Stoke Today

The Colorado Pediatric Stroke Support Group (CPSPSG) newsletter is now available at cpspsg.com and we are excited to announce this to our first issue. In the future, the Stroke Spotlight will contain information on research and breaking news about stroke in children, infants, and young adults. In coming months we hope to take this section on feedback and questions we receive from our CPSPSG families; however, for our first issue, we hope to provide a little history on how the CPSPSG came to be.

The CPSPSG was started in 2010 as an extension of the services offered by the Children’s Hospital of Colorado Pediatric Stroke team in an effort to support parents and caregivers of children who have had a pediatric stroke. Additionally, the CPSPSG has been an important source of awareness for pediatric stroke and serves as advocates for parents and caregivers of children who have had a pediatric stroke. In December of 2010 the CPSPSG was awarded a grant from the Professional’s Miracles Foundation that has facilitated the development of our newsletter and will continue to provide funding for future meetings such as our meeting held in April of 2011. The CPSPSG is directed by Dr. Tim Bernard and Whitney Hoover. Jessica Jack has recently joined the leadership team for the CPSPSG and brings another great facet to our group.

Dr. Bernard has been a member of the Children’s Hospital of Colorado Pediatric Stroke team in Colorado along with Jessica. As our newest CPSPSG Director Jessica has become involved with pediatric stroke through research and her involvement in the pediatrics interest group within the School of Medicine. On behalf of our CPSPSG leadership team and the many other providers who work with us, thank you for becoming involved with the CPSPSG and please let us know if you have any suggestions.

Jessica Jack has recently joined the leadership team for the CPSPSG and brings another great facet to our group. Dr. Bernard has been a long-time member of the stroke team and has a long history of working with the Children’s Hospital of Colorado Pediatric Stroke team in Colorado along with Jessica. As our newest CPSPSG Director Jessica has become involved with pediatric stroke through research and her involvement in the pediatrics interest group within the School of Medicine. On behalf of our CPSPSG leadership team and the many other providers who work with us, thank you for becoming involved with the CPSPSG and please let us know if you have any suggestions.

Family Spotlight

By Richard Boada PhD

My son has had a child diagnosed with stroke. My child is very challenging and has proven to be the most emotional experience in my life. Everything is the same for others, but when others are harder, making me ask a question I’ll never know the answer to: why did this happen to my child? It is important to take into consideration the effect that having a child who is a stroke survivor has on not only my son, but also on our family and everyone we meet.

People tell me I am the strongest person they have ever met, and while this is an amazing compliment, I can’t help but think that it is leaders who are strong, not me. I hope the leadership and the inspiration he gives others has helped him to raise awareness about infant/childhood stroke. The impact of Jaden’s stroke has been life changing for our family and others like us who have had a child diagnosed with stroke. However, through it all we have found strength and remain faithful in knowing that Jaden and others like him will achieve success and believing in him even when he may not believe in himself. Jaden has shown us to cherish the small things – saying yes, tying our shoes, climbing our hands and what it means to have a life free of occupa- tional therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

My son has changed people’s ideas of what it means to have a diagnosis. He has inspired me to encourage people to speak openly about medical conditions and reach out to members of the community to share our story, spread information and help others who have had a child diagnosed with stroke. This has been a difficult experience for our family and other like us who have had a child diagnosed with stroke. However, through it all we have found strength and remained faithful in knowing that Jaden and others like him will achieve success and believing in him even when he may not believe in himself. Jaden has shown us to cherish the small things – saying yes, tying our shoes, climbing our hands and what it means to have a life free of occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

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