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NEW VIDEO SERIES EXPLORES DISORDERS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Arlington, Va. – The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) has released a new video series focused on disorders of consciousness (DoC) following traumatic brain injury (TBI).

DoCs include coma, unresponsive wakefulness syndrome (also known as vegetative state), and the minimally conscious state. Inpatient rehabilitation plays an important role in helping people with DoC achieve better long-term outcomes.

At the center of the series is a short documentary, [*Recovering from Disorders of Consciousness: A Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Story*](#), which follows the recovery journey of Hannah Strom, a young woman who survived a severe traumatic brain injury and spent months in a disorder of consciousness. The story also introduces another young patient, Theo Visco, to show how recovery trajectories can differ from person to person—and how interdisciplinary rehabilitation teams use evidence-based approaches to support progress as the brain heals.

Through Hannah’s and Theo’s experience and insights from clinicians at the Spaulding–Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, the documentary highlights how recovery can unfold after severe brain injury, why early predictions about outcome are often uncertain, and how inpatient rehabilitation can influence long-term recovery.

The videos also underscore ongoing challenges in access to inpatient rehabilitation for people with DoC following TBI. “Less than 15 percent of people with severe TBI ever receive inpatient rehabilitation, and that gap has life-altering consequences,” said [Dr. Joseph T. Giacino](#), Project Director of the Spaulding–Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System. “When people with disorders of consciousness are given time and access to specialized rehabilitation, we often see meaningful recovery that would otherwise be missed.”

[Dr. Giacino](#) is an internationally recognized expert in the assessment and treatment of disorders of consciousness and Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at

Harvard Medical School and Spaulding Rehabilitation. Learn more about Dr. Giacino's work on DoC, visit

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2025/12/consciousness/>

In addition to the documentary, the series includes 19 short videos that explore key topics related to DoC, including causes, recovery, care, and life during and after emerging from DoC.

Watch the video series:

<https://msktc.org/tbi/videos/recovering-disorders-consciousness>

ABOUT THE MODEL SYSTEMS KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION CENTER

The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) is a national center that supports the Model Systems programs in meeting the information needs of individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and burn injury by summarizing research, identifying health information needs, and developing and disseminating information resources. The MSKTC is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). NIDILRR is an office within the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDILRR funds Model Systems to conduct innovative and high-quality research, provide patient care, and offer services to improve the health and overall quality of life of individuals with SCI, TBI, and burn injury. For more information, visit <http://www.msktc.org>.

ABOUT THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY MODEL SYSTEM (TBIMS) CENTERS

TBIMS centers are funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. These centers provide the highest level of comprehensive and multidisciplinary care, including emergency medical, acute medical, and post-acute services. In addition to providing direct services, TBIMS centers play a pivotal role in building a national capacity for high-quality treatment and research that serve people with TBI, their families, and their communities.