



Dr. William McKinley

## Spinal Cord Injury Program at MCVH Is One of 16 Model Systems in the United States

- **10,000**—About 10,000 people in the United States will suffer a traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI) this year, joining the more than 200,000 people already living with the injury.
- **50**—About 50 Richmonders will suffer a traumatic spinal cord injury this year, likely due to a motor vehicle or sports accident, act of violence, or a fall.
- **1**—There is only one medical center in Virginia distinguished as one of the nation's top facilities for spinal cord injury treatment and research: MCV Hospitals and Physicians.

The incidence of spinal cord injury may be just 1 in 25,000 people, but if you or one of your family members is

that *one*, you want the best treatment possible—preferably from a center that's nationally recognized for excellence and leadership in the field.

A prestigious federal grant funded by the Department of Education recently was renewed to support MCVH's work as a national Spinal Cord Injury Model System. The five-year, \$1.6-million grant sets MCVH apart as one of only 16 healthcare facilities in the U.S. with the high level of comprehensive clinical expertise, innovative technology, and clinical research experience for collecting national-scale data. The new grant will focus on understanding factors related to post-injury employment—an area critical to helping individuals with SCI lead productive lives their injury.

“Renewal of this grant is tremendous validation that we are viewed as national leaders, offering a strong continuum of medical and rehabilitative care to our patients,” says Dr. William McKinley, Director of Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Medical Services and principal investigator for this grant.

The two SCI Model Systems closest to Richmond are in Atlanta and Philadelphia. “People will go the distance to get the best care—regardless of travel,” adds McKinley. “Virginians—and Richmonders in particular—have this resource right in their backyard.”

## Women's Health & Birthing Center Is First In Virginia With State-of-the-Art Sensor

This October the VCU Health System became the state's first medical center to offer the Oxi-First Fetal Oxygen Sensor to patients. The state-of-the-art fetal oxygen monitor may reduce the number of Caesarean deliveries due to fetal distress by about half.

The sensor is used in conjunction with a fetal heart rate monitor to provide more accurate, comprehensive information about a baby's oxygen levels during labor. Fetal pulse-oximetry is the first direct method of measuring real-time fetal oxygen levels during the labor and delivery process. These levels help determine whether an emergency Caesarean section is needed.

“Fetal pulse-oximetry is the first major advance in our ability to safely take care of the baby in labor in 30 years,” says Dr. John W. Seeds, Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology. “Being the first medical center in Virginia to offer this innovative technology is exciting. It's another example of our continuing commitment to offer patients the latest medical technology in conjunction with family-centered care and that all-important human touch.”