

Increased Research and Education Needed to Treat Children



Timmy Kelly, with Dr. Randal Betz and his mother Eileen Kelly

DOCTOR

For children with musculoskeletal conditions, the correct diagnosis is critical. Proper treatment, begun as early as possible, and continued as long as necessary, can be the key to a full, satisfying life.

As an orthopaedic surgeon, my goal is to combine medical expertise with concern and compassion for each patient, and to provide an individualized treatment plan that will best meet each one's needs. I also encourage parents to become as informed as possible, and to participate in the decision making process.

Every child is unique; every child with orthopaedic problems faces a different set of difficulties and needs proper medical attention. Continuing to provide education and information on the importance of pediatric conditions is critical to the health of American children. Research has improved our ability to correctly identify these conditions, but more needs to be done.

Opportunities like the Bone and Joint Decade are an important way to encourage research and education, and reduce impairment and disability for children with these conditions.

The United States Bone and Joint Decade (USBJD), with the participation of nearly 100 patient and healthcare professional organizations, over 90 medical schools and colleges of medicine, the Federal Government and all 50 states, is committed to advancing the understanding and treatment of bone and joint conditions, including arthritis, back pain, childhood conditions, osteoporosis, and major limb trauma.

For more information on the Decade and its activities: www.usbjd.org

PATIENT

“Dr. Betz worked feverishly to try to get me to walk. Thanks to him and Dr. McCarthy, I can now walk,” said Timmy, 11.

Timmy Kelly was born prematurely and overcame several medical crises in his first year of life. When he did not begin to walk, doctors said it was because he was born so early, recalls Timmy's mother, Eileen Kelly.

Dr. Randal Betz and Dr. James McCarthy, specialists at Shriners Hospitals for Children, diagnosed Timmy's condition as cerebral palsy and began a series of complex, individualized surgeries and treatments. Dr. Betz felt it was especially important that Timmy, who is also blind, be treated in a way that would retain the sensation in his feet, giving him more stability and independence.

Walking was only the beginning for Timmy. Today, Timmy attends a typical public school and is becoming an accomplished singer. Still, Timmy and his family hope that continued research and education will make these conditions less prevalent and difficult for families.



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