Waisman Center Day with the Experts: Cerebral Palsy

Learn about the latest advances in cerebral palsy research and clinical services and hear from a panel of experts—individuals with cerebral palsy and family members.

Saturday, November 14, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
(Complimentary coffee & bagels at 8:30 a.m.)

9:00-9:15 a.m.  
Welcome and Introduction to the Waisman Center  
Teresa Palumbo, Waisman Communications

9:15-9:45 a.m.  
Common Orthopedic Treatments for Children with Cerebral Palsy  
Matthew Halanski, MD, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, Associate Professor, Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation  
What are the most common orthopedic procedures performed on children with cerebral palsy? This presentation will give an overview of common procedures; discuss the risks, benefits and recovery associated with these procedures; and review the goals of these procedures as they relate to the child’s baseline functional level to better inform families of the expected outcomes of these interventions.

9:45-10:15 a.m.  
Cerebral Palsy in Society and Policy  
Walton Schalick III, MD, PhD, Medical Director, Central Wisconsin Center Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, Institute for Research on Poverty, Center for Financial Security, Medieval Studies, Visual Culture Studies and Disability Studies  
Typically, when living with cerebral palsy (CP), we think about dealing with the health-related aspects of the condition. This approach pre-supposes that CP is fundamentally determined by medical factors. In this conversation, I will propose that there is more than one way to think of disabilities in general and CP in particular. We will explore two models, the social and the medical models, as ways of thinking about CP. We will then consider CP as a social feature across many centuries, looking at how various societies have responded to disabilities and CP, leading up to modern perspectives. One take-home message will be that modern American policy responses to CP and disabilities have nearly 500 years of momentum behind them. Changing modern policy to enhance the experience of human rights thus means working with that momentum.

10:30-11:00 a.m.  
Why Do I Need to See A Neurosurgeon?  
Taryn Bragg, MD, Neurosurgeon, Clinic Director, Waisman Spasticity and Movement Disorders Clinic  
The purpose of my talk is to familiarize patients and families with common neurosurgical conditions associated with CP and potential surgical and non-surgical treatment options. Cerebral palsy (CP) is the result of a neurological injury early in life. The cognitive and physiological outcome depends on the severity of that injury, but that is just the beginning. Many factors change over time—just as the body changes over time—and a child’s care plan should always be multi-disciplinary. CP is not simply a movement disorder but affects how the entire body functions. As a neurosurgeon, my role is to ensure that there are no underlying or ongoing neurological problems that can be corrected or improved with surgery. It is critical to treat hydrocephalus, spasticity and dystonia, as these conditions left untreated will have lasting consequences.

11:00-11:30 a.m.  
Question and answer session with a panel of clinicians.

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
PANEL DISCUSSION—A panel of experts that includes individuals with CP and family members.