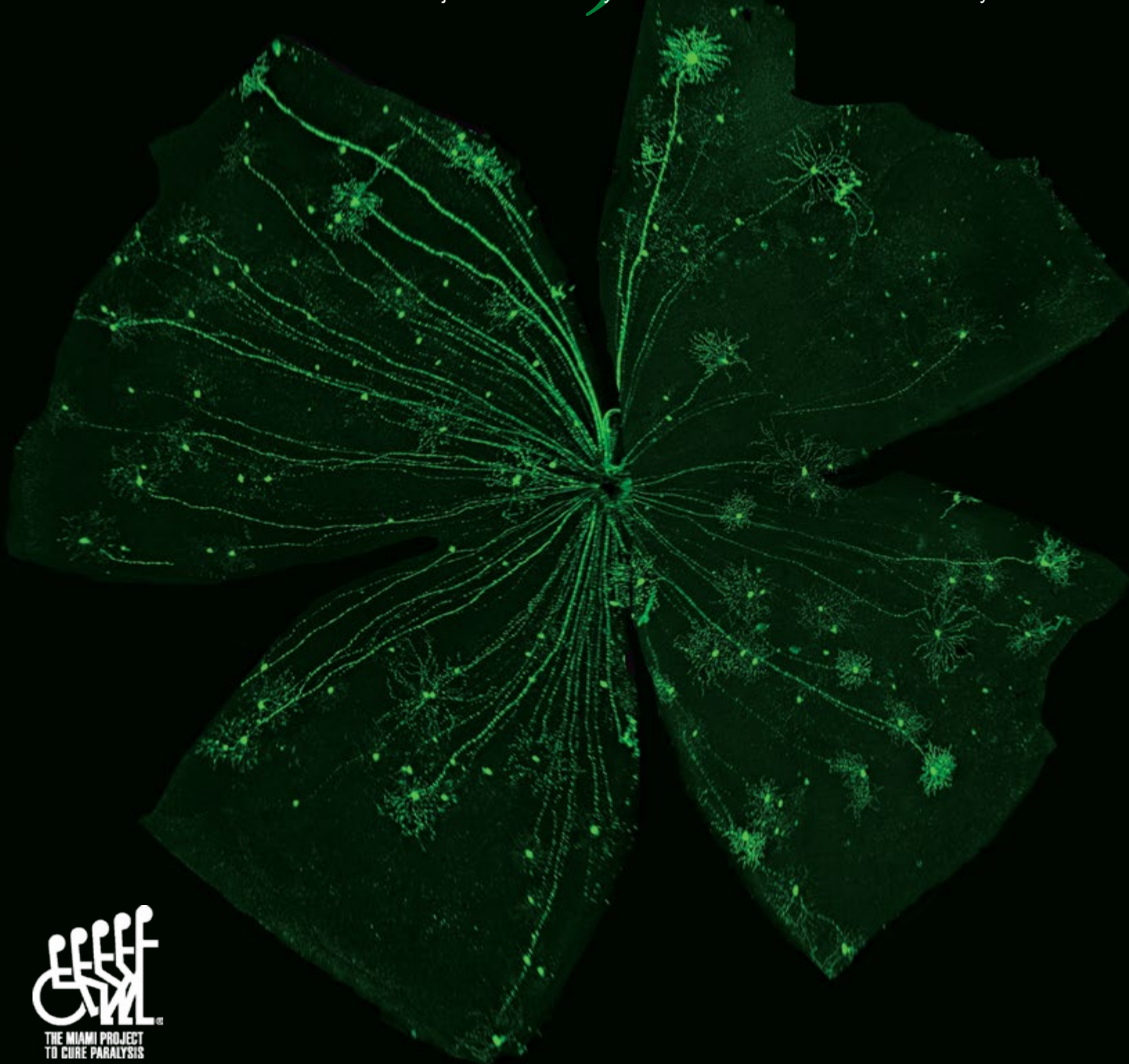


Fall 2016

THE PROJECT

A Publication of The Miami Project To Cure Paralysis & The Buoniconti Fund To Cure Paralysis



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MILLER SCHOOL
of MEDICINE





*Thank you for joining
us on our journey to
change the world.
Remember, there are
millions of people in
wheelchairs counting
on the billions of
people who aren't.*

Each year I have the honor and privilege of being able to present the State of Research at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. This year, I am proud to announce that 2016 has been a remarkable year in scientific achievement that gives us a renewed sense of hope for the spinal cord injury community.

Our scientists continue to amaze with groundbreaking efforts and human clinical trials by seeing the preliminary results of restoration of some sensation and function in a few of our paralyzed participants. The excitement surrounding The Miami Project has invigorated the spinal cord injury community, and has offered a real opportunity for a second chance of living life out of their wheelchairs.

Our entire team understands the responsibility that is on our shoulders, and know that everyone is counting on us to deliver on our promise to cure paralysis. I applaud all the many supporters who truly believe in our mission and have only grown stronger in their support of our goals.

Every week I speak to families of loved ones who have suffered an injury, and they look at The Miami Project for answers. Just like the other 12,500 new injuries every year, a family is devastated by the horrific news that their son, daughter, mother, father, brother or sister will be faced with a lifetime paralysis without a cure. The Miami Project not only offers the realistic possibility of a cure, but also serves as an inspiration to instill a credible hope.

This year marks a personal mile stone in my life as I approach my 50th birthday. Over the years, I have witnessed many amazing things and have experienced a lifetime of memories. I learned to understand that one of the most important things in life is to be a positive force for humanity. We all have the ability to involve ourselves in the lives of people that need it the most.

As we come to the end of 2016, I am more optimistic than ever about the significant and definitive future of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis as we close in on a cure!

Thank you for joining us on our journey to change the world. Remember, there are millions of people in wheelchairs counting on the billions of people who aren't.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Buoniconti".

Marc A. Buoniconti, President
The Buoniconti Fund and
The Miami Project



2016 – A Definitive Year

I am so proud of the incredible accomplishments of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Over 31 years of remarkable scientific progress in the mission to cure paralysis. When my son Marc became a quadriplegic while making a tackle in a college football game, I truly believed there was no answer to reversing paralysis – where does one begin to solve what has always been impossible. I made Marc a promise that I would do whatever I could to help him. Little did I know from tragedy a miracle would occur – the most comprehensive spinal cord injury research center in the world: The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

The Buoniconti family merged with the spinal cord injury community and became ONE with the same goal – curing paralysis. All our love for family came together and built a foundation that is beyond what any of us could have ever imagined.

We are actively underway with our Human Clinical Trials Initiative. We enrolled acutely injured research participants in our Phase 1 Schwann cell safety trial. We successfully transplanted 6 participants who are doing incredibly well. Trunk sensation has been reported and one participant has converted from complete to incomplete status. The Miami Project is conducting our Chronic Phase 1 Schwann Cell trial and 3 subjects have been successfully transplanted. The results are very encouraging.

Nerve bridging strategy with Schwann cells has one subject WALKING after severe leg trauma. We also have very encouraging results with stem cell transplantation. The Miami Project researchers are using Deep Brain Stimulation for neuropathic pain and therapeutic hypothermia has resulted in dramatic signs of improved function. Our male fertility program continues to expand with many beautiful babies being born in the SCI Community and the list of accomplishments goes on and on.

We are now in the process of building the state of the art Christine E. Lynn Rehabilitation Center for The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis at UHealth/Jackson. SCI and brain trauma patients from all over the world will be able to benefit from the most cutting edge and various rehabilitation and clinical research programs – a truly definitive year!

I want to THANK YOU ALL – The Buoniconti Fund's Board of Directors, the Great Sports Legends, Honorees, Dinner attendees and University of Miami President Dr. Julio Frenk for your continued vision and support.

Today, more than ever before, we are very close to changing medical history. Curing Paralysis is in our reach! I will continue to work very hard to make sure the dreams of millions of paralyzed people come true! Together we will CURE paralysis.



Nicholas A. Buoniconti, Co-Founder
The Buoniconti Fund and
The Miami Project



The Buoniconti family merged with the spinal cord injury community and became ONE with the same goal – curing paralysis. All our love for family came together and built a foundation that is beyond what any of us could have ever imagined.



Drs. Barth A. Green,
W. Dalton Dietrich,
and Allan D. Levi

The chronic spinal cord injury trial is evaluating Schwann cell transplantation in combination with an extensive rehabilitation protocol. At a time when the spinal cord field has witnessed some stem cell companies withdrawing their spinal cord programs, it is important to emphasize the Miami Project's total commitment to develop and refine treatment protocols based on reproducible data to maximize recovery.



The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, a Center of Excellence at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, housed in the Lois Pope LIFE Center, is considered the premier investigative research program conducting cutting edge discovery, translational and clinical investigations targeting brain and spinal cord injury. Recent neuroscience discoveries have helped change the way we treat people with neurological disorders. This success is the result of a focused bench-to-bedside approach to advance novel ideas and treatments. Several Miami Project initiated clinical trials are actively moving forward showing safety and efficacy. New multicenter therapeutic hypothermia clinical trials will treat acutely injured patients with severe spinal cord or traumatic brain injury. Both of these exciting multicenter trials are based on findings originally conducted by Miami Project researchers that could change the way we treat acutely injured patients.



In the area of reparative medicine and axonal regeneration, studies and trials utilizing cellular therapies, state-of-the-art neurorehabilitation strategies and robotic devices to improve function are underway. Our initial human Schwann cell trial has been completed with encouraging results that are being submitted for peer review publication. The chronic spinal cord injury trial is evaluating Schwann cell transplantation in combination with an extensive rehabilitation protocol. At a time when the spinal cord field has witnessed some stem cell companies withdrawing their spinal cord programs, it is important to emphasize The Miami Project's total commitment to develop and refine treatment protocols based on reproducible data to maximize recovery.

Another mission of The Miami Project is to utilize new technologies to better understand molecular mechanisms underlying cell death and axonal regeneration. The Miami Project Researchers are collaborating with industry to improve function. Our Educational and Outreach programs are reaching out to individuals throughout the United States and abroad. We acknowledge and thank our spinal cord injured community for their important contributions to the success of our research programs. With the future completion of the new Christine E. Lynn Rehabilitation Center, our programs will continue to grow and help many more individuals with the quality of life issues associated with these injuries. We are most excited about the future as we continue to collaborate with scientists world-wide to obtain new knowledge and develop exciting therapeutic strategies. These are very exciting times in The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, and we greatly appreciate the critical support from our friends and colleagues.

