

ODC News

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Chapter of
the National Spinal Cord Injury Association
P.O. Box 8326 Richmond, VA 23226
(804) 726-4990
www.odncscia.org

May 2006

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The Next Meeting of the Old Dominion Chapter

Is:

Tuesday June 20th, 2006
5:30-7PM

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital
5700 Fitzhugh Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226

First, let me apologize for not getting the newsletter or a reminder card out in enough time to remind you of the May meeting. I notified everyone that I had an email address for.

There has been a lot going on over the last month and I want to bring everyone up to date. If you haven't been to our website (www.odncscia.org) recently, I encourage all of you to take a look. Michael Chenail with Compliance Alliance has worked really hard to give us a great looking and accessible website. Please call me at the office or send me an email if there are any problems, things that you would like to see there or if you notice any dead links on the site.

Our 2nd Annual Golf Marathon fundraiser April 24 at Brandermill Country Club was a huge success, raising over \$43,000 in pledges. Please be sure to see the article on pg.2. The 2nd Annual Living Fully with a Disability was also a great success. Approximately 175 people attended the April 28th event at the Science Museum of VA. Many different organizations serving the disability community were on hand to offer recommendations on everything from wheelchair maintenance and adaptive recreation to nutrition, blood sugar, cholesterol, and blood pressure. Many chapter members came out and took part. Thank you to VCU Health Systems for putting on the event and letting us be a part with the other community organizations! Thank you also goes out to all of the chapter members who responded to the recent request to update your personal information and provide contacts to help VCU update their Resource Guide for persons with spinal cord injuries. Your responses are being processed and the updated guide will be available soon through both VCU's PM&R website (www.sci.pmr.vcu.edu) as well as on the Old Dominion Chapter site. Hard copies will also be made available. Contact the office if you would like one and do not have internet access.

There are lots of upcoming events that will appeal to lots of different interests. Be sure to read through the newsletter, get in touch with these different organizations, register and take part! I would also like to draw special attention to two events listed in the newsletter for you to mark your calendars. The first is the annual SCI Symposium hosted by VCU Health Systems in Virginia Beach. This year's event will again be Neptune Festival Week in Virginia Beach Oct. 1-2. The second event is the 2nd annual SCI Summit hosted by our national organization. This year's event is Oct. 29th – Nov. 1 in Bethesda, MD. Last year's event was great and I encourage you to mark your calendars to attend. Be sure to check the website often under "upcoming events" as we will post information there when it becomes available.

Finally, if you would like to take part in the Summit or any of the other opportunities and don't have the financial resources, this would be a perfect chance to take advantage of our Quality of Life Program. Either call the office or go to the website and follow the link under "programs" to get an application. I hope to see you all out and about at one of these events soon.

Shawn Floyd
Executive Director

THE 2ND ANNUAL EMROCH & KILDUFF / OLD DOMINION CHAPTER, NSCIA GOLF MARATHON RAISES OVER \$43,000 IN PLEDGES!

Please be sure to visit our website www.odcnsCIA.org/marathon to view pictures from the day and links to the sponsor's websites.

On Monday April 24th, 2006 Brandermill Country Club in Midlothian, VA was once again our host for the 2nd Annual Emroch & Kilduff / Old Dominion Chapter, NSCIA Golf Marathon fundraiser. Twenty golfers gathered for the 7:00am start and played continuously until well after 4pm striving to reach their goal of playing 100 holes of golf in a single day. Proceeds from this year's event will be used to support the Old Dominion Chapter and develop new programs that help to improve the quality of life for those with spinal cord injuries.

During the six weeks leading up to the event, the golfers, along with their partners, asked their friends, neighbors, relatives, business associates, etc to sponsor them for \$1 per hole toward their goal of playing 100 holes in a single day. Each participant endeavored to reach a sponsorship goal of \$25 per hole, for a total of \$2,500 per golfer. Special thanks go out to all of the golfers and partners for all of their hard work that made our event such a success! We would also like to thank all of our corporate sponsors and prize donors that made our event possible!

