

Introduction

Dear Readers:

March 17–19, 2017 marks the dates of the Third World Congress on Spina Bifida Research and Care. This meeting is being supported and hosted by the Spina Bifida Association. The mission statement of the Spina Bifida Association is to “promote the prevention of Spina Bifida and enhance the lives of all affected.” The planning and organization of this meeting has been an international effort. Attendees and presenters hail from several different countries across the globe.

This international meeting brings together health experts from numerous disciplines and serves as the pre-eminent forum to promote research in Spina Bifida and advance the health care of children and adults with Spina Bifida. 136 oral abstract presentations and 65 poster presentations were accepted for the Third World Congress on Spina Bifida Research and Care. This represents the single largest and impressive forum of research related to Spina Bifida and includes the breadth of research in the field; from bench to bedside and beyond.

The Planning Committee of the Third World Congress and the Spina Bifida Association are pleased to partner with the *Journal of Pediatric Rehabilita-*

tion Medicine and IOS Press in this endeavor. The e-publication of the abstracts is supported by ABC Medical Supply and the Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh/UPMC. This e-publication will include the abstracts accepted for oral presentation in full, and the abstracts accepted as posters by title and author. In addition to this e-publication, the *Journal of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine* has agreed to publish a special edition of the journal including original research and plenary sessions presented at the Third World Congress on Spina Bifida Research and Care.

Sincerely,

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