



E-NEWSLETTER

November News

Unsurpassed Scenery and Las Vegas Sunshine at the 6th Annual Racing to Recovery Golf Tournament



Foundation supporters help raise over \$176,000 to benefit paralysis patients, scientific research

The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation's 6th Annual Racing to Recovery Golf Tournament was held on November 17, 2011 at Southern Highlands Golf Club in Las Vegas, Nevada, one of the most exclusive clubs in Las Vegas. The course is one of only four in the world co-designed by the late Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Robert Trent Jones Jr. The traditional design, dramatic elevation changes and beautiful water features make every round a truly unique experience.

The IZOD IndyCar Season Finale race in Las Vegas the day before the tournament was cut short by the tragic death of Indianapolis 500 Champion Dan Wheldon. Although it was a somber group that gathered at the course early Monday morning, the spectacular mountain vistas, soothing Las Vegas sunshine and time spent with friends helped improve the mood.

Seventy golfers from throughout the Las Vegas area, across the United States and Canada participated in the annual tournament. Celebrity guests included NBA star Matt Barnes, IndyCar driver Graham Rahal, Miss Nevada 2011 Alana Lee and Nashville recording artist Michelle Murray, among others. Members of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas PGA Golf Management School were on hand to pinch-hit on the tough drives, while beautiful models from Patron Spirits offered refreshments on the course. Hole-in-one prizes included a Lexus automobile and a Harley Davidson

Gettin' It Done:

Corey C.: Master of Empathy



Indycar driver Davey Hamilton at the track with Corey C.

Many of the people featured in our column, "Gettin' It Done", are newsmakers whose accomplishments are covered in print or online. Despite their physical challenges they travel the world, climb mountains, or succeed in business or extreme sports. Today we'd like to acknowledge that there are people all around us, like our friend Corey C., who are "Gettin' It Done" in their own way every single day of their lives.

Corey is a young man who has had to deal with his particular disability since the first day of life. He has had all that time to learn how to accept each new challenge with grace. He listens to the advice of medical professionals, family and friends, thinks it over, then makes his own decisions.

The mountain that Corey ascends is the front steps of his home, and the marathon he endures is a trip to the mall. During his young life Corey has undergone several painful surgeries with long, agonizing recovery periods. He faces them realistically, but with bravery, optimism

motorcycle. Alas, unlike last year's tournament, none of the players succeeded at shooting a hole in one this year.

Golfers were treated to a delicious grilled lunch. After the tournament, players gathered for cocktails and prize presentations. Door prizes were also drawn, including a set of Bowers & Wilkins "Zeppelin" speakers, Jorg Gray watches and a selection of fine wines.

The annual Racing to Recovery golf tournament raises money and awareness for the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation which helps fund scientific research, medical treatment, rehabilitation and technological advances benefiting those with spinal cord injuries, stroke victims and people diagnosed with ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Preliminary photos from the 6th Annual Racing to Recovery Golf Tournament have been posted on the Gallery page. Additional photos from this event will be posted as soon as they are available, so please check back.

80's Brit Starts "The English Beat" Perform in Concert to Benefit the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation

A special concert featuring The English Beat was held on October 16 at the House of Blues at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas to benefit the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation.

Dan Wheldon helped to organize the concert. Although Dan had been tragically killed in a racing accident earlier that day, it was felt that the concert he had worked to present should go on in his honor.

Guests were treated to a unique experience, as the band best known for hits such as "Save it For Later," "Hands Off...She's Mine" and "I Confess," took to the stage as a tribute to Dan Wheldon and his commitment to the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation.

The House of Blues is a distinctive venue, combining balcony seating, ground floor space for standing or dancing, and a top floor VIP lounge, with a bar on each level.

Including the concert, October fundraisers in Las Vegas to benefit the Foundation raised over \$176,000 to help researchers in their mission to

and hope.

One of Corey's coping strategies is to think outside himself. His sense of empathy is legendary. When Corey asks, "how are you?" he honestly wants to know the answer.

As a race fan and friend of the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation, Corey was excited to attend our Day at the Races program. We enjoyed his company there as much as he enjoyed the opportunity. The racing family encompassed Corey and his love for life. He once brought Helio Castroneves to tears with a gift he brought to the track for Helio's new baby.

Corey is truly a V.I.P. whose Very Important Purpose on this earth is to remind us all, by example, to do our best every day. We wish him Godspeed wherever the next adventure takes him. He will always remain our Facebook friend and fellow race fan, Corey C.

Preliminary Human Experiments to Test Safety of Nerve Cell Transplants for Spinal Cord Paralysis

By R. Douglas Fields, reprinted from Scientific American, October 19, 2011

The new approach, currently being studied by the FDA for phase I trials, avoids the problems of immunological rejection and the controversy around the use of embryonic stem cells. Human Schwann cells in the final product are generated from the sural nerve of an organ donor. The cells are purified and grown in strict accordance with a manufacturing protocol developed in the laboratories at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. The final product is of high purity and similar cells from a subject with spinal cord injury would be suitable for clinical transplantation.

find a cure for paralysis.

