Building the Future of MS Care…One Square at a Time

Pratt Cancer Center at St. John’s Mercy Medical Center. Diagnosed herself with MS in 1981, Michelle is a wife and mother of two children and a working MS/oncology nurse. Quilting has been her personal passion and she has worked with several organizations in the past to construct quilts for fundraising purposes. Individuals working in or touched by MS are invited to create a quilt panel and make a donation to The Foundation of the CMSC. Contributors to the quilt will also be asked to share a story to be posted on the website.

The One Square at a Time effort will be launched at the 2009 CMSC Annual Meeting, and the finished quilt will be exhibited a year later. Proceeds from the quilt project will benefit the programs of the CMSC Foundation. Contribution information, fabric panel squares and simple instructions are available at the Foundation booth during the annual meeting. Throughout next spring, as the quilt is assembled, progress can be viewed on the FCMSC website.

"Quilts are beautiful works of art that provide warmth and comfort, which I think is a good symbol for our team approach to MS care."

Deadline for completed squares is December 1, 2009. Details regarding contact information are available below or at cmscfoundation.org/Donate now.
BUILDING THE MS WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

Michael Racine, MD, Professor and Chairman of Neurology

Mentorship is one of the cornerstones to building a lifelong personal commitment to multiple sclerosis care among emerging healthcare professionals. The FCMS Summer Scholarship Program offers medical students the opportunity to participate in a research project at a CMSC member center under the watchful eye of a seasoned MS expert. Several recipients of the 2008 summer research scholarships will present results of their research projects in a special poster session during the 2009 CMSC annual meeting.

Kevin Weber, a medical student enrolled in the Ohio State University College of Medicine, conducted a 2008 summer project under the supervision of CMSC member Jeffrey Sackel, is enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. According to Kevin, the project was an eye-opening experience. "I think the most important and valuable part of this project was witnessing all of the hard work and dedication in a lab that goes into biomedical research and subsequently publishing those findings," he said, adding "I knew that multiple sclerosis was an autoimmune disease, but I had no idea how much of MS research is focused on immunology.

Kevin added that he will enter his career as a clinician with a better understanding of both the research and clinical side of medical problems related to MS, fulfilling the objective of the scholarships. Results of Kevin’s 2008 summer project, "Gene Regulation by PPAR-alpha in Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis," will be among the 80 student posters at the 2009 annual CMSC meeting.

MEMBER SUPPORT DRIVES ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

Thanks to the support of CMSC member and leadership, a dedicated CMSC/FCMSC Board of Governors Summer Research Scholarship will provide an additional medical student, Andrew Sharabi, with the opportunity to participate in a summer research project for 2009. Contributions received this year will also allow CMSC members access to specialized MS training, and further specific CMSC initiatives such as website innovation and the NARCOMS Patient Registry.

Please visit the FCMSC web site at www.cmscfoundation.org to find out more about how you can contribute to Building the Future of MS Care.

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF MS CARE—ONE SQUARE AT A TIME

Michelle Keating, RN, OCN, MSNC, a nurse-educator and long-time CMSC and IOMSN member, is collaborating with the Foundation on a one-year fundraising project that will actively demonstrate the unity of our collective membership in the form of a quilt. The FCMSC One Square at a Time Quilt will be composed of separate squares made by donors to the project. Each square demonstrates the unique collaborative contributions of individual MS healthcare centers or professionals in MS comprehensive care.

Each year, the FCMSC presents the Labe C. Scheinberg Award for outstanding work in the field of neurorehabilitation to individuals working on projects that best represent the multidisciplinary team spirit championed by Dr. Scheinberg and prevalent among MS professionals.

Labe C. Scheinberg, MD, was a CMSC founder and a proponent of comprehensive care in multiple sclerosis, as well as a founder of the American Society of Neurorehabilitation and a national and international thought leader. Many noted neurologists, nurses, scientists, psychologists, and rehabilitation specialists owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Scheinberg whose vision lives on today in many MS Centers and professional practices.

Dr. Scheinberg was one of the first clinicians to recognize and treat complex and subtle symptoms such as fatigue, depression, and cognitive loss. He was generous with his advice to and support of fellows and students and his MS center, at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, provided the model for many contemporary MS Centers. The Scheinberg Award was initiated by the CMSC during Dr. Scheinberg’s lifetime, and continues to benefit deserving clinical research through the annual generous support of members of the Scheinberg family.

(continued on back cover)