



My name is Florian Patrick Thomas. I am a neurologist. I joined the Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction Service at the Jefferson Barracks Division, St. Louis MO VAMC as its Director and Associate Chief of Staff in 2005. Before that I had worked as a neurologist at the John Cochran Division since 1995.

I received my M.D. and M.A. (Psychology) degrees from the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University, Bonn, Germany. Having completed a neurology residency at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1987, I trained in neuromuscular diseases and neuroimmunology at Columbia University in New York. I then worked in the AIDS-Neurology program at the Montreal Neurological Institute and developed an experimental model of HIV-associated neurological disease. After graduating with a Ph.D. degree from McGill University in 1995, I joined the St. Louis VA Medical Center and the faculty of Saint Louis University, where I now serve as Professor of Neurology and associate Professor of Molecular Virology and Molecular Microbiology and Immunology.

I am board certified in Neurology by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine by the American Board of Rehabilitation Medicine and Psychiatry.

In addition to my work at the SCI Service I direct the National MS Society Multiple Sclerosis Centers at Saint Louis University and the St. Louis VA Hospital.

I am involved in community service on several levels. I co-founded the St. Louis chapter of The Neuropathy Association, in which I serve as regional director and on its national scientific advisory board, and the St. Louis chapter of the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association in which I serve as a member of the national medical advisory board. I am a member of the Clinical Advisory Committee and the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Gateway Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. I am also involved with support groups for MS and neuropathy patients at the VA and at Saint Louis University. Recently we started a support group for SCI patients that meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month on our service. Members can join in person or call 800-767-1750 (access code 29945).

My research focuses on multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury/dysfunction, sexual health, pain management, rehabilitation, neurogenetics, neuromuscular conditions, the neurology of AIDS and of vitamin deficiencies, and history of medicine. With collaborators in Europe I identified a novel disease gene for a familial form of neuropathy (DI CMT type C). I just completed a multi-center study of testosterone levels in men with spinal cord injury. I participate in the NIH sponsored multi-center Avonex-Copaxone combination trial and in a multi-center trial of intravenous immunoglobulin in chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy.

Since I moved to the Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction Service, together with our rehab specialists and psychologists, we developed a pain management center, a sexual health clinic, and a tobacco cessation program. These programs reflect our commitment to long-

term health, wellbeing, and quality of life, and the recognition that these goals can be attained only with a multidisciplinary focus on healthy living, optimal nutrition, preventive medicine, trusting partnership relations, and avoidance of medication overuse.

I can be reached in my office (2S30) or at 314-652-4100 or 800-228-5459, ext. 6-4831.