



Fundashon Alton Paas  
Un futuro sin limitashon

# Caribbean Congress SCI 2016



**De SGR-Groep**

Stichting Revalidatiecentrum Curaçao

UNDERSTANDING  
SPINAL CORD INJURY  
AND  
THE LIFE AFTER  
CONGRESS 2016

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## Aftercare, a lifelong commitment

Conference website: [www.fundashonalttonpaas.org/congress2016](http://www.fundashonalttonpaas.org/congress2016)



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***“To keep the body in good health is a duty, otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear” -- Budda (563 BC - 483 BC)***

### **1. Project**

Caribbean Congress SCI 2016 ‘Understanding Spinal Cord Injury and the Life After’  
– Aftercare, a lifelong commitment.

### **2. Background**

Until World War II, a serious spinal cord injury (SCI) usually meant certain death. Anyone who survived such injury relied on a wheelchair for mobility in a world with few accommodations and faced an ongoing struggle to survive secondary complications such as breathing problems, blood clots, kidney failure, and pressure sores. By the middle of the twentieth century, new antibiotics and novel approaches to preventing and treating bed sores and urinary tract infections revolutionized care after spinal cord injury. This greatly expanded life expectancy and required new strategies to maintain the health of people living with chronic paralysis. New standards of care for treating spinal cord injuries were established: reposition the spine, fix the bones in place to prevent further damage, and rehabilitate disabilities with exercise.

2011 2012 2013 2014 Today, improved emergency care for people with spinal cord injuries, antibiotics to treat infections, and aggressive rehabilitation can minimize damage to the nervous system and restore function to varying degrees. Advances in research are giving doctors and people living with SCI hope that spinal cord injuries will eventually be repairable. With new surgical techniques and developments in spinal nerve regeneration, cell replacement, neuroprotection, and neurorehabilitation, the future for spinal cord injury survivors looks brighter than ever.<sup>1</sup>

In Curacao we see an increase of the population with spinal cord injury. The following figures from the Curacao Rehabilitation Centre show the growth in population: year 2011 – 13; year 2012 – 31; year 2013 – 34 and 66 for the year 2014.

### **3. Objective**

Based on the possibilities for developments and the facts in growth of the population with spinal cord injury ‘Fundashon Alton Paas’ and the Curacao Rehabilitation Centre have partner together to organize the next congress about Understanding Spinal Cord Injury and the Life After with subtitle Aftercare, a lifelong commitment. Since life expectancy in Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) is increasing, patients who have been living with SCI for 20 to 50 years are more common in the last years. The risk of Secondary health problems occurring is higher for patients with longstanding SCI. With this conference we want to focus on the aftercare for a better quality of life for people with spinal cord injury.

### **4. Organisation**

Fundashon Alton Paas and the Curacao Rehabilitation Centre.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/sci/detail\\_sci.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/sci/detail_sci.htm)



## 5. Target audience

- Policy Makers, Service providers, insurers, Disability and development actors
- People with SCI and their families, Media, Donors, Practitioners, Academics
- Broader community

## 6. Date

13 May 2016 from 18:00 – 22:00

14 May 2016 from 08:00 – 18:30

15 May 2016 from 08:30 – 12:00

## 7. Program

Friday, May 13, 2016	
Time	Topic / Description
18.00–18.30	Registration/Networking
18.30–19.00	Opening + Speeches
19.00–19.30	Insurance & Policy
19.30–20.15	Keynote: Aftercare
20.15–20.30	Q&A
20.30–21.30	Opening cocktail party

Saturday, May 14, 2016	
Time	Topic / Description
08.30–09.00	Registration/Networking
09.00–09.30	Prevention of Spinal Cord Injury in road traffic
09.30–10.00	Neuroestimulation for Bladder management after Spinal Cord Injury
10.00–10.15	Q&A
10.15–10.30	<b>Coffee break</b>
10.30–11.00	New developments in the management of Spinal Cord Injury
11.00–11.30	How do we keep the spine safe after a trauma?
11.30–11.45	Q&A
11.45–13.30	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
13.30–14.00	Dealing with change
14.00–14.30	Prognoses after Spinal Cord Injury
14.30–14.45	Q&A
14.45–15.15	<b>Coffee break</b>
15.15–16.45	Dialogue "Lei di Labizjan"
16.45–17.45	After Dialogue Party