Title Sponsor

The Law Firm of Emroch & Kilduff

Meal Sponsors

Ride-Away Handicap Equipment Corp.
West Home Health Care

Comfort Station Sponsors

HealthSouth
Hometown Realty
SunTrust
Mitchell Wiggins
Virginia APSE

Tee Sponsors

The Allen Law Firm
The Law Firm of Maxwell & Burke
AmRamp
Quickie Wheelchairs
Dining with Dignity
Commonwealth Medical Equipment
Allied Barton Security Services
Central Virginia FoodBank
TecAccess

In addition to competing for prizes that were awarded to the top fundraisers, the golfer's competed during the 100 hole event. We had some of the standard competitions including; Longest Drive, Longest Putt, 2 Closest to the Pin holes, but we also handed out prizes for a few more unconventional competitions such as Longest Wrong-Handed Drive, Longest Drive from a Wheelchair, Shortest Drive and the most popular, Most Lost Golf Balls. (We had 3 golfers tie at 30 for this year's event!)

Among the tournament participants again this year were three members of the Old Dominion Chapter with spinal cord injuries. At the time of the event, no golf courses in Richmond or surrounding counties offered adaptive golf carts. After several unsuccessful months of attempting to locate an adaptive cart, the three paraplegic golfers were afraid that they would have to cancel their participation in the event. Fortunately, in the week prior to the event, a private individual with an adaptive cart, agreed to allow the Old Dominion Chapter the use of his cart for the event. Our thanks go out to him for his generosity!

This specially designed cart by SoloRider was equipped with hand-controls and a standing swivel seat, allowing the golfers to obtain a full swing either from a seated or standing position. This is something that cannot be accomplished from a wheelchair or standard golf cart, as the players' legs or golf cart would impede their swing. Adaptive carts are also the only carts allowed on all surfaces of the golf course, including the green, as they are designed to not cause damage and allow a player with a disability to play the entire course from tee box to flag stick.

There are several manufacturers of adaptive carts and during the search for carts to use during our event ODC/NSCIA's Executive Director Shawn Floyd, contacted Art Bennett with Henrico County Division of Recreation and Parks about the need for one in the Richmond Community. In July, Henrico County expects to provide an adaptive cart made by EZ-GO at its' Belmont Public Golf Course. PLEASE BE SURE TO USE THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE!

For more information about the event or accessible golf check the links on our website or call the office at (804) 726-4990.

'Hwang myth' spurs dubious stem cell tests

Rush to develop therapies leaves 12 dead, 80% in worse condition

Published 01/16/2006

JoongAng Daily *Korea* | Kim Sung-tak, Jung Hyo-sik

KOREA

Hwang Mi-sun, 39, was once hailed as proof that miracle cures can happen. Paralyzed from the waist down and confined to a wheelchair because of a spinal cord injury she suffered when she was 19, she met the press on Nov. 25, 2004, and took a few steps with the aid of a walker.

The press conference was called by a team of researchers at Chosun University's medical school, Seoul National University's veterinary college and Seoul Cord Bank, a biotechnology company, who had treated Ms. Hwang with injections of adult stem cells.

Just over a year later, Ms. Hwang says her miracle has turned into a nightmare. She can no longer even sit in a wheelchair and now spends most of her time in bed and says she is in constant pain. Her story, and others like it, suggests that there was a headlong rush by the government and medical researchers to get a step ahead of the rest of the world in stem cell therapy and that corners were cut, including by the government's medical oversight body. "The improvements after the first treatment disappeared quickly," Ms. Hwang said. "I underwent another treatment, and this is the result. I was unable to move and suffered from extreme pain, but the hospital and the company just told me to wait."