Zero One Odysseys Off-Roading Adventure Fundraiser



Ever wonder what's beyond the hills and city lights of Las Vegas? Hidden in the fringe, the beauty and fun of the Mojave Desert beckons.

Zero One Odysseys is a popular Las Vegas tour company specializing in unique off-road rally adventures and access to breathtaking sights and historic but forgotten desert towns. At the request of adventure guide Predi Medina, owners David Whitehead and Earl Desiderio generously offered to donate a portion of their sales for one day in October to the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation.

Eight participants eagerly accepted the challenge and signed up for a day package of about 120 miles and 7 hours of driving through rugged desert terrain in Zero One's purpose-built performance off-road cars. The group included SSPF supporter Chris Haas and 6 of his friends. Another participant that day happened to be a professional driver who competes in Monster Trucks and Rock Crawling events.

First on the agenda was an orientation session at Zero One headquarters, where the trail boss reviewed in detail all aspects involving the driver and the navigator roles, and radio communications with the lead car and the other cars on the tour. Orientation also covered equipment operation and the type of terrain to be expected, especially the safety aspects involved. Then all eight adventurers donned helmets, dust covers and gloves and

ROCKVILLE, Md.—A new experiment aimed at achieving actor Christopher Reeve's dream of finding an effective treatment for spinal paralysis was announced this week at an international meeting of scientists and people with spinal cord injury sponsored by the United 2 Fight Paralysis Foundation. The approach, which already is shown to be promising in animals and avoids the need for patients to take immunosuppressive drugs, has not yet been proved effective in humans. Nonetheless, patients are excited to see this advance as they have been frustrated waiting for the first human trials of the new approach.

W. Dalton Dietrich, scientific director of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, announced here that his research team has submitted an application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for permission to begin new "phase I" experiments on humans to treat paralysis using the new cell transplantation technique. (Phase I trials have nothing to do with efficacy. They are only to test safety and typically a nontherapeutic dose is used at the outset of the safety studies.) With the new technique, rather than using cells derived from embryonic stem cells, the patient's own mature cells are harvested from a nerve in the leg and grown in large numbers in the laboratory, then transplanted back into the injured spinal cord to repair damage. This approach avoids the problems of immunological rejection and the controversy that can arise from using cells derived from embryonic stem cells for treating neurological injury and disease. Typically, patients receiving an organ or tissue transplant from a donor must be given immunosuppressant drugs to prevent their immune systems from attacking the foreign tissue.

The cells being used for

strapped into the cars to become familiar with the safety gear, car controls and radio communication. Comfortable with the cars and gear, the group then headed off into the Mojave Desert for several hours of off-roading fun.

The terrain was breathtaking, including challenging trails and sand washes. Travel varied between rock crawling and high speed routes through endless sandy valleys where wild desert burros, jack rabbits and herds of wild mustangs can be seen. Stops were made to marvel at the scenic views and enjoy cold water and snacks.

After a lunch stop at the Pioneer Saloon, the group made their way back to Zero One Headquarters, where folks lingered awhile to share bench racing stories over a cold drink.

The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation sincerely thanks Zero One Odysseys for their donation of nearly \$3,000. In the words of adventure guide Predi Medina, *"Our business is well connected with a variety of athletes and racing organizations. Unfortunately some of our very close friends were injured and sustain some level of paralysis. Their lives were changed drastically and almost nothing exists to date to reverse their conditions. The cure for paralysis must be found! Therefore, Zero One Odysseys is very proud to support the noble efforts of the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation towards research for a cure for paralysis. We want to continue to donate to SSPF's mission and we plan to organize several more tours throughout the year and invite many other drivers and friends to join us in donating to this charity."*

To view photos of the event, click [here](#).

About Zero One Odysseys

"Zero One Odysseys specializes in providing unique off-road rally adventures and access to historic and breathtaking forgotten desert towns. You will drive through places few people see. The best part of this is that you will do it in the comfort of our purpose built off-road safari cars, always within earshot of our professional staff. We are proud of our vehicles' performance and the unique services we provide, and are confident everyone will be truly impressed as well. So welcome on board, your next adventure is ready to start! For more information go to

www.zerooneodysseys.com.

transplantation are Schwann cells, a type of non-neuronal cell (glia) that protects and insulates nerve fibers running through the body's limbs and trunk. Schwann cells also support the repair of damaged neurons; they provide vital proteins that protect nerve cells after injury, coax new nerve sprouts (axons) to grow and reconnect with the proper structures, and wrap electrical insulation, myelin, around the fibers, which is essential for axons to conduct electrical impulses. Unlike damage to the spinal cord, an injured nerve in the body can repair itself.