Barth A. Green, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor of Neurological Surgery, Neurology,
Orthopedics, and Rehabilitation Medicine
Chairman, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
Global Institute for Community Health and Development
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

W. Dalton Dietrich, PhD
Scientific Director, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
Senior Associate Dean for Discovery Science
Professor of Neurological Surgery, Neurology and Cell Biology
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Allan D. Levi MD, PhD, FACS
Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery,
The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Chief of Neurosurgery, Jackson Memorial Hospital
Robert M. Buck Distinguished Chair in Neurological Surgery



THE PROJECT

A Publication of The Miami Project To Cure Paralysis & The Buoniconti Fund To Cure Paralysis

Barth A. Green, M.D.

Chairman and Founder, The Miami Project

Nick A. Buoniconti

Founder, The Miami Project and The Buoniconti Fund

Marc A. Buoniconti

President, The Miami Project and The Buoniconti Fund

W. Dalton Dietrich, III, Ph.D.

Scientific Director, The Miami Project

Suzie Sayfie

Executive Director, The Miami Project

Buoniconti Fund Board Member

Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard, Director, Major Gifts, Corporate

Relations, Marketing and Events

Kim Anderson-Erisman, Ph.D., Director, Education, Program

Information & Referral

Diana Berning, Senior Manager of Business Operations

Randy Carlson, Center Administrator

Scott Roy, Director, Public Relations & Communications

Teri Bendell, Director, Web Services, Auction and Database

Management

Randy Medenwald, Director, Government Relations

Kristin Wherry, Director, Buoniconti Fund National Chapters

Jon-Roi Vega, Director, Sponsored Programs

Kim Anderson-Erisman, Ph.D., Editor

Scott Roy, Managing Editor

Robert Camarena, Graphic Editor

Suzie Sayfie, Executive Editor

Contributors: **Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard**,

Kristin Wherry, **Dalton Dietrich**, **Katie Gant**

Photographs

Robert Camarena, **World Red Eye**, **Getty Images**, **Manny**

Hernandez, **Poker4Life**, **Jim Mandeville**, **Vance Lemmon**,

Pantelis Tsoulfas

Physical Address:

1095 NW 14th Terrace, R-48

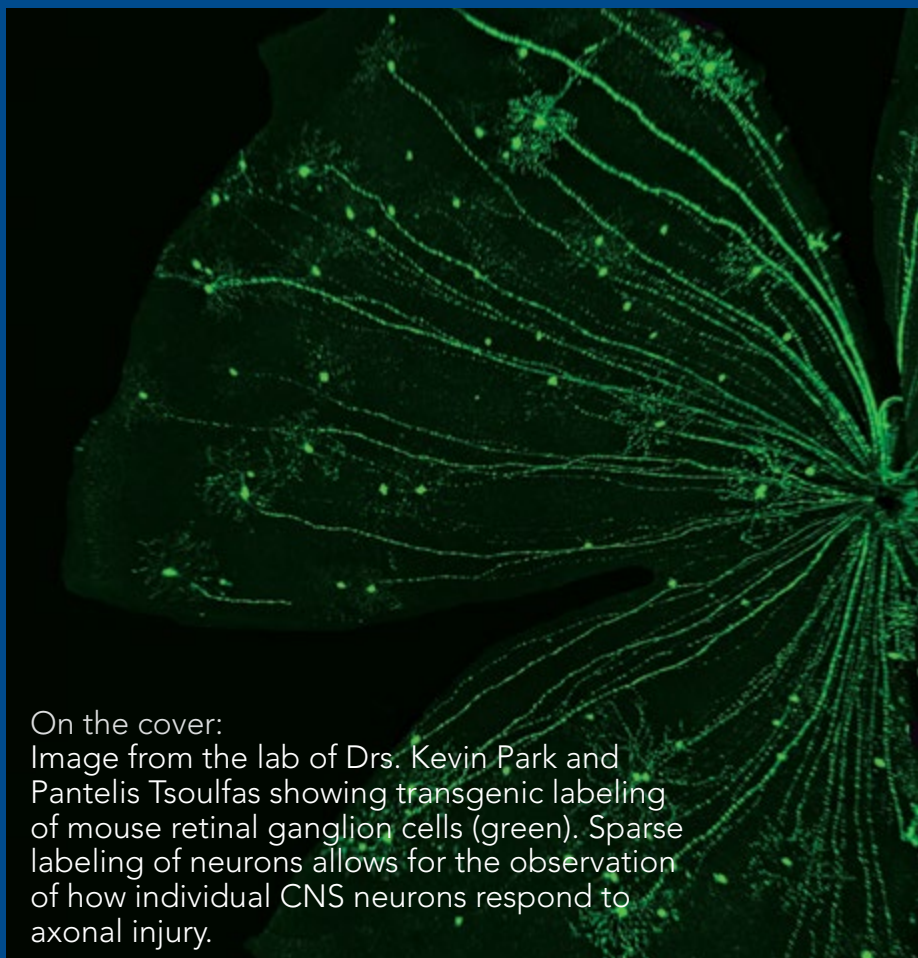
Miami, FL 33136

Phone: 305-243-6001

www.themiamiproject.org

The Project is published twice a year by The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, a Center of Excellence at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine.

All contents ©2016. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. The University of Miami is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Privacy Policy: If you do not wish to receive The Project in the future, please send your request to the address above or call 305-243-7147.



On the cover:
Image from the lab of Drs. Kevin Park and Pantelis Tsoulfas showing transgenic labeling of mouse retinal ganglion cells (green). Sparse labeling of neurons allows for the observation of how individual CNS neurons respond to axonal injury.

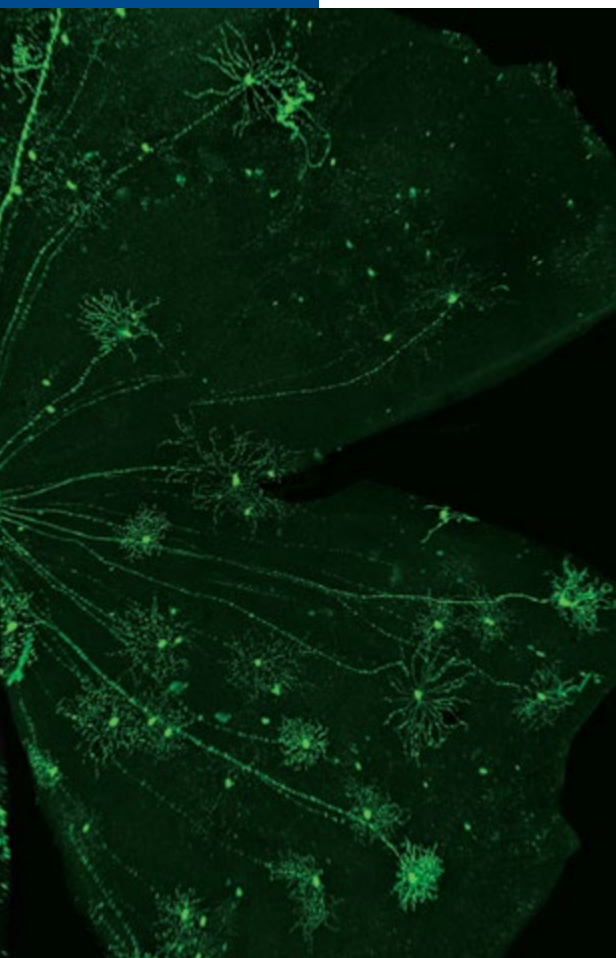
In Our Words

- 2 Message from the President, Marc Buoniconti
- 3 Letter from the Founder, Nick Buoniconti
- 4 Message from Drs. Barth A. Green, W. Dalton Dietrich and Allan D. Levi

Research Journal Features

- 8 Exoskeletons
- 10 Industry and Academia
- 12 Faculty Spotlight - Vance Lemmon, Ph.D.
- 14 Biomarkers and Personalized Medicine
- 15 Therapeutic Hypothermia Update
- 16 Faculty Spotlight - Kim Anderson-Erisman, Ph.D.





10
Industry and
Academia



12
Vance Lemmon,
a 40-year Journey



18
Destination
Fashion 2016



24
30th Annual Great
Sports Legends
Dinner

Events to Benefit The Miami Project

- 18 Destination Fashion 2016
- 24 30th Annual Great Sports Legends Dinner
- 28 Jack Nicklaus 14th Annual Buoniconti Fund
Celebrity Golf Invitational
- 29 Poker4Life
- 30 The Buoniconti Fund National Chapters
- 32 Darrell Gwynn Quality of Life Chapter of The Buoniconti Fund
- 33 Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Distinguished Chair
- 34 The Buoniconti Fund Board of Directors





Are Exoskeletons Ready for Prime Time?

Dr. Jennifer Listro Maher walking with Aaron Willis



...the research being done at The Miami Project and other institutions will help to direct and advance the field in the direction where it can make the biggest impact for people with SCI.

Bionic exoskeletons, battery-powered external bodysuits that walk people with paralysis, can now be found in rehabilitation and research facilities around the world; a few are even available for in-home use. These devices allow people with paralysis due to spinal cord injury (SCI) to walk overground rather than use a wheelchair. After a relatively short training period, most people are able to be walked in the device, albeit slowly, with little assistance. Despite this, bionic exoskeletons are rarely used by people with SCI in their normal activities of daily living. Why is this?


Well, it's still not clear exactly what they are good for... should they be used for rehabilitation? Or are they more useful for exercise? Are there benefits to using an exoskeleton, instead of a wheelchair, throughout the day as a basic mobility device? Clinical researchers at The Miami Project have been conducting experiments to try to figure all this out...

Two years ago we reported on a pilot study that was conducted at The Miami Project to explore the physiological responses to overground bionic ambulation in persons with complete thoracic-level SCI. Subjects walked in the Ekso Bionics exoskeleton (Ekso) 3 times a week for 6 weeks. The results showed that subjects were able to achieve walking speeds and distances similar to persons with motor incomplete SCI not using the device, but not as good as community walking speeds and distances. In addition, all of the research subjects reported a reduction in pain over the study period. However, no rehabilitation or exercise benefits were shown, which suggest that the exoskeleton might be best suited for mobility. Results from this study were published in 2014.

