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No Barriers Festival and No Barriers USA

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PARAPLEGICS WILL SAIL... AMPUTEES WILL RUN... BLIND WILL "SEE" ... AT THE NO BARRIERS FESTIVAL AT SHAKE-A-LEG MIAMI, JUNE 4-7

Technology and Symposium to Highlight Advances in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

COCONUT GROVE, FL. (May 15, 2009) – One of the most important features of the [No Barriers Festival](#), taking place June 4-7th at [Shake-A-Leg Miami](#), a community-based aquatic activities center serving able bodied individuals as well as those with physical, developmental and economic challenges, is the interaction between developers and end-users; where scientists, manufacturers, athletes, outdoor enthusiasts and pioneers that push the envelope in their chosen field will learn from each other and shape the next wave of innovation.

Miami's first ever No Barriers Festival is a unique, international, multi-day event that combines land and water-based adaptive sports with cutting-edge techniques and technologies that enable people with challenges to live as actively as possible and to break through their own personal barriers.

The upcoming festival will highlight advances in physical medicine and rehabilitation during the [Symposium and Technology Fair](#), June 5-6th. Taking place at The Ritz-Carlton, Coconut Grove's Ballroom from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., the Symposium aims to facilitate knowledge exchange between people with disabilities and those who create assistive technologies, to foster cooperation between them and improve the efficacy of current rehabilitation approaches.

“The Festival’s symposiums, interactive clinics and innovations strive to replace recurring perceptions about disability and personal challenges, with a renewed belief in what is and what will be possible,” says Harry Horgan, CEO and co-founder of Shake-A-Leg Miami. “This year’s Symposium program, ‘Technology Meets Physical Disability II’, should prove to be both exciting and stimulating and will showcase the latest research and development in assistive technology.”

Festival 2009 Symposium Co-Chairs Dr. Hugh Herr, Ph.D., and Dr. Bart Churnow, M.D., M.A.C.P., both pioneers in technology advancement, will be among the world-renowned speakers representing prominent foundations, universities and manufacturers all conducting research in the area of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Topics include: Technologies for the Visually Impaired, Spinal Cord Injury, Robotics for Mobility, and Neural Prostheses.

Among the presentations are:

- Vision Substitution in the Blind by Means of Tactile Stimulation of the Tongue; presented by Dr. Ninel Gregori, M.D., Assistant Professor, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and Chief of Ophthalmology, Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
- Therapeutic Practice: the Help of Robots; presented by James Patton, Ph. D., Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago, Associate Director, Center for Rehabilitation Robotics, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.
- Deep Brain Stimulation; presented by Edward Boyden, Ph. D., Benesse Career Development Professor, MIT Media Lab, Assistant Professor of Biological Engineering and of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT.

In addition to the Symposium, the Festival will feature an Innovation Village that includes demonstrations and supervised use of the newest adaptive products including the [Morphing Handcycle](#) and the [PowerFoot One](#), a powered ankle-foot prosthesis developed by Dr. Hugh Herr. Other festival highlights include interactive clinics and activities such as adaptive sailing, fishing, windsurfing and scuba diving, among others.

No Barriers Festival 2009 is sponsored by the University of Miami, American Airlines, The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove, Lumber Liquidators, Adam Carlin, Babson College, Nike, Thunderbirds/FBR Open, Disabled Sports USA and Show Management.

For more information on the 2009 No Barriers Festival and ticket information visit www.nobarriersusa.org. Tickets to the Festival are \$75 for a full weekend pass, including a provided dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night and a pancake breakfast on Sunday. Partial scholarships are available for qualified individuals, caregivers and family members. To see if you are eligible to receive a partial scholarship or for further information, contact info@nobarriersusa.org.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About No Barriers USA

Conceived by a group of friends with a passion for the beautiful natural places of the world, No Barriers USA is a not-for-profit organization which assumes that each person, regardless of age, state of mind or physical condition, has a thirst for adventure and a hope for the future which is worthy of igniting. No Barriers is more than a name; it is the attitude of reaching out and finding ways to accomplish one's dreams, no matter what it takes. No Barriers is for all people, regardless of age, state of mind or physical condition. For more information visit www.nobarriersusa.org.

About Shake-A-Leg Miami

Shake-A-Leg Miami is a unique, community-based aquatic activities center that serves children and adults with physical, developmental and economic challenges. As one of the largest public facilities in Southern Florida, and one of the most inclusive community-based organizations in the nation, Shake-A-Leg Miami uses the natural environment of the water as an organic classroom for an education program that compliments water-based activities. The goal of Shake-A-Leg Miami is to empower and energize people by developing self-confidence and fostering a sense of independence that improves the quality of life. For more information on Shake-A-Leg Miami visit the Sea Base located at 2620 S. Bayshore Drive or online at www.shakealegmiami.org.

2009 No Barriers Festival Sponsors (confirmed as of April 27, 2009)

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