CABRR SEMINAR SERIES
February 20, 2009
12:00 - 1:00 PM, NRH Auditorium

Biological Repair of Chronic Spinal Cord Injury –
Highlights of the Vienna Summer School, October 2008

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Abstract: This presentation will review the summer school held in Vienna, Austria in October, 2008. The presentation will highlight the interventions described in the program, including the work of most of the published authors of human clinical trials (references will be provided), and the role of rehabilitation in recovery. In addition, the methods used to assess spinal cord function will be presented, focusing primarily on objective, laboratory based approaches using surface electromyography. In addition, topics to be covered include physiology of the spinal cord and changes after injury, the role of neuroplasticity and a discussion of the natural history of recovery. Two unpublished observations reported at the event will be discussed, related to early intervention (Young) and monitoring (McKay).

Prior to joining NIDRR, Arthur Sherwood worked for more than 30 years in the Texas Medical Center, for The Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (TIRR), Baylor College of Medicine and the Michael E DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Following graduate work at Duke University and graduate and undergraduate work at Georgia Institute of Technology, Dr. Sherwood moved to Texas as a faculty member of the Bioengineering Program at Texas A&M University. Dr. Sherwood’s work has focused on tracing sub-clinical function after spinal cord injury using surface electromyography, and includes development of objective assessment of such residual control.