Schwann cells are not present in the brain and spinal cord. Instead, a different cell called an oligodendrocyte forms the myelin insulation. This century-old observation was an important clue in answering the question of why a damaged nerve in the body's peripheral nervous system heals over time, but a damaged axon in the brain or spinal cord (central nervous system, or CNS) does not. Research transplanting Schwann cells into the damaged brain and spinal cord of experimental animals in the 1980s showed that neurons in the CNS could grow and repair damaged connections if

Schwann cells were transplanted to support and guide them. This finding has been replicated in numerous studies in a wide range of animals. The cellular environment in the central nervous system is the reason that spinal cord injury results in permanent paralysis, not a weakness of the neurons themselves in recovering from damage.

"This is great news—very exciting," says Martin Codyre, of Greystones, Ireland, "but I am frustrated because this [experiments in humans] should have happened 15 years ago." Codyre, who suffered a broken neck in a fall three years ago, has educated himself on the neuroscience of spinal cord injury and become an

New 2012 IZOD IndyCar Series Calendars Now Available!



United Medical Providers, Inc. (UMP) is proud to announce the release of the official 2012 IZOD IndyCar wall calendar.

For the first time in history, proceeds of the calendar will benefit three racing-related charities: Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation, Racing for Kids and Racing for Cancer. By purchasing the popular calendar, fans are doing their part to support all three organizations.

Now renowned throughout the paddock, the official calendar has become a must-have for any racing enthusiast. The twelve-month, 12"x9" (12"x18" open), photographic wall calendar features some of the hottest stars of the IZOD IndyCar Series, including Dario Franchitti, Will Power, Marco Andretti, Simona De Silvestro, Helio Castroneves and more!

The month of May is celebrated in the calendar by showcasing IZOD IndyCar champion, and two-time Indy 500 winner, Dan Wheldon. From now until December 31, 2011, UMP will donate \$1 from the sale of every calendar to the Dan Wheldon Family Trust Fund.

Race fans will also enjoy a full-page poster of Cameron Haven, the IZOD IndyCar Series Trophy Girl. The entire calendar offers everything a race fan needs to celebrate their favorite open-wheel sport, or give as a gift.

"We're really excited about the 2012 calendar," said David Wills, President of UMP. "The demand for this awesome product keeps going up, which gives us the ability to donate to three amazing charities in the racing community. It's a win-win for everyone involved and we truly appreciate the fan support."

Fans can purchase the calendar online now at www.UMPOnline.com/calendar. Bulk purchase discounts are available. In addition, updates will be published throughout the 2012 season for fans that wish to purchase additional calendars at the track.

advocate for research to find a cure. "People in wheelchairs are going all over the world to get things [transplants] done in places like China, without knowing what they are getting—it's risky," he says, criticizing the slow pace of bringing research on experimental animals to experiments in humans. "People are desperate. They are dying in their chairs." There are no cell transplantation therapies approved for treating patients for spinal cord injuries, but phase I trials were approved recently by the FDA to permit a biotech company, Geron Corp., to begin testing the safety of transplanting cells derived from embryonic stem cells (oligodendrocyte progenitor cells) into spinal cord injury patients last October. Transplantation of a different type of cell into the spinal cord that is derived from embryonic stem cells is being tested by Neuralstem, Inc. for safety in treating patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Safety concerns are greater with stem cell-based therapy, because unlike a drug, foreign cells transplanted into a patient's body cannot be removed, and some fear the possibility that they could form tumors.

To read entire article in Scientific American, click [here](#).

Schedule of Events

Our 2012 schedule of events will be posted in future e-newsletters and on our website, <http://www.samschmidt.org>, as soon as the information becomes available.

Recipients of Calendar Profits for 2012

The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation was started in 2000 by Indy Racing League driver Sam Schmidt shortly after a practice-run crash left him paralyzed from the chest down. SSPF is leading the charge to cure paralysis by funding scientific research, medical treatment, rehabilitation and technological advances. In addition to initiating local and national advocacy efforts on behalf of those disabled, SSPF funds its national Day at the Races program. For more information about the Day at the Races program, click [here](#).

Founded in Detroit in 1989, *Racing For Kids* is designed to use the increasing popularity of motorsports to focus public attention and funding on the health care needs of children.

Racing For Cancer, Inc. was formed to unite motorsports fans around the world to help those afflicted with cancer and to promote early detection and prevention initiatives that support the global fight against cancer.

About United Medical Providers

United Medical Providers (UMP) has been serving the medical supply and equipment needs for thousands of clients in the United States since 1996. UMP can supply clients' urological needs with a complete line of quality products. UMP carries thousands of products from top manufacturers like Astra Tech, Bard, Coloplast, Hollister, Rochester Medical, Rusch and Securi-T. For more information, visit www.UMPOne.com.

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