Time	Topic / Description
08.45–09.15	Arrival/Networking



**Fundashon Alton Paas**  
Un futuro sin limitashon

09.15—09.45	Complicating conditions after Spinal Cord Injury
09.45—10.15	Recreation for people with Spinal Cord Injury
10.15—10.45	Spinal Cord Injury as a public health issue
10.45—11.15	Dealing with sexuality and intimacy following Spinal Cord Injury
11.15—11.30	Q&A
11.30—11.45	Closing

## 8. Venue

Santa Barbara Beach and Golf Resort

## 9. Speakers

### Dr. Dirk van Kuppevelt – Netherlands – Keynote speaker



Dr. Dirk van Kuppevelt is a rehabilitation physician specialized in Spinal Cord Injury working at the St. Maartenskliniek in Nijmegen (The Netherlands) for the last 20 years. Until 2015 he was medical head of the rehabilitation department and trainer in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation for residents from Nijmegen and from the University of Leuven (Belgium). From 2004-2010 he was a member of the Executive Board of ISPO-International. Until present: member of the Council and scientific committee of ISCoS. In 2014 he was the Chair of the organizing committee of the ISCoS world congress in Maastricht. He is a former (vice) president of the Dutch Flemish Spinal Cord Society. In 2002 he received the Heyendaal Award for Post Academic Education. Also in 2002 he received the Lars Sullivan Award (Presentation that best adheres to the idea of comprehensive system care of spinal cord injuries at the ASIA \ IMSOP World congress). He is author of several peer-reviewed articles concerning Spinal Cord Injury. His special interests are sexuality / fertility in Spinal Cord Injury and aging with Spinal Cord Injury.

### Dr. Juan Martina – Curaçao



Juan Martina, MD Psychiatrist, is currently senior consultant at Rehabilitation Centre Curacao, Dutch Caribbean. Until the 1st of October 2015 he was the chairman of the rehabilitation department and chief instructor of the P&RM Residency program at Medisch Spectrum Twente Hospital and vice-chairman of the Medical Staff of Roessingh Rehabilitation Centre in Enschede, The Netherlands.

His areas of interest are traumatic brain injury, spasticity and medical technology. With his experience in these fields Dr. Martina has contributed in numerous occasions as an invited lecturer to different scientific conferences worldwide.

He graduated from Universidad Javeriana Medical School in Bogota, Colombia and received his formal training in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine at the University Hospital in Groningen, The Netherlands. After his residency he returned to Curaçao where in 1989 he started his practice as the first Psychiatrist of the Dutch Caribbean. In 1996 Dr. Martina was appointed CEO and Medical director of the Sint Elisabeth Hospital, a position he held until 2001 when he returned to The Netherlands to become medical director and later on CEO at Rehabilitation Centre Groot Klimmendaal in Arnhem.



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During his career he has entertained international relationships with colleagues from all over the world, and collaborated in different projects in South America, the U.S of America, China and Europe. From 1998 until 2004 he formed part of the Executive Board of the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics. In 2003 he chaired the first International Consensus Conference on Orthotic Management of Stroke held in Ellecom, The Netherlands, with participation of more than 20 countries.

Dr. Juan Martina was the president of the Board of the Dutch Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (VRA) from March 2009 until November 2014 and was vice-chairman of the National Innovation Steering Committee of the rehabilitation branch association (RN) until 2015.

#### **Dr. Ayal Zahavi – Curaçao**



Drs Zahavi was born in Curaçao and did his secondary education at Peter Stuyvesant College. He received his Bachelor of Science at New York University where he specialized in biology and mathematics. Thereafter he received his medical degree at Tufts University Medical School in Boston. He worked as a resident at the St. Elisabeth Hospital in the departments of internal medicine, neurology and orthopedics prior to his specialization in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Groningen, Netherlands. He has since then been working as a specialist in Rehabilitation here in Curaçao at the rehabilitation center (Revalidatiecentrum Curaçao).

