brain-injury-awareness-month.htm

TBI FACTSHEETS
• http://www.msktc.org/tbi/factsheets
• http://www.msktc.org/spanish/tbi
RESOURCES FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

HEALTH INFORMATION TOOL FOR EMPOWERMENT (HITE)
• http://hitesite.org/

ENGAGING POLICYMAKERS: A SELF-PACED COURSE
• http://www.msktc.org/Model-Systems-Grantees/TSA/Engaging-Policymakers-Course

RESEARCH STUDY HIGHLIGHTS
More information about these and our other research studies can be found at:
• http://icahn.mssm.edu/research/centers/brain-injury-research-center-of-mount-sinai/clinical-trials

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT
• http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25370440

Thanks for Reading!

To update your email address or unsubscribe from this newsletter, email us at birc@mountsinai.org.

Feel free to share this information with friends and family. Happy reading and be on the lookout for future updates and announcements!

Stay connected to the BIRC on the Web!

BIRC Website Link

BIRC Facebook

This newsletter was developed under grants from the U.S. Department of Education, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), grant number H133A070033 and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), grant number 5 R49 CE002092-02. However, this does not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.