Her doctor says she contracted an infection during the second round of therapy, last April, and that the infection has weakened her spine. The tissues surrounding the bones have hardened, her physician said, and he cannot even insert a needle in an attempt to treat her. The researchers who conducted that second round of therapy say they do not know whether the infection was caused by bacteria accompanying the stem cells or by problems related to the procedure. One of the doctors who performed the second treatment, and who demanded that his name not be used, admitted that the operation had been risky. "It was difficult to expect a good result from her, but we performed the procedure at Seoul Cord Bank's request. I am sorry that I did not turn it down at the time," he said. "I wanted to treat Ms. Hwang for the side effects, but she changed hospitals, saying she could not trust us anymore."

Citing her suffering, Ms. Hwang's husband warned other people not to harbor too many hopes about stem cell treatment. There is no proof of the effectiveness of adult stem cell therapy for any disease or condition, and that therapy is in the early stages of clinical trials. There are no drugs available for therapy with embryonic stem cells. Clinical trials normally require safety tests and the submission of treatment plans to the Korea Food and Drug Administration. Ms. Hwang bypassed those procedures. Until about a year and a half ago, that could only have been done under exceptions made for patients in critical condition who could be treated by no other means. But after the stem cell research of Hwang Woo-suk amazed the world, the authorities relaxed the rule. Since July 2004, experimental treatments with few controls are allowed if no other treatment is available, without regard to the patient's physical condition.

After the Roh administration relaxed those rules, researchers responded quickly. In 2003, no treatment regimes were reported under those emergency procedures; in the second half of 2004, after the rules were relaxed, there were 31 such reports. The number ballooned to 118 in 2005, including 10 non-Koreans.

The JoongAng Ilbo surveyed the aftermath of 73 experimental treatments conducted under those relaxed procedures and involving adult stem cell therapy. More than 80 percent of the patients developed serious side effects, and 12 people died. The food and drug agency's rules say that the physicians conducting the trials are responsible for any harm that is caused by the treatments, a rule that observers say is ludicrous. Physicians require that patients sign consent forms, of course, as a condition for being treated; those forms say that patients must be willing to accept the risk of side effects of the treatment. The problem, some experts say, is that researchers are relying on the high hopes, however unrealistic, of sufferers grasping at straws.

"At the moment, emergency clinical trials of stem cell treatments are abused by researchers and companies in the majority of cases," said Kim Ok-joo, medical ethics professor at Seoul National University's College of Medicine. "For their gain, they take advantage of patients' hopes. The nation needs ethical and legal frameworks for stem cell therapy. The nation needs to be awakened from the Hwang Woo-suk myth."

Lee Won-jong, a 29-year-old paraplegic, said he had consulted with a clinic that performs emergency clinical application of stem cell therapy. The doctor encouraged him to undergo the operation, but Mr. Lee said he decided to pass up the chance after communicating with another person who had undergone the same treatment at the same hospital. The second person, whom Mr. Lee contacted through an Internet site, told him that the treatment had had no effect at all. "The effectiveness and other details of clinical trials of adult stem cell therapy should be made public," Mr. Lee said. In many cases, patients paid for the therapy. Jeong Seong-geun, who suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease, said he had been forced to abandon thoughts of being treated because a stem cell therapy provider had asked him for 33 million won (\$33,600) for a single treatment.

While trials of investigational drugs are normally free, the emergency clinical trials of stem cell treatments here are generally done at the patient's expense. That, perhaps, is another sign of the avid hopes that are part of Hwang Woo-suk's legacy.

Thirty-six of the 73 cases examined by the JoongAng Daily were treatments paid for by patients; the fees ranged from 3 million to 33 million won. The hospitals involved refused to provide information on eight cases. Koreans are even taking their hopes abroad. Clinical trials of adult stem cell therapy have created a new business in China, where a clinic in Shandong operated with a Korean-owned bioengineering company has treated 40 patients from this country since April. The two-week treatment costs 20 million won; the clinic has not received any approval for its trial treatments from either government, its director said.

by Kim Sung-tak, Jung Hyo-sik myoja@joongang.co.kr



Free Membership Opportunity!