#### **Dr. Ellen Maas – Netherlands**



Ellen Maas was born in Doetinchem on 26 May 1975. She studied medicine at the University of Maastricht, where she obtained her MD degree in 1999. She performed science internship in the field of Gynecology in the hospital in Debrecen, Hungary. Hereafter she attended “co-schap” intern rehabilitation at Roessingh Centre for rehabilitation. In December 1999 she began to work as port physician at the Medisch Spectrum Twente in Oldenzaal. Here she gained experience in the field of surgery, internal medicine and obstetrics. In 2001 she did AGNIO rehabilitation medicine for a rehabilitation center at Roessingh in Enschede. At this institution she also followed her training to become a psychiatrist from 2002 to 2006. During her studies she has conducted research on complications and secondary effects of the upper extremities in patients with cervical spinal cord injury. After completing her training Ellen Maas started working at the Medisch Spectrum Twente in Enschede, with a focus on neurological rehabilitation. Since 2012 she has been working as a rehabilitation specialist at the department of Roessingh center for spinal cord injury rehabilitation.



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### **Dr. Woet L. Gianotten - Netherlands**



In the first 9 years of his career he was only involved in medicine, working for 5½ years as a tropical doctor in West and East Africa.

In the course of his training to become a gynecologist, he got very fascinated by the new field of sexology.

So he left gynecology, was trained as a psychotherapist and carried on in sexology.

Gradually he moved to the field of 'medical sexology', where the sexual disturbances are mainly based on somatic causes (like cancer, chronic disease, physical impairment and medical interventions).

Till his retirement he was Senior Lecturer in Medical Sexology in the University Medical Centers of Rotterdam and Utrecht.

He is consultant in Rehabilitation Sexology and still has a part-time job in de Trappenberg, a center for physical rehabilitation in Huizen, the Netherlands. He is consultant in oncosexology and one of the founding members of ISSC (International Society for Sexuality and Cancer).

He was chief editor of the Dutch book 'Sexuality in Disease and Physical Impairment' (2008). Nowadays the majority of his work consists of teaching. He is visiting professor in Malta, Warszawa (Poland), Grimstad (Norway), Interlaken (Switzerland), and at the ESSM Oxford Course for Sexual Medicine in Budapest (Great-Britain).

### **Dr. Federico Montero – Costa Rica**



As a young medical intern, Federico Montero was driving home from work when he fell asleep and crashed. The accident left him dependent on a wheelchair for his mobility, but it also brought him to a new career path that has focused on improving the treatment and standards of care for people with disability

Dr. Montero was born in Costa Rica and carried out his medical studies at the University of Guadalajara in México and University of Costa Rica. After graduating from medical school and working for a period of time as a general practitioner, he went to England where he worked at the National Spinal

Injury Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury, Rivermead Rehabilitation Centre in Oxford and Lodgmore Hospital in Sheffield. He then went to work to the National Rehabilitation Centre in Costa Rica, where he organized and was the responsible of the first Spinal Injury Unit in the country. He also organized and coordinated outpatient clinics on spina bifida, pressure ulcers, and participated actively in the rehabilitation management of persons with all kinds of impairments, and from all age groups.

Aside from his regular clinical activities at the National Rehabilitation Centre in San José, Costa Rica, Dr. Montero has been a member of various professional rehabilitation organizations, and has been involved in other activities related to disability and rehabilitation. These include being the President of the National Council on Disability, founder Member of the Forum for Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities, President of the Latin American Medical Society of Rehabilitation, and Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal "Paraplegia". He has also been active in academic activities at the Physiotherapy school and the Postgraduate program on Physical Medicine Rehabilitation of the University of Costa Rica. Dr. Montero worked with WHO's Disability and Rehabilitation Team from 2002 to 2007, rising to become its Coordinator.



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Un futuro sin limitashon

### **Dr. Jeanne Koeys - Curaçao**



Born on Curacao. Trained and educated in the Netherlands, Maastricht University Medical Center. Research field: Urinary tract infections in man and Medical education. She works as an Internist-intensivist-acute medicine at the St. Elisabeth Hospital, Curacao, Dutch Caribbean in internal medicine and intensive care since November 2007.

Her aim is to provide adequate care for the emergency and critically ill patient on the island through education.

