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SPEAKERS

Molly Levitt, Dr. Marie McNeely, Jocelyn Cohen

D Dr. Marie McNeely 00:02

Hello, and welcome to Changing What's Possible: The Disability Innovation podcast brought to you by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation or CPARF. I'm your host, Dr. Marie McNeely. And this season, we are excited to bring you cutting-edge stories and insights on research, technology, and innovation for people with CP and other disabilities. And I am thrilled to be joined today by Jocelyn Cohen, Vice President of Education at CPARF, and Molly Lazarus, Director of Remarkable US. So welcome, Molly and Jocelyn, how are you today?

J Jocelyn Cohen 00:33

I'm great. I'm really glad to be here talking with you.

M Molly Levitt 00:36

Doin' awesome. Excited to be here.

D Dr. Marie McNeely 00:38

Well, we are excited to have you both here. And we're excited to be starting season three of the show. And today listeners, we're here to tell you more about what to expect in season three, and some of the new kinds of content that we will be sharing this season. So let's get started with some introductions. Jocelyn, for listeners who haven't met you yet, can you tell everyone a little bit more about yourself?

J Jocelyn Cohen 01:00

Sure. So I've been at CPARF for over five years, I am an adult with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy. So the mission and the work that we do at CPARF is incredibly close to my heart. And it's

been so exciting to watch our growth and expansion into new spaces that are related to disability over the last several years.

D

Dr. Marie McNeely 01:24

Phenomenal. And Molly, can you introduce yourself to the listeners next?

M

Molly Levitt 01:28

Sure. I'm Molly Lazarus, and I run CPARF's startup accelerator, which is called Remarkable US. For those who don't know what a startup accelerator is, we essentially support up and coming companies that are building products that support people with disabilities. My background is in education and disability and startups, and I identify as neurodivergent myself, so excited to be here and excited to kind of dig into the innovation side of disability.

D

Dr. Marie McNeely 01:57

Fantastic and listeners, I'm looking forward to hosting many of the episodes in season three, and I'm a PhD-trained neuroscientist and science communicator. My research background is in movement disorders and mobility. And I am really looking forward to introducing you all to more disability innovators discussing some exciting new research, and also sharing the perspectives of people with disabilities this season. And I know in the past year, CPARF has continued to support research for CP and disability innovation. So Jocelyn, can you share some of the key updates on what's new at CPARF?

J

Jocelyn Cohen 02:30

Absolutely. So we're getting ready to kick off our third Remarkable US accelerator and Molly can speak more about that either in this episode or future ones. We've also expanded our research to include adulthood, because most people with cerebral palsy are adults when you do the math. And we have several exciting research projects that we're newly funding this year. And those researchers will be featured on the podcast. And this year, we're especially excited to continue our strategic partnership with the Cerebral Palsy Research Network, another leader in the CP research space, you'll hear more about some projects related to that throughout the season on the podcast. Phenomenal. And I know this season of Changing What's Possible is going to be a little bit different than our previous season. So Jocelyn, can you tell us more about what listeners can expect in season three of the show? Absolutely. So, you know, we'll have our standard episodes that feature the Remarkable US startups and folks with lived experience who have used those products " so that you can hear more about the really exciting developments and innovations going on in the field. And another great thing about this season is you'll get twice as many episodes as you did last season. We're also going to be highlighting research that CPARF is funding this year, research that we may have started funding in prior years, and other important scientific developments going on throughout both the CPE and disability space. And then we'll also have other episodes that are shorter. So every other week,

you'll either hear something about the wider cerebral palsy research space, or what's going on in the disability innovation space and Molly's going to host to those. And Molly, what are you most excited about for this season of our podcast?

M

Molly Levitt 04:18

So I'm excited to look at the innovation side from a couple of different angles. As Joc mentioned, we'll continue to do our Remarkable companies. But I'll also be hosting a series called Innovation in Five, which really looks across the landscape of disability, for what kinds of innovations or things that if you or someone you know might need some assistive technology kind of looking across the span of what is happening in the innovation space. Also, I'll be hosting a series called Starting Up, which talks to disability tech startups that are further along in their journey and can really speak to the process of what it takes to build and commercialize a product in this space.

D

Dr. Marie McNeely 05:02

Oh, phenomenal. I know I'm really excited about all of these different kinds of episodes. And for listeners who are new to the show, or maybe haven't subscribed yet, who should listen to the podcast and why?

J

Jocelyn Cohen 05:12

So I'm a firm believer that, frankly, anyone should listen to this podcast. But if we're trying to distill it down to a few different types of people, I would say anyone with cerebral palsy should absolutely listen to this podcast so you know, the latest on what's going on with cerebral palsy research and any disability innovation or technology that could potentially help you. I'd say anyone who is a parent or caregiver of someone with CP or any disability, anyone who has any disability where they think they might need assistive technology either now or in the future, clinicians, researchers, and then any person who's an innovator or creator, a startup founder, or a forward-thinking person would get a lot out of this podcast.

D

Dr. Marie McNeely 05:54

Wonderful. Well, I am excited to connect with a broad array of listeners this season. And I know the publication schedule will also be a little different this season compared to our first two seasons. So, Jocelyn, when can listeners expect new episodes and where can they go to find them?

J

Jocelyn Cohen 06:08

So the first full-length episode will be released on Friday, June 14. Episodes will be coming out every Friday with an alternation between a long episode and one of the shorter episodes you've heard about today, and you can find them on our website or on your favorite podcast platform.

D Dr. Marie McNeely 06:25

Perfect. Well, thank you both so much for joining me for this introductory episode for our third season of Changing What's Possible. I appreciate you spending time with us today, Jocelyn and Molly.

J Jocelyn Cohen 06:35

Thanks so much for having us.

M Molly Levitt 06:36

Thank you.

D Dr. Marie McNeely 06:37

And listeners. Thank you for joining us as well. Don't forget to subscribe to the show on your favorite podcast platform. And we can't wait to connect again in the next episode of Changing What's Possible.