Virginia Wheelin' Sportsmen and state NWTF chapters are currently raising funds to provide **free memberships to persons with disabilities.** They are a non-profit organization providing outdoor opportunities to individuals with disabilities. There are no fees to participate in their events, and they are open to any disabled person. In order for our program to continue its' rapid growth, they need to get more people involved.

There is no charge for this membership, nor any future obligation. You will receive the Wheelin' Sportsmen magazine and a few event mailings during the year.

If you are interested in receiving this free one-year membership, please contact:

Robin Clark
VA Wheelin' Sportsmen State Coordinator
1614 Greenleaf Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-979-6154
[weeeelz@aol.com](mailto:wееeelz@aol.com)
www.vanwtf.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women with SCI "Chat" Group

The SCI Women's Group will be getting together for an afternoon in the park.

May 21, 2006

1PM - Until

Maymont Park

Meet in the Visitor/Nature Center parking lot.

2201 Shields Lake Drive

Richmond, VA 23220

Please RSVP by May 19th, so we know who we should wait for before going into the park.

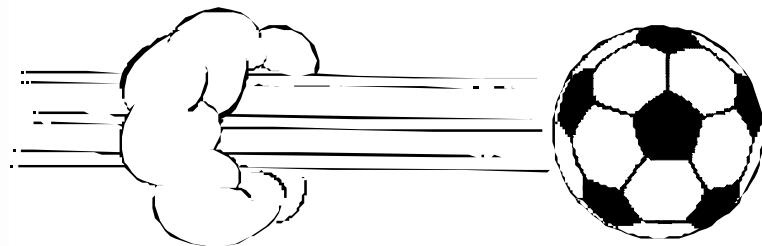
Bring a bag lunch or snack and drink. Or you may purchase something in the cafe.

We'll snack, chat, and stroll.

Contact Sheila Luellen at 804-795-2331 or sluellen@aol.com or Shirley Greaney at (804) 379-8369 or grea443@comcast.net to RSVP, or if you have any questions.

Hope to see you in the park!

Power Soccer Clinic



For Athletes, Age 5 to Adult, Who Use a Power Wheelchair

Power Soccer is a sport specifically designed for power wheelchair users. It is played on a basketball court with players trying to push an 18" ball into the goal to score. Plastic guards protect players' feet and wheelchair and allow control of the ball. Equipment and refreshments are provided! Registration is FREE!

Friday May 19th, June 9 and 23rd 2006

7:00- 9 p.m.

Please arrive 15min. early for equipment setup!

Deep Run Recreation Center
9910 Ridgefield Parkway 23233

For more information and to register,
please call Kristen Lessig, CEO, at
(804) 677-1467 or (804) 918-1977.



Hand-Cycling Clinic

Sat., June 10, 2006

~10:00am-3:00pm~

Arthur Ashe Sports Complex
Richmond, VA

3001 North Boulevard Richmond, VA 23230

Join Sportable for a clinic geared toward athletes and recreational enthusiasts with Physical Disabilities, Ages 5 to Adult. Learn first hand about the exciting sport of Hand Cycling!

What is Hand Cycling? A hand cycle is a three-wheeled cycle that is powered by using your arms to turn the crank. Hand cycles fall into two categories, upright, or recumbent. You sit in an upright model in a manner similar to a wheelchair. In a recumbent model, your torso may be reclined somewhat, and your legs are out in front of you. Hand cycles are easily adjusted, simple to operate, and very easy to transfer in and out of. As a result, thousands of people with physical disabilities are hand cycling to improve cardiovascular and aerobic health, increase upper body strength, ride with friends and family, and improve overall fitness.

Our clinic will provide expert instruction in bringing you up to speed on the latest innovations in Hand Cycle equipment. A wide variety of models will be available to ride. Bike-on.com will offer discounts on their hand cycles should you wish to purchase one for yourself!

Guest clinicians include: Scott Pellet, founder of www.bike-on.com, & Geoff Hopkins!

-IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION-

COST: Members \$20 or Non-members \$25.00. Non-refundable registration fee includes: refreshments, lunch, and souvenir.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Completed registrations **must be received by Friday, June 2nd.**

FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER: Call Kristen Lessig, CEO, at: (804) 677-1467 or (804) 918-1977, e-mail: klessig@sportable.org or visit www.sportable.org to download a registration form.

Presented by:



Sponsored in part by:



REGISTER TODAY!!!!



GEOFF HOKINS Photo Credit :Heather Hopkins

WANT TO SEE A GREAT BAND? Take your pick.



**CATCH
THE
VIBE**

2nd Annual Celebration
Benefitting The Positive Vibe Café

Sunday May 21, noon to 6
(rain date: June 3)

Stratford Hills Shopping Center
(off Forest Hill Avenue)

TASTY FOOD, DRINK & MUSIC:

Big City
The Marna Bales Band
Billy Ray Hatley & The Showdogs
Page Wilson & Reckless Abandon
The Gary Gerloff Band
Chicago Cy
The Taters
The GoodFellas
Harry Gore



.05K WALK & ROLL FUNDRAISER

For people with physical disabilities
To benefit the Positive Vibe Training Program
Registration for walk (and t-shirt): \$10
\$5 minimum donation
Have a blast while supporting our training mission

For more information 804.560.9622
www.positivevibecafe.com

To volunteer at the event contact Kelley at kmaupin76@yahoo.com

**Rifles,
shotguns,
pistols,
crossbows and
more!**

Hawaiian Luau

Expoland, Fishersville

June 24, 2006

Doors open at 6 PM

****Early bird special****

All ticket purchases postmarked by May 26th will be entered in a special drawing.

- Standard early bird tickets will be entered in a drawing for \$150 in raffle tickets.
- Deluxe early bird tickets will be entered in a drawing for a gun.

Ticket information:

Standard tickets:

Surfer: \$50 includes

- 1 dinner
- 1 yr. NWTF or Wheelin' Sportsmen membership*

Cliff divers: \$65 includes

- 2 dinners
- 1 yr. NWTF or Wheelin' Sportsmen membership*

Deluxe tickets: **Best Value !**

ALL Deluxe packages include:

- 1 yr. NWTF or Wheelin' Sportsmen membership*
- Wheelin' Sportsmen ball cap
- Gift pack with an item like:
 - A Wheelin' Sportsmen commemorative box call
 - A Portable Weather radio from Crutchfield Corp.
 - A Home Weather station from Crutchfield Corp.
 - An Atomic Clock from Crutchfield Corp.

Kahuna: \$125 in addition to the items above:

- 1 dinner
- 1 entry in special deluxe drawing
- \$150 in raffle tickets

Big Kahuna: \$200 in addition to the items above:

- 2 dinners
- 1 entry in special deluxe drawing
- \$300 in raffle tickets

Deluxe drawing: 1 gun for every 10 deluxe ticket purchasers !

* 1 yr added to existing memberships

2006 NWTF Gun of the year: Tickets: \$20*
Remington Model 700, .270 WSM

2006 Jakes Gun of the Year: Tickets: \$10*
New England Firearms .243 rifle with Pronghorn scope.

* Only 100 tickets of each will be sold. Get yours early!



For information, contact:

Marisa Deane at 434-985-9869 or mdeane@crutchfield.com
Robin Clark at 434-979-6154 or weeeelz@aol.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

_____ I would like to pick up my tickets at the door.

_____ Please mail me my tickets.

Surfer _____ @ \$50 = _____

Cliff divers _____ @ \$65 = _____

Kahuna _____ @ \$125 = _____

Big Kahuna _____ @ \$200 = _____

Gun of the Year _____ @ \$20 = _____

Jakes Gun of the Year _____ @ \$10 = _____

Check one:

___ NWTF membership ___ Wheelin' Sportsmen membership

Total = _____

Please make checks payable to: VA Wheelin' Sportsmen. Mail to: 99 Valley View Rd., Ruckersville, VA 22968

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

15TH ANNUAL SPINAL CORD INJURY SYMPOSIUM

Virginia Commonwealth University Health System
Medical College of Virginia Hospitals and Physicians
present:



Virginia Beach, Virginia
October 1-2, 2006
(Neptune Festival Week)

Keynote Speaker

David Gater, Jr., MD, PhD.

