

THINKING CAP

A Newsletter for Southeastern Michigan
Traumatic Brain Injury System patients and their families

Vol. 5, No. 1
Fall/Winter 2000

RIM INTRODUCES A NEW PROJECT DIRECTOR: DR. ROBIN HANKS!



Robin Hanks, PhD

The Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM) welcomes **Robin Hanks, Ph.D.** to her new position as Project Director of the **Southeastern Michigan Traumatic Brain Injury System (SEMTBIS)**. Dr. Hanks has previously participated in the SEMTBIS project in various roles including co-project director and the project's chief Neuropsychologist. She has been an active leader of the project since she joined the research team in 1999. In addition to her many responsibilities as the SEMTBIS Project Director, Dr. Hanks also has the position of Chief of Rehabilitation Psychology and Neuropsychology at RIM. As an Assistant Professor at Wayne State University (WSU) she regularly teaches students and health care professionals about various topics related to Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI). Some of Dr. Hanks' many responsibilities include coordinating and directing staff training programs, working with staff, families and patients in the outpatient clinics, and leading research activities.

Dr. Hanks has been an active leader of the project since she joined the research staff in early 1999.

Dr. Hanks graduated from Wayne State University. She received additional training in psychology and neuropsychology at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York, at the University of Washington in Seattle, and at Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.

SEMTBIS staff are very fortunate to have a great leader like Dr. Hanks. RIM staff, patients, and families recognize and appreciate Dr. Hanks' knowledge, experience, support and enthusiasm. Hopefully, you will have the opportunity to meet Dr. Hanks on one of your visits to RIM. ■

SEMTBIS STAFF CHANGES

The Southeastern Michigan Traumatic Brain Injury System (SEMTBIS) has undergone several staff changes since the last issue of the "Thinking Cap". While we've had several staff members move on to pursue other opportunities for personal and professional growth, we also have hired new highly energetic, motivated staff to assist us on our research mission.

We wish to say "thank you" to Mark Latessa, Mohammad Butt, Paymon Mesgarzadeh and Liz Perry for their efforts and dedication to the project.

We also wish to welcome new additions to our staff: **Kaja Telmet**, who joined us in May, recently graduated from the Psychology program at Wayne State University. She meets with patients and families to describe the SEMTBIS studies, obtain con-

sents, and collect much of the SEMTBIS data. **Steve Vangel, Ph.D.** is the clinical neuropsychologist working on the project. He started working with us in June. Dr. Vangel provides most of the psychology related services on RIM's TBI unit and supervises patient testing. **Tasha McEvans** was recently hired to assist with both inpatient and outpatient neuropsychological testing. If you're due for a SEMTBIS follow-up visit, it's likely that you'll be meeting with Tasha. **Stephanie Bragg** joined the SEMTBIS team as a Research Assistant in September 1999. One of her responsibilities is to enter all the SEMTBIS data into the computer. Lastly, **Debbie Wood** has returned to RIM to coordinate and lead many of the SEMTBIS projects. She has worked with the project for six years now. ■