

THE NMD INFO NEWS

Introduction

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center in Neuromuscular Diseases (RRTC/NMD) at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine, under the sponsorship of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), has been performing research on neuromuscular diseases since 1983. The goals of this center are consistent with the mission of NIDRR, which is to sponsor projects that will improve the lives of individuals with disabilities from birth through adulthood.

From 1998 through 2003 the RRTC/NMD, under the direction of Principal Investigator Craig M. McDonald, performed research that was focused on three major areas:

- interventions to preserve functional capacity of those with neuromuscular diseases;
- interventions to enhance their community integration; and
- provision of information on genetic testing.

A fourth area addressed was the provision of training and information services to health professionals and to the individuals affected by neuromuscular diseases. A major project was the sponsorship of a consensus conference that brought together an expert panel of scientists and clinicians to evaluate the state of scientific knowledge on the effect of exercise on healthy muscles and on muscles affected by neuromuscular diseases.

Projects

- Management of Muscle Wasting
- Exercise and Dietary Intervention in Slowly Progressive Neuromuscular Diseases
- Exercise-related Fatigue and Injury in NMD Models
- Pain in Neuromuscular Disease
- Role of Personal Strivings in the Community Integration of Individuals with NMD
- Risks and Benefits of Genetic Testing in Persons with Hereditary NMD
- Enhancing Medical Students' Attitudes and Knowledge about Disabilities
- Meeting Information Needs to Enhance the Community Integration of Individuals with Neuromuscular Conditions
- Consensus Conference: Role of Physical Activity and Exercise Training in Progressive Neuromuscular Diseases

This publication is a summary of the accomplishments of each of these projects undertaken from 1998 – 2003.