Professor at VCU Dept. of PM&R

Director Spinal Cord Injury Services at Veteran's Administration

Additional Information to follow in July. Please check for updates under the "Upcoming Events" link on the Old Dominion Chapter website www.odcnsca.org

Or

Contact the Conference Manager at (804) 828-0861 or by email at beagle@hsc.vcu.edu

2006 SCI Summit and SCI Hall of Fame Dates Changed, Program Expanded

Bethesda, MD – National Spinal Cord Injury Association has changed the dates for its second *Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Summit*[™] and *SCI Hall of Fame*[™] to October 29th – November 1, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, MD.

The 2006 SCI Hall of Fame[™] induction ceremony will be held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on the evening of October 30th.

As part of the move, NSCIA partner National Rehabilitation Hospital will host their *Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Spinal Cord Injury: Promoting Health and Preventing Complications Through Exercise State of the Science Conference* in conjunction with the SCI Summit on November 2 – 3, 2006 at the same hotel.

This change in date also allows NSCIA to avoid a conflict with 36th annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Atlanta earlier in October.

“NRH is a great partner and vital resource for people with SCI, and the Society for Neuroscience represents a component of the basic science community, which is an important part of our broader SCI Community,” said Marcie Roth, NSCIA Chief Executive Officer. “And making the Summit as accessible to all parts of our community is key.”

SCI Summit 2005: Facing Issues, Creating Solutions,[™] brought together leaders and stakeholders in the SCI field to define common priorities and develop agendas for addressing them. Leaders in rehabilitation, research, health care, business, and disability advocacy worked hand in hand with those with spinal cord injuries and their families.

Participants assessed the state of SCI in five broad topic areas, including: rehabilitation, research, health promotion, community living, and assistive technology. Participants also formulated recommendations and developed action plans in each of those five areas. Results were presented to top federal officials in disability policy areas and have been incorporated into the ongoing efforts of NSCIA and its partners.

Last year’s first-ever *SCI Hall of Fame* gala event honored 10 individuals who have made significant contributions to quality of life and advancements toward a better future for all individuals with spinal cord injury.

These 10 inaugural inductees, and their categories, were: Christopher Reeve, Benefactor; Teddy Pendergrass (PA), Entertainment; Marilyn Hamilton (CA), Entrepreneur; Senator Tom Harkin (IA), Legislative; Barry Corbet, Disability Awareness/Activism; John Hockenberry (NY), Media; Randy Snow (TX), Sports; Rory Cooper (PA), Assistive Technology; Duane French (WA), Corporate/Government Executive, and Wise Young (NJ), Research.

NSCIA plans to begin seeking new nominations in late spring of 2006.

For details and updated information, visit www.spinalcord.org regularly, or join NSCIA online at www.spinalcord.org (individual membership is free) and receive timely email notifications as details are announced. Voting on SCI Hall of Fame nominees will again be limited to members of NSCIA.

Research Opportunity

- Are you a person who currently lives with a spinal cord injury?
- Do you have an interest in participating in an exciting and innovative research study?
- Do you have an interest in learning about yourself?
- Are you currently struggling with some part of your life? If so, do you want to learn some ways to potentially help and change your life?

If you answered “YES” to all or most of these questions, are interested in participating in a research study, and meet the following criteria then contact this study’s researcher:

1. Have lived with a spinal cord injury for at least one year;
2. are between the ages of 18 and 55
3. Might feel that your injury was ‘unfair’ or ‘unjust’ regardless of the cause or attributing factor
4. Would be interested in working on forgiveness
5. Do not currently drink over three alcoholic drinks per day or use illegal substances

Participants will be randomly assigned to one of two interventions and will be able to complete the interventions at their given geographical locations (no traveling).