Understanding therapeutic benefits of overground bionic ambulation: exploratory case series in persons with chronic, complete spinal cord injury. Kressler J, Thomas CK, Field-Fote EC, Sanchez J, Widerström-Noga E, Cilien DC, Gant K, Ginnety K, Gonzalez H, Martinez A, Anderson KD, Nash MS. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil.* 2014 Oct;95(10):1878-1887.e4. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2014.04.026. Epub 2014 May 17.

To follow up on that work, Dr. Jennifer Maher, a postdoctoral associate in the lab of Dr. Mark Nash, is digging deeper and exploring whether cardiovascular or metabolic changes occur in response to walking in bionic exoskeletons. She

and a team of researchers (Carsten Bach Baunsgaard, Anne Palermo, Jan Gerven, and Luisa Betancourt) are walking subjects with SCI in the Ekso and measuring oxygen consumption, metabolic function, and various aspects of cardiovascular hemodynamics. They hope that this information will help to understand the role of bionic exoskeleton use in people with paralysis due to SCI – in addition to mobility, can there be an internal health benefit? Preliminary results suggest there is increased circulation during extending walking in the bionic.

So, what can we honestly expect from bionic exoskeleton development in the future? The walking will probably always be somewhat slow, with challenges on turning, stepping, and obstacles, but the battery life can likely be extended. However, the research being done at The Miami Project and other institutions will help to direct and advance the field in the direction where it can make the biggest impact for people with SCI. Potential benefits of exoskeleton walking in the future may include: better blood pressure regulation or improved circulation due to being in an upright posture, osteoporosis and fracture prevention due to weight bearing, improved fitness or blood sugar control due to exercise, or gait re-education and plasticity for people with incomplete SCI. But most importantly, the price of all exoskeletons needs to be reduced dramatically so that more people can access the potential benefits of these exciting advances in engineering. 



Industry and Academia Working Together

At first glance one would think that academia and industry are at opposite ends of the spectrum with no common ground, but for spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury there are many instances where the two are utilizing each other's strengths to try to develop and translate therapies to the clinic.

Industry and academia are two very different entities and as such have very different approaches to accomplishing their goals. In academia, the term used for the college and university environment, the main function is to enhance education and research. In industry, the term used for businesses in a particular field, the main function is to create products and services with a financial return. At first glance one would think that academia and industry are at opposite ends of the spectrum with no common ground, but for spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury there are many instances where the two are utilizing each other's strengths to try to develop and translate therapies to the clinic. Here we discuss several examples of Miami Project faculty working with industry partners in such efforts.

Drs. Robert W. Keane, Juan Pablo de Rivero Vaccari, W. Dalton Dietrich, and Helen Bramlett co-founded InflamaCORE, LLC in 2009 to develop and test new anti-inflammatory agents for neurological disorders. Discovery research initially funded by the Department of Defense started in the laboratory of Dr. Keane, Department of Physiology and Biophysics in 2005 regarding targeting the inflammasome to improve outcomes after spinal cord injury. This work also received funding through the Craig Neilsen Foundation. An NIH/NINDS RO1 and included part of Dr. de Rivero Vaccari's doctoral dissertation, who then continued these collaborative studies in 2007 in the laboratory of Dr. Dietrich for the therapeutic potential of targeting the inflammasome to improve outcomes after traumatic brain injury. In 2014 InflamaCORE received the approval of its first patent to target the inflammasome receiving critical funding from the Coulter H. Wallace Foundation and a Small Business Grant from NIH/NINDS. Currently InflamaCORE is developing the first biologic to target the inflammasome for the treatment of acute and chronic inflammation after brain and spinal cord injury in collaboration with The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis and the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

Drs. John Bixby, Vance Lemmon, and Hassan Al-Ali routinely collaborate with scientists in a number of industries including pharmaceutical, chemical, and information technology.

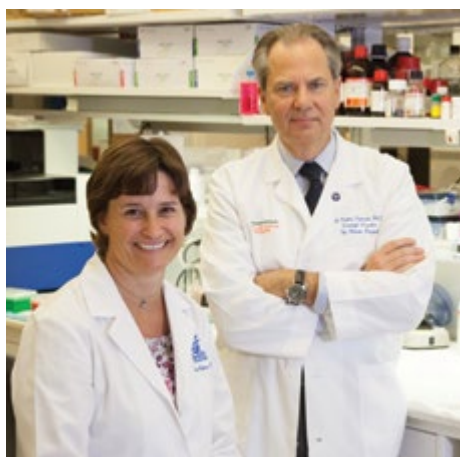




Drs. John Bixby, Vance Lemmon, and Hassan Al-Ali

They have collaborated with GlaxoSmithKline and Roche on a project to discover kinase inhibitors that promote axon regeneration. This work led to the identification of a promising lead compound, which they are currently developing into a drug in collaboration with the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute - supported by a grant from the Coulter H. Wallace Foundation. They are also collaborating with the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies to identify additional leads with novel chemistries. More recently, they have formed collaborations with machine learning scientists from Amazon and chemists from ChemDiv to harden the drug discovery platform that they developed during the axon regeneration project. Finally, they are testing the application of this technology to cancer drug discovery with collaborators at the Finland Institute of Molecular Medicine and the University of Michigan, with promising results.

Drs. Coleen Atkins and W. Dalton Dietrich are currently collaborating with Dr. Mark Gurney and Tetra Discovery Partners. Their collaboration is to develop and test selective phosphodiesterase 4B and 4D inhibitors to determine if they improve cognition and recovery after traumatic brain injury (TBI). This collaboration has resulted in a collaborative NIH/NINDS R01 grant as well as a shared NIH/NINDS STTR small business grant. They recently



Drs. Coleen Atkins and W. Dalton Dietrich

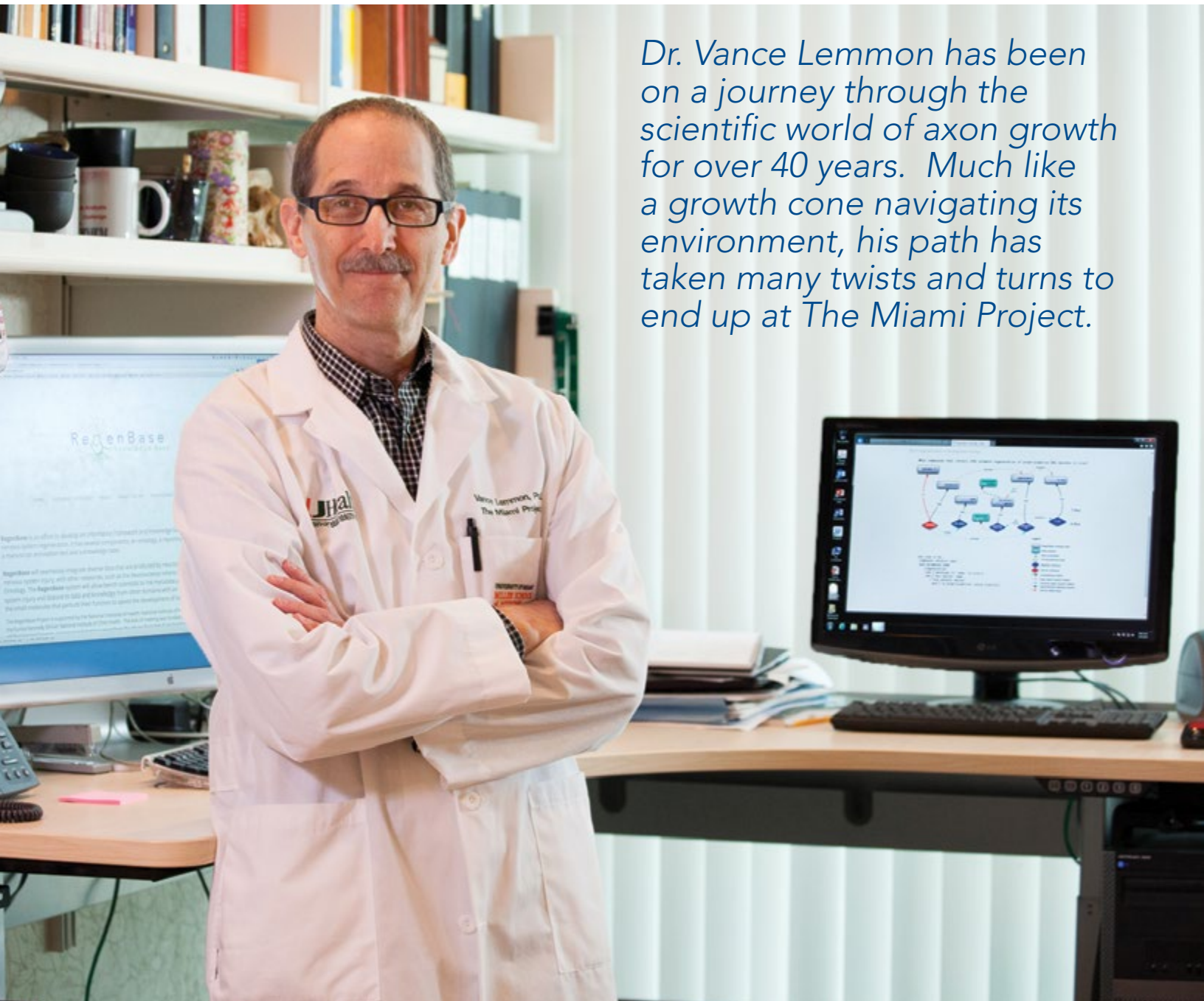
published significant preclinical results in *The Journal of Neuroscience* demonstrating that treatment with the PDE4B inhibitor reduced chronic cognitive deficits after traumatic brain injury and rescued deficits in hippocampal long-term potentiation. It is expected that Tetra Discovery Partners will use these results in the future to develop a clinical trial program targeting the safety and efficacy of PDE4B inhibition to improve learning and memory in people living with chronic TBI.

