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Big Things Come In Small Packages: Innovative Therapy for Stutterers
JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute Recognizes Stuttering Awareness Day

Edison, NJ – October 22 is Stuttering Awareness Day, designed to educate the public about stuttering, to remove the stigma, and to inform those in need of their options, such as electronic aids and other feedback devices. To commemorate this event *Innovations in Stuttering Treatment*, a workshop, has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th at 6 p.m. in the Department of Speech and Audiology at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

“It’s not uncommon for us to hear that when stuttering therapy has proven successful, patients feel they’ve received a miracle,” says Kristie Soriano, Clinical Director of Speech Services. She cites one patient, a 23-year old man who was referred to JRI’s Speech and Audiology Department because of severe stuttering. “His speech problem had limited his life in so many ways...his work, his dreams, his future,” says Soriano. While his present job was at a convalescent center as a maintenance worker, he dreamed of going to college for a career in computers and communication.

“He had spent many years in traditional speech therapy, but his stutter remained.” The young man came to JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute to be assessed for candidacy for an electronic fluency device. An electronic fluency device is a miniature device that is worn either behind or in the ear like a hearing aid. Most devices use a delayed or altered auditory feedback system which creates a “choral effect” that helps reduce or eliminate stuttering. “He was an ideal candidate for a fluency device because he had participated in traditional speech therapy for at least five different intervals in his lifetime with limited success. He saw almost immediate results during that very first session.”

Stuttering is a chronic condition. Over 3 million Americans stutter. “Many who stutter have gone through several different types of treatment without lasting success often give up hope that treatment in general will be effective for them. But treatments continually change as do patient needs. By reinvestigating their treatment options, they can often find a better, more lasting solution to stuttering.”

If you are or know a person who stutters, encourage them to find out about new treatment

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options by contacting the JRI Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at 732-321-7063. As no single method works for everyone, at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute does not endorse any one therapy process or device, but rather strives to inform those in need about all their treatment options in order to make an informed decision and provide treatment as appropriate.

The JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute headquartered at the JFK Medical Center in Edison is a comprehensive rehabilitative service provider focused on educating the community on rehabilitative health and helping adults and children with disabilities reach optimal function and independence. The Institute offers a complete array of inpatient and outpatient programs and services in rehabilitative health, including stroke, orthopedics, prosthetic and orthotics, electrodiagnosis, fitness, industrial and vocational rehab, and brain injury rehabilitation programs and services. JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for its Comprehensive Inpatient Rehabilitation, Brain Injury, and Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation programs. For more information on The JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute, call 732-321-7790 or visit the organization online at <http://www.njrehab.org>.

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