For further questions, to get more information, or express an interest in participating in this study contact:

Judy Stuntzner

(608) 438-2478

smstuntzner@wisc.edu

Or visit the study’s website at www.forgiveness-coping.com

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Position Opening Announcement – Director of Communications

The National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA) is seeking a Director of Communications to help the Association effectively and passionately communicate its mission to a variety of constituents by serving as the association’s primary writer and managing creation and production of its publications.

NSCIA educates, and empowers survivors of spinal cord injury and disease to achieve and maintain higher levels of independence. We do this through a variety of channels including a toll-free Help Line, a Web-based Resource Center, and a nationwide network of chapters and support groups. NSCIA is the nation's oldest and largest civilian organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for the hundreds of thousands of Americans living with spinal cord injury and disease. For more information and background, visit our website at www.spinalcord.org.

This position reports to the Chief Operating Officer / Director of Operations and is full time and salaried. The successful candidate would telecommute as part of a virtual office and limited travel may be required.

Key responsibilities and accountabilities:

- Work with Director of Operations to establish marketing communications goals and objectives for the Association, and create and implement a tactical plan to achieve those.
- Establish and maintain appropriate systems for measuring volume and effectiveness of communications activities.

- Monitor, measure and report on all marketing communications issues, opportunities and development plans and achievements within agreed formats and timeframes.
- Plan and manage overall design, content development and production for all NSCIA publications, advertising, public relations and promotional activities.
- Serve as primary writer for Association publications, including *SCILife* (our flagship national newspaper), *SCI enews* (our electronic newsletter), and www.spinalcord.org.
- Develop and implement media relations program. Writes materials and assists in process of media identification and contact.
- Manage Association's participation in trade shows and exhibits, including on-site attendance as needed.
- Work with senior staff to develop and communicate effective and consistent message.
- Work closely with NSCIA's webmaster to effectively manage content of www.spinalcord.org. Write original content for web site as needed.
- Participate in various staff and Board committee meetings for purposes of gathering information and for advising on communications strategy and materials.
- Work with Director of Operations/COO to identify and evaluate outside resources such as needed writers, graphic designers, media monitoring and contact support, and publishers (electronic and traditional), and directly manage such outside resources as required.
- Work with Director of Operations to develop annual operating budget for communications activities.
- Manage and control communications related operating costs within established budget.
- Media contact

Key Qualifications / Requirements

- Bachelor's degree and minimum of five years of marketing communications support experience, including an understanding of all major components of integrated marketing communication including public relations, advertising, Internet and web-based communications.
- Excellent writing skills, including ability to write for print and for web based publications, and ranging styles from news items to human-interest features.
- Ability and willingness to work in a virtual office, including strong sense of self-motivation and ability to keep others involved and informed as needed. Access to high-speed Internet service is also essential.
- Results-oriented drive and a solid work ethic.
- Excellent time management and prioritization skills.
- Strong Internet and computer skills including the ability to work with Microsoft Office Suite.
- Candidate will need to bring to the position an understanding of major issues facing people with disabilities, including key issues related to communicating about people with disabilities or demonstrate the ability and commitment to build that knowledge base quickly.
- Keep abreast of new and useful information relevant to the Association's environment by reviewing publications and web sites and attending teleconferences as suggested by senior staff.
- Positive and effective interpersonal and telephone skills that include the ability to participate effectively in meetings with staff, Board members, media and outside resources.
- Must be willing and able to attend occasional face-to-face staff meetings or other work related events, normally in the Washington, DC area.

If interested, please submit cover letter, resume, references, and salary requirements by June 1, 2006 to elarson@spinalcord.org in Microsoft Word format. No phone calls, please. For more information about us, please visit our website at www.spinalcord.org.

Equal Opportunity Employer ~ Valuing Diversity



OLD DOMINION CHAPTER
Richmond, Virginia
P.O. Box 8326 Richmond, VA 23226

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us (804) 726-4990 or by email at info@odcnsCIA.org

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