Drs. Allan Levi and Kim Anderson were collaborating with StemCells Inc. for the past two years on a Phase II clinical trial called "*A Single-Blind, Randomized, Parallel Arm, Phase II Proof-of-Concept Study of the Safety and Efficacy of HuCNS-SC Transplantation in Cervical Spinal Cord Injury*". Participating in this trial was a massive undertaking, involving 17 other collaborators within our site. The trial was testing the safety and potential benefit of a very specific stem cell type known as a neural stem cell in individuals who were less than 2 years post cervical spinal cord injury.

All in all these are very productive times full of exciting progress. We need academia's expertise in research, discovery, and innovation and industry's expertise in moving drugs through the clinical trial pathway in order to get interventions to the community we both serve. 🙌



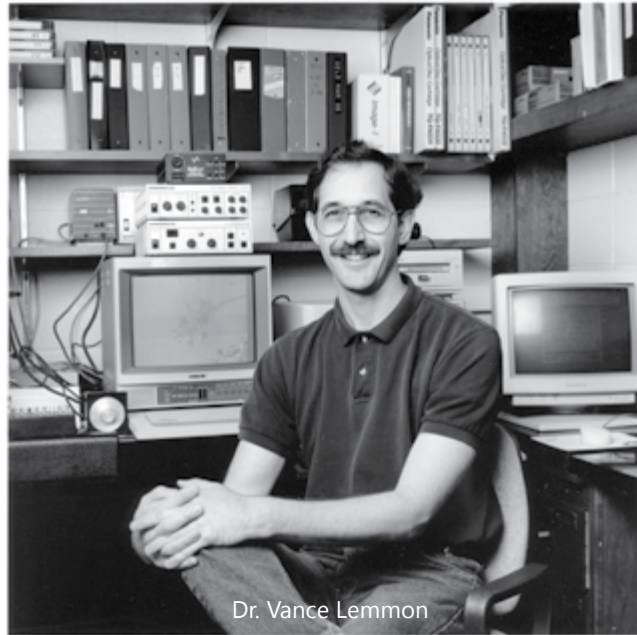
Drs. Kim Anderson and Allan Levi



Dr. Vance Lemmon has been on a journey through the scientific world of axon growth for over 40 years. Much like a growth cone navigating its environment, his path has taken many twists and turns to end up at The Miami Project.

Starting out as a California surfer in San Diego, he trekked cross-country to Atlanta to earn his Ph.D. His Ph.D. dissertation work investigated degeneration of the visual system. Even today, the visual system is an excellent model for evaluating axon regeneration to inform spinal cord injury. From there he took a turn to the Mid-West and became a post-doctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis in the late '70's. The neuroscience community at Wash U at that time was legendary, including our own Mary and Richard Bunge and former Provost Luis Glaser. His studies there led him toward the direction of neural cell migration and the molecules that enable those cells to move. Over the next few years, and junior faculty positions, he studied some key adhesion molecules that were involved in stimulating axon growth. Adhesion molecules are proteins that are on the surface of cells, in this case nerve cells, that bind to other cells or other tissue in the local environment and helps them “stick” together or move along a surface. In 1988 he made a short hop to Cleveland that turned into about a 15 year stay. While at Case Western Reserve University, he delved deep into understanding how axon growth cones move and the molecules involved in directing that movement, both during normal development of the nervous system and after disease. Finally, in 2003, he took a 180° turn and headed due south to Miami to focus on axon regeneration after spinal cord injury (SCI). Now he is the Walter G. Ross Distinguished Chair in Developmental Neuroscience at the University of Miami, is a Professor in the department of Neurological Surgery, and a senior faculty member of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

In Miami, he merged his lab with Dr. John Bixby, which became known as “The LemBix Lab”. Understanding that axon regeneration in the brain and spinal cord is incredibly complex and certainly involves more than one molecule, they decided to take advantage of advancing technology and began setting up their high content screening



Dr. Vance Lemmon

lab, which we've written about over the years, to enable them to screen thousands and thousands of compounds and genes to evaluate their involvement in axon regeneration. That creates a lot of data! As a result Dr. Lemmon has become very involved in computational biology and informatics and is the Program Director for Computational Biology here at the university. Whether one experiment creates a little data or a lot of data, it all needs to be interpretable so that the field can move forward. In 2012, Dr. Lemmon led an endeavor with a large team of international scientist to create a standardized way to report data from animal SCI experiments. It's called MIASCI – Minimum Information About a Spinal Cord Injury experiment – and as more people start to use it we should be able to start to overcome the problem of reproducibility that plagues our field as well as all of biomedical science.

He's more than just a Brainiac though! Along with his wife, Sandy Lemmon, Ph.D. (Professor of Pharmacology and Director of the UM M.D./Ph.D. program), he is an avid cyclist; he rock climbs with his son; he's a website guru; and he's in to the Miami art scene. We at the Miami Project are quite happy his journey led him here and look forward to his future and reaping the benefits of his extensive knowledge. 🧐



Biomarkers and Personalized Medicine

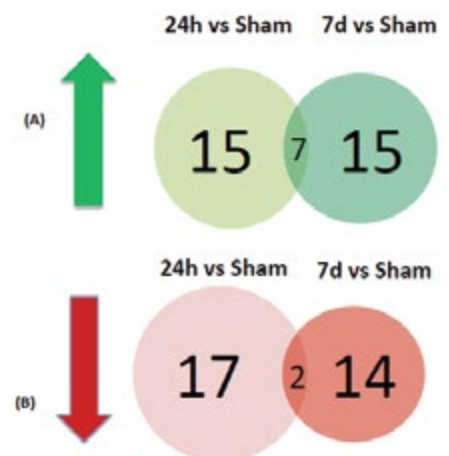
Personalized medicine is revolutionizing how we diagnose and treat illnesses these days. The diagnosis and treatment of disease can be tailored to each individual based on specific health information (sometimes genetic), resulting in better, more effective outcomes. In 2015, President Obama announced the Precision Medicine Initiative in his State of the Union address, which allocated \$215 million to developing individualized care strategies. The National Cancer Institute received the largest chunk of money (\$70M) to fund their efforts in cancer genomics. In clinical trials, studies that targeted cancer with personalized therapies resulted in an over 30% response rate, while the non-personalized treatments led to only 4.9% of participants responding. It is clear that the personalized therapies led to improved outcomes, even in people with cancers that were resistant to standard treatments.

You may be wondering what personalized medicine has to do with spinal cord injury (SCI). Since SCIs are usually the result of a traumatic event, it is impossible to do genetic testing to see who is at risk for getting one. And the presence of SCI is usually pretty easy to diagnose – loss of sensation and movement in the limbs is relatively clear in most cases. However, in the early stages

(acute) it is often difficult to assess the severity of SCI, and the body's natural inflammatory and immune responses can cause further damage. In addition, there is a lot of variability in spontaneous recovery after an SCI. Wouldn't it be nice to have a tool to define the severity of an SCI within hours of onset, based on unbiased information that reflects the extent of the spinal cord damage? In the acute phase, neuroprotective strategies could then be targeted to the appropriate severity of injury. Later, rehabilitation could be personalized based on the predicted neurologic recovery.

Over the past few years, a team of researchers from The Miami Project and Department of Neurosurgery (Drs. Ross Bullock, Michael Wang, Helen Bramlett, Dalton Dietrich, Robert Keane, and Juan Pablo de Rivero Vaccari) have been looking for ways to assess and predict the outcome of acute spinal cord and brain injuries. In their studies, they obtain blood and spinal fluid samples acutely from newly-injured patients who were already undergoing spinal fluid drainage as a part of their clinical treatment. The scientists also looked at spinal cord tissue and fluid samples from rodent models of SCI and traumatic brain injury (TBI). They use sophisticated methods and equipment to scan the samples for any biological indicators, usually proteins, which may be associated with injury to the central nervous system. The concentration levels of these "biomarkers" are measured and compared to samples from uninjured humans and rodents. They are then correlated to long-term neurologic status to see if they can predict injury severity.

The researchers found numerous candidate biomarkers for SCI in both the human and rodent samples. While some proteins were found in higher concentrations (upregulated), others were found in lower concentrations (downregulated). The proteins that are highly specific to neural tissue could be used in the future as specific SCI biomarkers. This study is unique because several biomarkers were verified in both the human and rodent spinal fluid and/or spinal cord samples, which improves the potential for translation. In the future, the discovery and use of biomarkers



for SCI and TBI could lead to development of new therapeutic interventions that can be applied to prevent or reduce disability.

Differential neuroproteomic and systems biology analysis of spinal cord injury. Moghieb A, Bramlett HM, Das JH, Yang Z, Selig T, Yost RA, Wang MS, Dietrich WD, Wang KK. *Mol Cell Proteomics*. 2016 May 5. pii: mcp.M116.058115. [Epub ahead of print]



Hypothermia, cooling the body temperature, is one neuroprotective strategy that holds much promise for acute SCI.


When a person is suspected to have a spinal cord injury (SCI), medical staff follow a relatively standardized protocol: stabilize the patient, stabilize the spinal column to prevent further mechanical injury, and perform a surgical decompression procedure if required. However, these measures are supportive rather than protective or reparative, and there is little that can be done for the spinal cord itself. When the spinal cord is injured, a cascade of additional (secondary) damage begins due to bleeding, swelling, and the body's natural inflammatory responses to trauma. Neuroprotective strategies, aimed at minimizing that secondary neural injury and maximizing the chances for recovery, have been a major goal for neuroscientists and clinicians for the management of acute SCI.

Hypothermia, cooling the body temperature, is one neuroprotective strategy that holds much promise for acute SCI. Numerous animal studies using various models of mechanical SCI in diverse species have demonstrated the protective effects of hypothermia. Positive outcomes have been demonstrated in rat, ferret, cat, dog, and monkey models, which is important in showing that the effects are robust and can be replicated across species, injury models, and laboratories. Researchers at The Miami Project / University of Miami have demonstrated that hypothermia can decrease the degree of bleeding at the site of primary injury, decrease cell loss, reduce axon swelling, and have a positive impact on behavioral recovery.

