SEMINAR SERIES
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GAIT IMPAIRMENT IN PARKINSON’S DISEASE: CAN WE RESTORE THE SPRING IN YOUR STEP?

Featuring Dr. Chris Hass
Professor in Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology
University of Florida

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ABSTRACT
Parkinson’s disease (PD) is the second most common progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects over one million Americans and over ten million people worldwide. Depletion of dopamine-producing cells in the substantia nigra leads to the manifestation of the cardinal symptoms of PD: resting tremor, rigidity, akinesia/bradykinesia, and postural instability and gait disturbance. Of these symptoms, gait impairment significantly reduces independence and quality of life. During this seminar, neuromechanical impairment across a variety of mobility tasks will be identified. Thereafter, surgical and behavior interventions aimed at restoring gait function in persons with PD will be explored.

ABOUT DR. HASS
Chris Hass, Ph.D., conducts research and teaches in the areas of biomechanics and motor control. He also collaborates on funded projects from the Michael J. Fox Foundation and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Hass’s research interests are: Interactions between musculoskeletal biomechanics and sensorimotor control of lower extremity function with particular emphasis on the coordination of locomotion and balance; the efficacy of intervention programs for improving quality of life, neuromechanical control, and disease progression in Parkinson’s disease; dynamic stability during locomotor transitions in the elderly and PD.