

MEDIA RELEASE

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**MATTHEW REEVE FLIES DOWN UNDER FOR SPINAL CORD
INJURY RESEARCH: CONTINUES SUPERMAN'S LEGACY**

The late actor Christopher Reeve's son, Matthew Reeve, will make a Keynote Address at the upcoming *Connections 2012* conference held by the Spinal Cord Injury Network at Sydney's Convention and Exhibition Centre on 13th August 2012.

He will also raise awareness of spinal cord injury research by running in the *Sun-Herald's City2Surf* in Sydney on Sunday August 12th, 2012.

Dr James Guest from the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis in Florida will also be a Keynote Speaker at *Connections 2012*.

The Miami Project announced last week its first-in-human clinical trial that uses Schwann cells to repair acute spinal cord injury had been given the go ahead by the Food and Drugs Administration.

The Phase I safety trial led by Dr James Guest and his team will recruit eight study participants within 3-4 weeks post-injury at the University of Miami.

Award-winning filmmaker Matthew Reeve said he hoped his visit would inspire collaboration towards a healthier, participative and more inclusive community for people with spinal cord injury.

"*Connections 2012* brings together researchers, healthcare professionals, the paralysis community and other key stakeholders in a single interactive forum to discuss ways to accelerate progress in key areas of spinal cord injury research.

"Together we can build strength and capacities that derive from synergy," he said.

International speakers along with Australian experts will review key issues in spinal cord injury research today which include:

- Will stem cells deliver on their promise?
- Neuroplasticity after spinal cord injury
- What research does the community think is important?
- Where are we going with pain treatments?

The Spinal Cord Injury Network is an alliance of leading scientists, healthcare professionals, community members and other key stakeholders who are working together to improve treatments and find a cure for spinal cord injuries.

To register for *Connections 2012* please visit www.connections2012.org/

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