Over the past 9 years, scientists at The Miami Project have also been gathering data from acutely injured patients who receive modest hypothermia treatment as part of their

medical care at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. Results from this study were published on thirty-five patients in 2013 and the data have shown that modest hypothermia treatment is safe, can be started early after injury (within 8 hours), and may have beneficial effects on neurological recovery as 31% of participants converted from “complete” to “incomplete” status and 43% of all injured patients improved one AIS grade or more at 1 year post-treatment. While the results so far have been positive, further studies are needed from a larger sample of participants and with a comparison to individuals who have not received hypothermia treatment. Currently 50 patients have been cooled since the start of the study in 2007.

Systemic hypothermia in acute cervical spinal cord injury: a case-controlled study. Dididze M, Green BA, Dietrich WD, Vanni S, Wang MY, Levi AD. *Spinal Cord*. 2013 May;51(5):395-400.

Recently, Dr. Allan Levi, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery has received funding from the Department of Defense to conduct a prospective multi-center trial to investigate the effects of hypothermia treatment in acute cervical SCI. The partnering sites will be Emory University School of Medicine/Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. Over a 4 year time period, 120 newly-injured patients (C1 to C8), ASIA Impairment Scale (AIS) Grade A, B, or C will be recruited to participate in the study and randomized to either a control (normothermia/standard of care) or treatment (hypothermia) group. Intravascular hypothermia will be induced in the treatment group via a catheter inserted into the femoral vein and the body temperature will be cooled from 37°C (normal) to 33°C at about 2°C per hour. This “hypothermic” body temperature will be maintained for 48 hours, after which rewarming will occur very slowly at 0.1°C per hour. Evaluations of neurological and functional outcomes will be performed at 6 weeks, 6 months, and 1 year post-treatment. Results from the hypothermic group will be compared to the control group. The results from this large, multicenter, prospective trial should provide data to determine whether systemic modest hypothermia should be implemented as part of the new standard of care treatment for cervical SCI. 





In 2009 Dr. Anderson joined The Miami Project as their Director of the Education and in 2011 became a Research Associate Professor. In addition to conducting her own research, she has the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the lives of people with SCI by directing the education and community outreach efforts.

Dr. Kim Anderson-Erisman, Research Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery and Director of Education, is passionate about bridging the gap between research and clinical practice in spinal cord injury (SCI). Her goal is to move evidence-based therapies and technologies out of the laboratory and to the SCI population where their benefits can create meaningful change in people's lives. Throughout her career, Dr. Anderson's research has crossed many levels, from cellular and molecular studies, to animal research, to clinical trials. In addition to her broad range of experience, Dr. Anderson brings a special perspective to her work, as she has a SCI herself.

At the age of seventeen, halfway through her senior year of high school, Dr. Anderson was involved in a motor vehicle accident and sustained a cervical-level SCI. When she was in the hospital, she received home schooling from a teacher so that she did not fall behind in her schoolwork, which allowed her to graduate on time with her class just a few weeks after leaving rehab. Despite the challenges of adjusting to life with



a SCI, she moved away from home that fall and studied marine biology at Texas A&M University. As a junior and senior in college, she took some classes that started to peak her interest in neuroscience, at the same time she was evolving with her SCI. Although she was considering graduate school, she wasn't sure that she could perform the required laboratory experiments due to the physical limitations caused by the paralysis of her hand muscles. Thankfully, two amazing professors encouraged her to go to grad school and told her that it was only temporary that people would have to help her with lab work. They told her that, in the end, it would be all about her brain and her intelligence in order to be successful in her career. So, off she went to the University of New Mexico for graduate school, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship and faculty appointment at the University of California at Irvine.

While attending SCI conferences and professional meetings over the years, she noticed that the majority of scientists were focused on walking and using thoracic SCI models. Yet, in her own personal experience and in talking with her friends, she knew that walking wasn't the highest priority for people living with SCI. She wished that SCI researchers would begin focusing on other aspects of SCI – like bladder or bowel function and hand function, but didn't know how to get that message out. She knew, however, that scientists would only believe data... So, she put together a survey to identify the most important functions for people with SCI and almost 700 people participated. The results were not surprising to her

– hand function, sexual function, and autonomic functions were more important to people than walking. When her study was published in 2004, she didn't realize how much of an impact it would end up having in the SCI research field. Now it is the 3rd most cited paper in the Journal of Neurotrauma and many studies are now designed to address the real needs of people living with SCI.


Anderson KD (2004) Targeting recovery: Priorities of the spinal cord injured population. J. Neurotrauma. 21:1371-1383.

It was at this point that she realized that she was in a unique position - having been trained in molecular and animal research, starting to learn about clinical research, and having a spinal cord injury – there weren't many people who fit that category. In 2009 Dr. Anderson joined The Miami Project as their Director of Education and in 2011 became a Research Associate Professor. In addition to conducting her own research, she has the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the lives of people with SCI by directing the education and community outreach efforts. As if she wasn't busy enough, she also manages all of the Schwann cell transplantation clinical trials.

The field of SCI research has changed so much since Dr. Anderson was injured, and she is excited about the future. When she was injured, very few clinical trials focused on SCI. In contrast, numerous phase I and phase II clinical trials for SCI are now taking place around the country, based on rehabilitation and

technology, as well as drug, cell, and surgical interventions. As the number of clinical trials for SCI continued to grow in the recent years, Dr. Anderson recognized the need for researchers to better understand the factors that encourage or interfere with people's decision to participate in trials. She recently published the results from an international survey of over 800 people with SCI, which can be used to better design trials in a way that is less burdensome to participants. She is also working to create a North American alliance to promote SCI consumer engagement across the spectrum of research.

Anderson KD, Cowan RE, Horsewell J. (2016). Facilitators and barriers to spinal cord injury (SCI) clinical trial participation: Multi-national perspective of people living with SCI. J. Neurotrauma. 33(5):493-499.

We at The Miami Project are very fortunate to have Dr. Anderson helping to steer the direction of the SCI field, so that it will have the greatest impact in the lives of people with SCIs. When she's not thinking about research she's living life to the fullest with her husband Tim Erisman and their two dogs. From sitting atop the 5000 year old ruins of Skara Brae on the Orkney Islands in the North Sea to getting married in the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd overlooking Lake Tekapo in the Southern Alps of New Zealand, one thing having an SCI has taught her is to never take anything for granted. We would like to thank Dr. Anderson for her passionate and tireless efforts toward improving the lives of individuals with SCI. 



DESTINATION FASHION 2016



DESTINATION FASHION 2016

Presented by

Swanee and Paul DiMare

Raises Millions for The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis

The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, the fundraising arm of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, celebrated its 30th anniversary in high-style at DESTINATION FASHION 2016 presented by Swanee and Paul DiMare treating more than 2,500 of its friends and supporters to a star-studded extravaganza. The evening was highlighted by a concert headlined by “Mr. Worldwide,” the global music icon **Pitbull**, and the Italian luxury brand **Brunello Cucinelli** showcased their Spring 2016 Collection thanks to **Neiman Marcus Bal Harbour**.



The **Destination Fashion 2016** spectacular at Bal Harbour Shops in Bal Harbour Village, Florida was Chaired by **Nicholas A. Buoniconti, Marc A. Buoniconti, Barth A. Green, M.D., Gretchen Jordan, Suzie Sayfie, Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard**, and was emceed by Co-Anchor of NBC's *Today Show* **Savannah Guthrie**. Honorary Co-Chairs were Grammy Award Winners **Gloria** and **Emilio Estefan**, Academy Award Winner **Tommy Lee Jones** and wife **Dawn Jones**, and Golden Globe Winner **Christian Slater** and wife **Brittany Slater**. The March 5th affair also saw the presentation of the **Presenting Sponsor Award** to **Swanee and Paul DiMare**, **Humanitarian Awards** to **Stanley Whitman, Randy Whitman and Matthew Whitman Lazenby**, **The Christine E. Lynn Champion for a Cure Award** to **Micky and Madeleine Arison**, **The Outstanding Philanthropists Award** recipients were **Gloria and Emilio Estefan**, the **Buoniconti Fund Leadership Awards** were presented to philanthropists **Christine E. Lynn and Lois B. Pope**, and **The Miami Project Spirit of Giving Award** went to **Edie Laquer**.

A who's who of celebrities, philanthropic icons, business leaders, fashionistas and more celebrated the **Bal Harbour Shops' 50th anniversary** and **The Miami Project's 30th anniversary**. This event remains the only time in Bal Harbour Shops' history when its doors are closed to host this truly one-of-a-kind, high-profile, private celebrity-styled affair.

The Buoniconti Fund also presented the **2016 Women of Substance and Style** awards to: **Susan Abraham, Pennie Abramson, Gabrielle Anwar, Kelly Arison, Tracey Berkowitz, Cynthia Boich, Mercedes Carlson, Jordan Claire, Orianne Collins,**



Clockwise: Savannah Guthrie with Swanee and Paul DiMare; Concert by Pitbull; Christine Lynn and Lois Pope; Christian Slater, Brittany Slater, Gloria Estefan and Emilio Estefan

Linda Corey, Kristin Ducote, Bobi Eroncig, Lian Fanjul de Azqueta, Ana de Figueroa Cisneros, Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Shelley Golden, Melinda Gonzalez, Becky Haggard McCarron, Teresa Haskett, Amy Hollub, Wendy Holman, Kinga Lampert, Kristin Lazenby, Lisa Leslie, Sandra Levy, Marile Lopez, Jayne Malfitano, Christina Martin, Ashley Moore, Suzanne Murphy, Nan O'Leary, Laura Posada, Melissa Posner, Barbara Reese, Laura Roberts, Kathy Simkins, Lydia Touzet, and Gigi Whitman.