Together with colleagues she set up and organized for 6 years in a row a 6 day course named the Caribbean Emergency Care Conference. In 2015 local physicians were trained for the advanced trauma life support and became instructors.

### **Dr. Juan Carlos Castaño Botero - Colombia**



Urologist - specialist in Neuro-Urology

Coordinator of functional Urology Clinic University CES - UroGine unit, Medellin Colombia. He is Teacher of the postgraduate course in urology and Gynecology University CES - Medellin Colombia.

Teacher of the postgraduate child Nephrology and adults Universidad de Antioquia - Medellin, Colombia.

Coordinator of the Working Group of urodynamics of the American Confederation of Urology – CAU  
Member of the Committee of the Iberoamerican society of neuro-urology and urogynecology neurourology – SINUG

Member of the Committee of the International Continence Society neurourology - ICS has been a pioneer in Latin America in the implementation of the neurostimulation of sacral roots in injured neurogenic bladder management techniques of sacral neuromodulation for the treatment of neurogenic and not neurogenic urinary dysfunction and spinal cord.

### **Willy Anthony Harms - Curacao**



Willy Anthony Harms, better known as "Junny" or "Boogie" has developed an early interest in sports for the disabled as he grew up with a cousin with Down Syndrome. His interests for this field ultimately resulted in him pursuing a career in sports and recreation in which as for now he has labored professionally for 25 years. Before becoming locally employed at the local sports institute FDDK he challenged the patience of several professors at the CIOS institute in

Holland and Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States. Currently he is a manager at the Sports Institute of Curacao, where he coordinates special projects and subsidies. For a long time Junny has handled being a full-time sport instructor, serving different organizations on a pro-bono basis, performing as a high profile deejay (under the alias "boogieman") and at the same time maintaining several time consuming hobbies such as dog training and adventure diving. Junny is working with five organizations which one way or another enhance the quality of life of people with a disability. Those are: Asosacion Totolika (President), Special Olympics Curacao (National Director), Paralympics (President), Johan Cruyff Court Beheerstichting (boardmember) and Aminta Sprockel Challenger Little League (boardmember). At the moment Junny is still pushing his limits in any activity that he undertakes using his strongest assets: commitment, passion and integrity.



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### **Yoyceline Lovert - Curacao**



My name is Yoyceline Lovert and I am 39 years old. I have a complete spinal cord injury T10 and became a paraplegic at the age of 23. The cause, a shot from a gun. Initially I received my therapy in Medellin Colombia, where I had achieved walking with a walker wearing knee devices. Hereafter I came to Curacao and was for a period without therapy. I started later with therapy for a period of 2 years. They have helped me try to walk again, but it was not possible. On my own I am doing some exercise at home.

The life in the beginning was very hard because it is a new system. You have to adapt to it, depending on your own strength to move forward. Accepting the reality makes the process move easier. At the present I am not receiving therapy. I am a mother, working at home and I have practically a normal life.

### **Eithel Baromeo - Curacao**



My name is Eithel Baromeo. I was born on Curacao. After my study of Electrical Engineering I went to The Netherlands. Hereafter I prepared myself in the Care area and went to work on an Ambulance for GG&GD Amsterdam. I've done a specialized training for ambulance staff at "Stichting Opleiding Scholing Ambulance". I returned to Curacao to work for GGD, CEMS at now "Fundashon Kuido Ambulans". I'm an instructor for reanimation and AED. I'm vice president of A.T.S.K., "Asosiashon Trafiko Sigur Korsou", the association for safe traffic Curacao and also member of the Red Cross. I have also specialized on how to make wounds and act as a victim for EHBO lessons and calamity training.

### **Mrs. Maritza Becher LL.M.**



Maritza Azriella Becher LL.M was born in Curaçao. Prior to becoming an attorney, Maritza founded Magnum Productions and worked as a producer and businesswoman for several years. Maritza has worked as a CEO to several companies. In the past 35 years Maritza has lent her services to various important social projects for Curaçao, and in 2003 co-founded Hands of Hope, a charitable organization for children's needs. Currently Maritza teaches part-time Administrative and Constitutional law at the University of the Dutch Caribbean and works as an Attorney at Law and Legal consultant at B-Legal. Maritza also serves on the boards of the Antillean Lawyers Association and the Consumers' Association.