

HHS Spinal Cord Injury Program earns sought-after accreditation

The Hamilton Health Sciences Spinal Cord Injury Program has been accredited by Accreditation Canada and the Rick Hansen Institute. HHS is the seventh Canadian centre to earn this recognition by achieving a comprehensive and rigorous set of evidence-based standards for spinal cord injury services.

The CEO of the Rick Hansen Institute, Bill Barrable, visited HHS recently to present the accreditation certificate, in person, to members of the spinal cord injury team.

“One of the things that distinguishes this program at Hamilton Health Sciences is the multidisciplinary care it provides and how that care translates into the community. In particular, everyone here really works as a team to reduce the secondary complications of spinal cord injury, both in hospital and in the community,” said Bill.

The Rick Hansen Institute (RHI) is a Canadian-based, not-for-profit organization committed

to accelerating the translation of discoveries and best practices into improved treatments for people with spinal cord injuries. In 2011, RHI joined with Accreditation Canada to establish standards that are giving programs across Canada, and internationally, something to shoot for.

“It’s an honour to receive this award,” said Kathryn Leblanc, director of the Regional Rehabilitation Program at HHS.

Dr. Shanker Nesathurai, chief of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at HHS, is also proud of the achievement. “Hamilton Health Sciences has one of the largest rehabilitation programs in Canada. It has served this community for nearly 50 years. This accreditation is recognition of the excellent contributions the program has made, and continues to make.”

The care of patients with spinal cord injuries can be very technical and complex. That’s why the standards include a strong focus on providing patient-centred care.



Rob Murphy is regional services coordinator for the Ontario Spinal Cord Injury Association and works at within HHS’s Spinal Cord Injury Program helping patients navigate their way through the system.

“I know that our continuum of care here at HHS is innovative. Patients can go from new injury and acute care, right through rehabilitation and back to the community, all within this program,” said Rob.

In his closing remarks, Bill Barrable paid tribute to the HHS program. “I just really wanted to say congratulations. You have provided leadership to other Canadian hospitals. Thank you for that.”

Supporter of **McMaster Children’s Hospital Foundation** Authors Financial Literacy Book Series

One of Canada’s top business minds has launched a book series designed to teach children about financial literacy. Teresa Cascioli, the award-winning entrepreneur and former CEO of Lakeport Brewing, has written and released the *M is for Money* book series, which is aimed at children between the ages of 5 and 8. Teresa decided to create the series because she saw the need to start educating children about financial literacy at a young age.

The books follow the financial adventures of twins Tessa and Benji as they collaborate to earn, save, budget and deal with money issues in a fun way. Read as the twins are taught to save money in *The Little Piggy Bank*,

comprehend the concept of receiving change in *The Little Wallet Named Pouch*, and learn about loans in *A Little Loan for Benji*.

When you purchase the books online, use the promo code “MacKids” and Teresa will autograph each book purchased!

To learn more or to purchase the *M is for Money* books, visit www.misformoney.ca.