The Buoniconti Fund presented the **2016 Women of Substance and Style** awards with each walking down the runway with their celebrity presenters and other celebrity friends who attended including: **Golf Legend Jack Nicklaus, Las Vegas Entertainer Wayne Newton, Grammy Award Winners Emilio Estefan, Barry Gibb, and Phil Collins, Bon Jovi Drummer Tico Torres, NBA Hall of Famers Alonzo Mourning and Dave Cowens, MLB Hall of Famers Tony Perez and Mike Piazza, retired baseball stars Andre Dawson and World Series Champions Jorge Posada and Scott Erickson, former professional football stars Jason Taylor, Zach Thomas, Dick Anderson, Harry Carson, Brian Kelley, Mark Rypien, Jed Weaver, Brett Romberg, Randal Hill and Nat Moore, Olympic Gold Medalist Bob Beamon, polo star Brandon Phillips, current and former basketball stars Beno Udrih, Justise Winslow, Shane Battier, Greg Anthony and Steve Smith, NBA HOF Pat Riley, tennis star Martina Navratilova, race car driver and Indy 500 winner Gil de Ferran, actors Colin Egglesfield, Aiden Turner, Charlie Weber and Parker Young, and artist Romero Britto.**

In addition to the Pitbull concert and Brunello Cucinelli's Spring 2016 Collection presented by Neiman Marcus Bal Harbour, guests traveled their way through the progressive party that showcased the fashion trends, movies, television and entertainment through the Decades-60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s. Partygoers also had the opportunity to bid on the magnificent "Too Good to Keep Silent" auction items donated by many of the Bal Harbour Shops' stores and other supporters including exquisite jewelry, exclusive trips, and other magnificent items from Chopard, Tiffany & Co., Ferragamo, Buccellati, Harry Winston, and Goyard, among others.

Proceeds from Destination Fashion 2016 will directly benefit The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, the fundraising arm of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

Destination Fashion 2016 was presented by Swanee and Paul DiMare. Benefactors included: Edie Laquer and The Laquer Foundation, Bal Harbour Shops, Barton G., and The Collection, Bal Harbour Village, Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation, Carnival Corporation & plc and Carnival Corporation, Ana and Tony Figueroa Cisneros, Mark Dalton, Samuel J. and Connie M. Frankino Foundation, Richard Gray, Kandy Kramer, Iris and Michael Smith, Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation, Residences by Armani/Casa, Anthony Abraham Foundation, Gary and Pennie Abramson, Lisa and Jeff Akin, Pearl Baker Katz, Bunny Bastian, Cynthia and Wayne Boich and Melissa and Sean Posner, Irma and Norman Braman, Andi and Chuck Edelstein and Chanin and Adam Carlin, City National Bank, Phil and Orianne Collins and The Little Dreams Foundation, The Fairholme Foundation, The Ferraro Law Firm, Teresita and Michael Haskett, The Holman Family Foundation, Gretchen and Jay Jordan, The Kathleen Kennedy Fund of the Ethel and W. George Kennedy Foundation, Lauren's




Randy Whitman
with Savannah
Guthrie and
Matthew Whitman
Lazenby



Savannah Guthrie
with Madeleine
Arison, Christine
Lynn and Micky
Arison



Cynthia Vijitakula
with Christian
Slater, Marc
Buoniconti and
Brittany Slater

Kids, Marile and Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq., Christine E. Lynn, The Miami HEAT Charitable Fund, Stuart Miller, Lennar Corporation, Victoria Ranger Nuñez and Michael Nuñez, Oceana Bal Harbour, Perry Ellis International, Laura and Jeff Roberts, Barbara Sherman, Laura and Irwin Tauber, Valerio Toyos, MDPA, Aventura Worldwide Transportation, Acqualina Resort & Spa, Franklin Dodd Communications, Neiman Marcus Bal Harbour, 1 Hotel South Beach, Ocean Drive Magazine, Ritz Carlton Bal Harbour, Ritz Carlton South Beach, Selecta Magazine, Sole Farms, Southern Wine & Spirits, The St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort, Tiffany & Co, and Y100. 





Savannah Guthrie and Edie Laquer



Orianne and Phil Collins



Savannah Guthrie and Martin Packer



Tico Torres and Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard



Kathy and Dr. Barth Green



Lynn and Nick Buoniconti



Dr. Eugene and Suzie Sayfie



Terry Buoniconti and Chris Pederson



Massimo Caronna and Justise Winslow



Wayne Newton with Marc and Nick Buoniconti

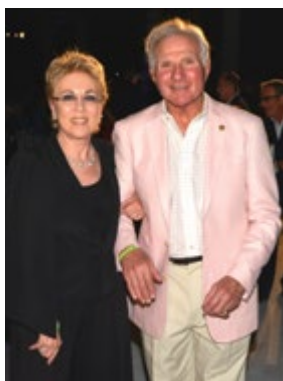


Matthew Whitman Lazenby with Stanley Whitman

2016 Women of Substance and Style



Susan Abraham and Bob Beamon



Pennie Abramson and Nick Buoniconti



Tico Torres and Gabrielle Anwar



Cynthia Boich and Steve Smith



Mercedes Carlson and Wayne Newton



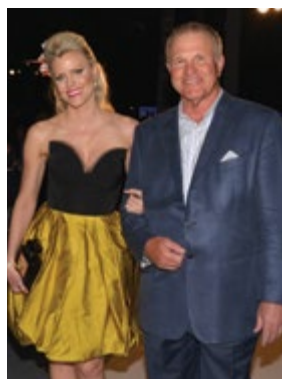
Jordan Claure and Gil de Ferran



Orianne Collins and Romero Britto



Linda Corey and Dick Anderson



Kristin Ducote and Brian Kelley



Bobi and James Eroncig



Lian Fanjul de Azqueta and Andre Dawson



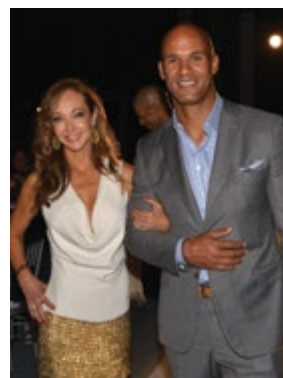
Katherine Fernandez Rundle and Emilio Estefan



Ana de Figueroa Cisneros and Brett Romberg



Shelley Golden and Tony Perez



Melinda Gonzalez and Jason Taylor



Becky Haggard McCarron and Shane Battier





Teresita Haskett and
Aiden Turner



Amy Hollub and
Randal Hill



Wendy Holman and
Colin Egglesfield



Kinga Lampert and
Alonzo Mourning



Kristin Lazenby and
Charlie Weber



Lisa Leslie and
Greg Anthony



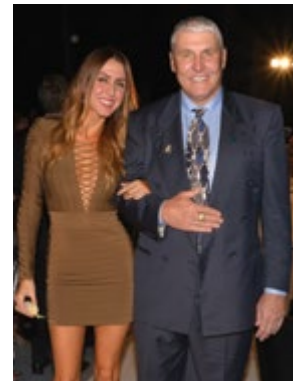
Sandra Levy and
Harry Carson



Marile and Jorge Luis
Lopez



Jayne Malfitano and
Nat Moore



Christina Martin and
Mark Rypien



Jed Weaver and
Ashley Moore



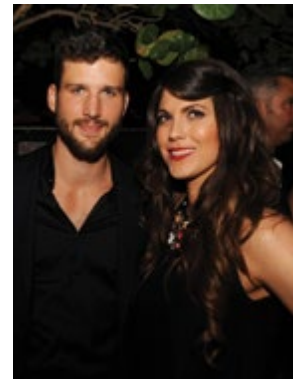
Suzanne Murphy and
Christian Slater



Nan O'Leary and
Jack Nicklaus



Jorge and Laura Posada



Parker Young and
Melissa Posner



Barbara Reese and
Dave Cowens



Laura Roberts and
Zach Thomas



Kathy Simkins and
Barry Gibb



Lydia Touzet and
Scott Erickson



Gigi Whitman and
Justise Winslow



Great SPORTS Legends Dinner



2015 Legends and Honorees

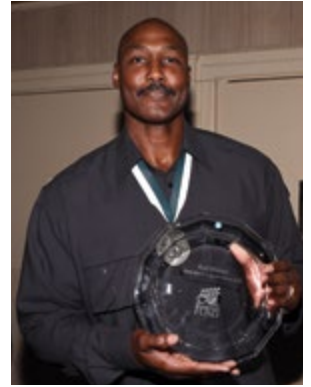




Tom Brokaw



The Beach Boys



Karl Malone



Waldorf Astoria Ballroom



Mark Dalton and Jorge Posada

Celebrities, sports legends, corporate leaders and more joined NFL Hall of Famer Nick Buoniconti, his son Marc, and Event Chair Mark Dalton as they hosted a sold out crowd in celebration of the 30th Annual Great Sports Legends Dinner to benefit The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis. Held at New York's famed Waldorf Astoria on October 6, the dinner paid tribute to philanthropic heroes and sports icons that inspire and motivate those affected by spinal cord injuries, and raised \$12 million for The Miami Project's research programs.

NBC News Icon Tom Brokaw served as Master of Ceremonies as The Buoniconti Fund honored the 2015 Great Sports Legends: Jorge Posada, Karl Malone, Ray Lewis, John Stockton, Michelle Kwan, Victor Espinoza, Jennifer Capriati and Chip Ganassi. The Buoniconti Fund also paid tribute to Gloria and Emilio Estefan. The Twenty-six time GRAMMY® Award-winning power couple were The Buoniconti Fund Inspiration Award Recipients. Orianne and Phil Collins – Phil, one of the most successful songwriters and performers of all time, and philanthropist Orianne, received the Humanitarian Award.

Philanthropists Paul and Swanee DiMare, Paul is a Buoniconti Fund Board member, were so moved by the evening and the progress of the scientific team that they came to the podium to pledge \$5 million to support The Buoniconti Fund.

Also during the evening, The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation trustees Mary Wilson, Ralph Wilson's widow, and Mary Owen, his niece, announced a \$2 million gift to fund The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., Distinguished Chair in Neurosurgery at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in honor of Miami Project Founder Dr. Barth A. Green.

Music legends The Beach Boys and The Pointer Sisters wowed the audience with a special live performance of their hits and confetti cannons and applause filled the room after Nick Buoniconti said, "We will cure paralysis!" to end the memorable event. 🎉



Karl Malone, Bruce Bowen and Ray Lewis



Dr. Barth Green and Dr. Julio Frenk



Christine Lynn with Nick Buoniconti



Nick and Marc Buoniconti with Gloria and Emilio Estefan



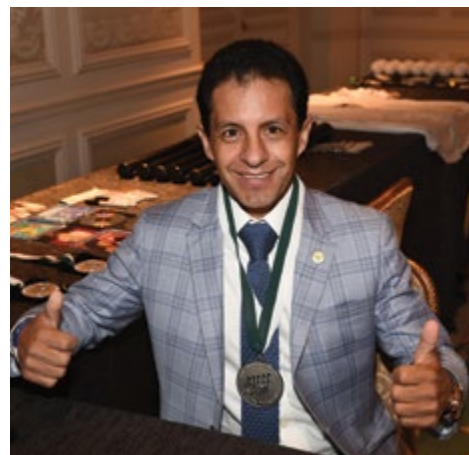
Harry Carson and Ray Lewis



Jeff Bennett, Ken Hershman, Jeff Ivey and Linda Coll



Michelle Kwan and Jennifer Capriati



Victor Espinoza

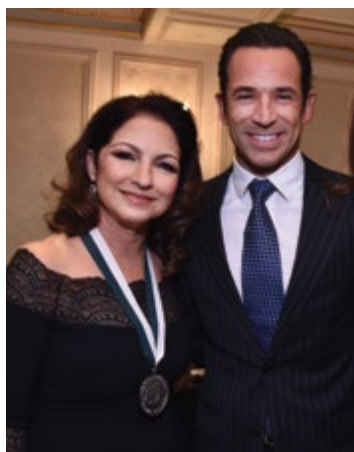




Paul and Swanee DiMare with Nick Buoniconti



Orienne Collins with Terry and Marc Buoniconti



Gloria Estefan with
Helio Castroneves



Tom Brokaw with John Stockton



Lynn Buoniconti, Jorge Posada and Nick Buoniconti



Jim Kelly, Chip Ganassi and Jorge Posada



Nick and Marc Buoniconti with Richard Gray



GOLF LEGEND JACK NICKLAUS HOSTS 14th ANNUAL BUONICONTI FUND CELEBRITY GOLF INVITATIONAL PRESENTED BY THE TUDOR GROUP

Jack Nicklaus, the greatest golfer who ever lived, along with NFL Hall of Famer **Nick Buoniconti** and his son **Marc** hosted the 14th Annual Buoniconti Fund Celebrity Golf Invitational Presented by Tudor Group at Nicklaus' home club and course, The Bear's Club in Jupiter, Florida. For the past 14 years, the two day event, which included an inspirational Sunday night dinner was followed by the golf tournament on the immaculate Bear's Club 18 holes. The tournament, has consistently brought together some of the world's top business leaders and celebrities to join forces to find a cure for spinal cord injuries. Since its inception, The Bear's Club event has raised millions to help fund spinal cord injury research programs at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.



Nick and Marc Buoniconti with Mark Dalton and Jack Nicklaus


Golfers and celebrities including Bon Jovi drummer **Tico Torres**, NFL Hall of Famer **Harry Carson**, World Series Champion Pitcher **Scott Erickson**, Eight-time NBA Champion with the Boston Celtics **John Havlicek**, Three-time NBA Champion with the San Antonio Spurs **Bruce Bowen**, 1980 Olympic Ice Hockey Gold medalist and Team Captain **Mike Eruzione**, World Series Champion and MVP with the Marlins **Livan Hernandez**, former Yankees Pitcher and 4-Time World Series Champion **Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez**, former Dolphins receiving great **Nat Moore**, 1972 Miami Dolphins Perfect Season member **Dick Anderson**, NY Yankee pitching great and AL Rookie of the Year **Stan Bahnsen**, 1972 Olympic Long Jump Gold Medalist **Bob Beamon**, former Dolphins Offensive lineman **Jeff Dellenbach**, former Dolphins Tight End **Troy Drayton**, former NY Giants Running back **Tucker Fredrickson**, former NY Giants Linebacker **Brian Kelley**, former Dolphins Punter **John Kidd**, former Dolphins Running back **Terry Kirby**, former Dolphins Tight End **Jed Weaver**, and many more enjoyed the Celebrity Dinner affair and an exciting day of golf on the prestigious golf course.



Tico Torres



Harry Carson

Special thanks to Tudor Group, PGA National Resort and Spa, Aventura Worldwide Transportation Services, Perry Ellis, Tiffany & Co. and more. 



11th Annual Poker4Life™ Crowns its 2016 P4L Champion



2016 P4L players at The Tunnel

Poker4Life™ (P4L) Founders Jeremy Schwartz and Ethan Ruby held their successful tournament again at The Tunnel in NYC on March 31. Nearly 300 players came together to raise money for The Buoniconti Fund while a crowd of 200 spectators looked on.

P4L continues to be one of the best attended and run charity poker events in the NYC area. This year's winners again enjoyed prizes that included seats in the 2016 World Series of Poker (WSOP) Main Event that took place this past summer in Las Vegas, Nevada, NYC sports team packages, jewelry, and seats to the 2016 Great Sports Legends Dinner, to name a few. 2016 P4L Final Table Winners include 1st place John Brennan, 2nd place Robert Michaels, 3rd place Sam Bellinger, 4th place Steve Rockoff, 5th place Peter Bruno, 6th place Doug Rassner, 7th place Sara Hoots, 8th place Jim Franz, 9th place Ellen Leikind, and 10th place Don Cornwell.

Congratulations to the 2016 "All-In" Award recipients Ronny & Tiffany Barnea and Amy Rosenthal. Thank you for all the work you do to make the tournament possible.




Ethan Ruby with John Brennan

We appreciate all of our guests, supporters and sponsors including ZYR Vodka, CARBON NYC, The Macallan, NY Knicks, NY Rangers, NY Yankees, Pro Poker Gear, Cockspur Rum, Magic Hat, Dove Water, PokerDivas, GoCharity, Poker Players Alliance, and many more. A very special thank you to Jewelry on 5th, Semper Capital, ON.com, Vanessa Selbst, Larry Johnson, John Wallace, Vin Baker, Vincent Piazza, Courtney Culkin, Jimmy Lee, Zephy, Chris Murney, Goumba Johnny and Tony's Di Napoli.

The mission of Poker4Life continues to be a forum for poker players to come together and support causes



Jeremy Schwartz, Ethan Ruby and Amy Rosenthal

they believe in while playing a game they enjoy. Poker4Life has attracted thousands of poker players and philanthropists with their exclusive charity poker tournaments. Over the last 11 years more than \$2,000,000 has been raised through their NYC poker events with The Buoniconti Fund being their charity of choice. We hope to see everyone again at our 12th Annual Poker4Life™ Charity Poker Championship Event in 2017. 



National Volunteer Chapters The BUONICONTI FUND

On January 16, the Miami Chapter hosted the **7th Annual Block Party**. The event celebrated more than 400 guests and community partners for an amazing night under the stars with sumptuous food by Hillstone Coral Gables, craft beer and spirits, local celebrities, live music by People You Know, dancing and an auction. A special donation check presentation was given to Marc Buoniconti from the Florida Nu Chapter of SigEp.



Chapter of Sig Ep check presentation to Marc Buoniconti



Miami Chapter Block Party host committee



Bill Beckham foursome

The Woody Foundation held its **5th Annual Golf Classic** on April 21 at the International Links Miami golf course. Nearly 100 golfers, sponsors and volunteers came out to support this great day of golf, community and spinal cord injury research awareness. The Woody Foundation has designated The Buoniconti Fund as an event beneficiary and partner for this tournament since 2012 with nearly \$175,000 donated from The Woody Foundation to support the ongoing research at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.



The Sray family

Rebecca Sray visits The Miami Project with daughter, Melissa Bardo, son-in-law Jeremy and grandchildren Lucy and Levi in loving memory of her husband Thomas Sray. Tom passed away in January 2016, he was spinal cord injured and a dedicated Pittsburgh Chapter volunteer and supporter of The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis.



The Pittsburgh Chapter hosted their **12th Annual Golf Tournament** on June 26 at Carmichaels Golf Course with another *sell out* crowd of nearly 150 golfers, volunteers and sponsors including Tygart Industries and Jeremie Synder Electrical. This annual tournament has raised nearly \$200,000 to support The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.



Jim Hoy, volunteer director, and Beckie Sray, veteran committee member of the Pittsburgh Chapter



Chapters Challenge is in its sixth year as a successful campaign that encourages our volunteers and supporters participating in local, national and international races to utilize our web-based program to raise funds and awareness on behalf of The Buoniconti Fund and The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Race participants can establish their own page, fundraising goals, contact friends and family, track their success, and make donations directly to The Buoniconti Fund. Our goal is to have our supporters walk, run, swim, bike or wheel their way across the finish line! <http://chapterschallenge.thebuonicontifund.com>

CHAPTERS UPCOMING EVENTS

October 15-16 ~ Southeast Michigan Chapter
~ Detroit Marathon 'Run for a Reason' ~
Detroit, MI

October 29 ~ Tampa Chapter
~9th annual Golf Classic ~ Tampa, FL

November 19 ~ Darrell Gwynn Quality of Life
Chapter ~ Hot Rods & Reels Charity Fishing
Tournament ~ Homestead-Miami, FL

December 1 ~ Chicago Chapter
~18th annual Indulgence Night ~ Chicago, IL

December 2 ~ Philadelphia Chapter
~ 13th annual Raise a Glass for a Cure ~
Philadelphia, PA

January 14 ~ Miami Chapter
~ 8th annual Block Party ~ Coral Gables, FL



The Buoniconti Fund Volunteer Chapters
welcomes 2 new Chapters
INDIANAPOLIS and SAVANNAH

If you or someone you know lives in the area, please get
involved in these new Chapter cities.

Let us know if your community could benefit from a
Volunteer Chapter which develops fundraising events and
awareness campaigns to help us reach our goal of finding
a cure for paralysis. There's no better time to create SCI
awareness in your community! Email bfchapters@med.miami.edu
or call (305) 243-3863 to get started. Visit
www.thebuonicontifund.com/chapters for the latest
events and community outreach and join The Buoniconti
Fund Chapters on Facebook.



Hot Rods & Reels Charity Fishing Tournaments are a truly one of a kind event which pairs NASCAR drivers and legends with philanthropic supporters, executives and racing fans for an exciting day of fishing on the in-field lake during the Ford Ecoboost Weekend at Homestead-Miami Speedway and the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway. Hot Rods & Reels tournament sponsors, event partners, participants and guests have the opportunity to witness a special ceremony in which a new, custom wheelchair is donated to an individual living with a spinal cord injury.

NASCAR drivers and legends team with NHRA Hall of Fame former drag racer Darrell Gwynn to raise awareness of spinal cord injury research and people living with paralysis. The Darrell Gwynn Quality of Life Chapter of The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, is the event host and benefiting charity.

Top right: Darrell Gwynn with NASCAR drivers at HR&R Homestead-Miami 2015 Bottom right: NASCAR driver Ryan Newman and Darrell Gwynn with participants at HR&R Daytona 2016



You
Give
A Ride



They
Get
A Ride



The Darrell Gwynn Chapter of The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis supports people with paralysis and spinal cord injury research. Donate your high performance or classic car to help stand up for those who can't.

The Darrell Gwynn Quality of Life Chapter kicked off the **"You Give a Ride, They Get a Ride"** program on July 8th when the U.S. Senate designated the date as "Collector Car Appreciation Day." Through donations of high end collector cars, the Darrell Gwynn Chapter is able to raise significant funds at auction to then obtain high-tech wheelchairs and give them to needy paralyzed individuals. For someone who is paralyzed, having a custom, specialized, properly fitted wheelchair can make a big difference in their quality of life.

The U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 507 (S. Res. 507) at the request of the SEMA Action Network designating July 8, 2016 as "Collector Car Appreciation Day". S. Res. 507 was sponsored by Congressional Automotive Performance and Motorsports Caucus Co-Chairs Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and Senator Jon Tester (D-MT). The date marks the seventh commemoration in what has become an annual event to celebrate and raise awareness of the vital role automotive restoration and collection plays in American society.



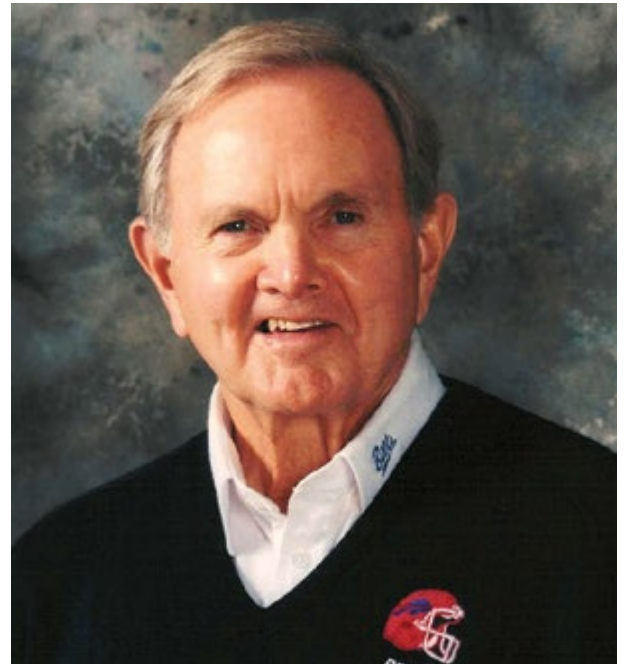
“I cannot imagine a greater honor than to continue my career as the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Distinguished Professor of Neurological Surgery.

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation announced the establishment of The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., Distinguished Chair in Neurosurgery at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in honor of Miami Project Founder and Chairman Dr. Barth A. Green. The Chair will be part of The Miami Project’s groundbreaking Human Clinical Trials Initiative and support research projects which will include our human Schwann cell transplantation study in patients suffering from acute and chronic spinal cord injuries.

Dr. Green will lead the clinical research, patient care, and promoting awareness relating to the Distinguished Chair. The research will be focused on finding a cure for spinal cord injury and related neurological problems. The current use of the funds will focus on patient care and the patient experience while building awareness for improving quality of life in all areas of neurological issues and injuries.

“I originally met Ralph Wilson as a patient, and it wasn’t too long after that, he became my mentor and one of my dearest friends. For the next 20 years Ralph Wilson, Jr. and his foundation strongly supported The Miami Project’s quest to create better treatments and ultimately to cure paralysis. Almost ten years ago during a Buffalo Bills football game, one of his star players was paralyzed. This young athlete is now walking due at least in part to the pioneering work in therapeutic hypothermia (cooling), a technology refined by The Miami Project scientific team. I cannot imagine a greater honor than to continue my career as the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Distinguished Professor of Neurological Surgery. His philanthropy has supported our historic clinical trials, on not only new injuries, but also for athletes and others who have been relegated to life in a wheelchair. The generosity of Ralph Wilson, and more recently the trustees of his foundation, will ensure that the best opportunities will continue in perpetuity for victims of paralysis,” said Dr. Barth Green.

The endowment fund of \$2,000,000 will offer a permanent source of income for top physicians to pursue new areas of clinical and translational research, innovative medicine and awareness. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is a private foundation headquartered in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. The Foundation was established in 2011 by Mr. Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. to eventually become the vehicle to receive a substantial amount of his Estate’s proceeds which are to be used exclusively for charitable purposes. Mr. Wilson, an early and longtime supporter of The Miami Project and Buoniconti Fund, passed away on March 25, 2014.



Ralph C. Wilson



Ralph C. Wilson and Dr. Barth A. Green



Mary Owen and Mary Wilson

Thank you to our Buoniconti Fund Board of Directors

Mr. Gary Abramson
 Mr. Richard S. Aldrich, Jr.
 Mr. Dick Anderson
 Mr. Robert C. Bantle
 Ms. Ina Broeman
 Mr. Marc A. Buoniconti
 Mr. Nicholas A. Buoniconti
 Mr. James M. Callahan, Sr.
 Mr. Adam E. Carlin
 Mr. Harry Carson
 Mr. Raymond G. Chambers
 Mr. Mark F. Dalton
 W. Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D.
 Mr. Paul J. DiMare
 Mr. James Ferraro
 Dr. Julio Frenk
 Mr. Tim Gannon
 Mr. Sergio M. Gonzalez
 Mr. Richard W. Gray
 Barth A. Green, M.D., FACS
 Mrs. Kandy Kramer
 Mr. Matthew Whitman Lazenby
 Allan D. Levi, M.D., Ph.D.
 Ms. Diana Morrison
 Mrs. Victoria Ranger Nuñez
 Mr. James J. Pallotta
 Mrs. Suzanne M. Sayfie
 Mr. John A. Schneider
 Mr. Daniel Schleifman
 Mr. Bill Simon
 Mr. Alan N. Stillman
 Mr. Tom Vigorito



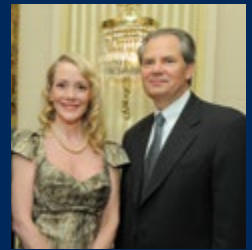
Nick Buoniconti, Paul DiMare with
Christine E. Lynn



Matthew Whitman
Lazenby



Dick Anderson



Victoria Ranger Nuñez
and Dr. Dalton Dietrich



Mark Dalton



Diana Morrison



Sergio Gonzalez, Christine E.
Lynn and Adam Carlin



Jack Schneider, Richard Gray
and Tim Gannon



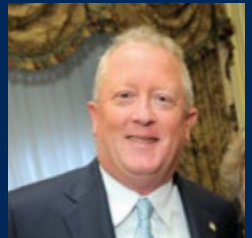
Richard Aldrich, Jr.



Kandy Kramer



Jim Ferraro, Dr. Barth Green, Nick
and Marc Buoniconti



Bob Bantle



Gary Abramson



James Pallotta



Tom Vigorito



Ira Harris



Ina Broeman

Advisory Board

Ron Anderson
 Mr. Richard R. Booth
 Mr. Alexander Chudnoff
 Mrs. Gloria Estefan
 Ms. Chris Evert
 Mr. Emerson Fittipaldi
 Mr. Joe Gaskins
 Mr. Darrell Gwynn
 Mr. J. Ira Harris
 Mr. Julio Iglesias
 Mr. Philip H. Knight
 Thomas J. LeBlanc, Ph.D.
 Ms. Tova Leidesdorf
 James R. Leininger, M.D.
 Ms. Christine E. Lynn
 Mr. Nicholas J. Verbitsky
 Mr. Barton G. Weiss
 Mr. Robert C. Wright



Dr. Julio Frenk



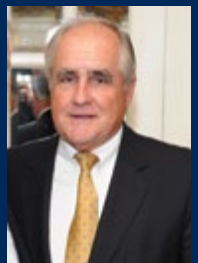
Dr. Allan D. Levi



Gloria Estefan



Alan Stillman



James Callahan, Sr.



Marc Buoniconti and
Harry Carson



Daniel



Ray Chambers



Barton G. Weiss



Darrell Gwynn



Ex Officio Members

Mrs. Stephanie Sayfie Aagaard
 Mrs. Diana Berning



Muhammad Ali



John Elway



Michael Jordan



Joe Torre



Andre Agassi



Helio Castroneves

New Venue and Date for 2017 Dinner to be Announced Soon! New York City



Wayne Gretzky



Jack Nicklaus



Kristi Yamaguchi



Gloria Estefan

Thirty-Second Annual GREAT SPORTS LEGENDS DINNER The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis

The fundraising arm of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis



Kelly Slater



Michael Irvin

For table and ticket purchase information, please contact
Stephanie Sayfie Agaard at 305-243-4656 or
email saagaard@miami.edu
www.thebuonicontifund.com/gslid



/CureParalysis



@BuonicontiFund

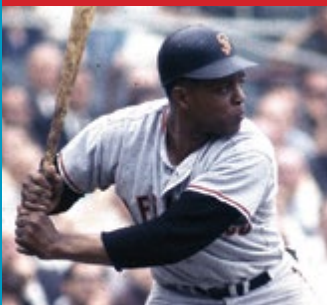


@BuonicontiFund

*Past legends and honorees featured



Tommy Lee Jones



Willie Mays



Nick and Marc Buoniconti



Tony Hawk



Magic Johnson

THE PROJECT
PO BOX 016960, R-48
MIAMI, FL 33101

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Miami, Florida
Permit 438



In the United States Alone, Every **42** Minutes a Person Becomes Paralyzed

September is National
Spinal Cord Injury
Awareness Month

Help us create a National Conversation
in September and throughout the year
through Social Media. Follow us on
Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and
share your story using

#BuonicontiFund
#FacesOfParalysis

 **UHealth**
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HEALTH SYSTEM

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MILLER SCHOOL
of MEDICINE


**THE MIAMI PROJECT
TO CURE PARALYSIS**