Engaging Policymakers: A Self-Paced Course

Do you or your staff have an interest in sharing your research with policymakers? Would you like to learn more about how to engage policymakers and which knowledge translation tools are effective? Have you wondered about the difference between a Policy Factsheet and a Policy Brief and how you might use either tool? If so, consider signing up for the *Engaging Policymakers* online, self-paced course now offered by the MSKTC. Simply contact us at msktc@air.org for a user name and password and a link to the course. This opportunity is available to all your Model Systems grantee staff and colleagues. Please contact us with any questions.

======Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)======

Resource Highlight: Spasticity and Spinal Cord Injury Factsheet
Have you read the factsheet, *Spasticity and Spinal Cord Injury*? It is common for people living with a spinal cord injury (SCI) to experience uncontrolled tightening or contracting of the muscles. Learn more about managing spasticity by accessing the factsheet [here](#).

SCI Model System Releases a New Systematic Review
Researchers from the University of Washington's Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (2006-2011) and the Northwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury System Center (NWRSCIS) recently published *Adverse Events in Cardiovascular-Related Training Programs in People with Spinal Cord Injury: A Systematic Review* in the November issue of the Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine. The authors reviewed more than 140 articles to identify evidence of adverse events associated with training in persons with SCI, concluding that cardiovascular exercise is not harmful when done according to guidelines and established safety precautions. This article is available through NARIC's document delivery service under Accession Number J68720. Access the abstract [here](#).

SCI Model System Research Published in Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine
The study, *Examining health-care utilization in the first year following spinal cord injury*, was recently published in the *Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine* using data from the SCI Model Systems National Database to examine how much hospital care, outpatient visits, and home services the participants used during the first year after inpatient rehabilitation (IR). Participants discharged home after IR used less health care than those who went elsewhere after discharge. Individuals who had SCI due to falls needed fewer in-home service visits than those who were injured in vehicular crashes. To see the abstract, go [here](#).

SCI Model System Researcher Serves as Keynote Speaker
In September Mark S. Nash, Ph.D., FACSM, Co-director of the South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, presented a keynote address entitled *Fitness and Physical Capacity after SCI: A Marriage Made in Heaven?* at the International Spinal Cord Society 53rd Annual Scientific Meeting in Maastricht, The
Netherlands, September 2014. Susan Charlifue, PhD, FACRM, Co-Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional SCI Model System also presented a keynote lecture titled *Aging and SCI: Focus on the Positives* at this meeting. You can see more information about this meeting [here](#).

**SCI Model System Team Member Invited to Speak at IROS**

Jessica Presperin Pedersen, working with [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), was an invited speaker at the 2014 International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) Workshop: Bridging the Gap Between Clinicians and Roboticists, September 18, 2014. Her topic was “*Collaboration Between the Clinician and Non-clinical Researcher: Wheelchairs and Robotics What We Need to Know.*” Click [here](#) to see the abstracts presented.

**SCI Model System Research Scientist Serves as Keynote Speaker**

On December 3, 2014, Dr. T. George Hornby, PhD, a research scientist with the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), was the keynote speaker at Texas Woman’s University’s Research Day. Dr. Hornby delivered the presentation “*Feasibility and preliminary efficacy of high intensity variable training to improve locomotor function in patients with stroke or incomplete spinal cord injury.*”

**SCI Model Systems Post SCI Knowledge in Motion Video**

The [New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center Model System](#) and the [Spaulding-Harvard SCI Model System](#) recently posted the recorded webcast of “*Integrated Care for People with Spinal Cord Injury*” to the Knowledge in Motion video archive. The webcast was presented by Michael D. Stillman, MD, University of Louisville School of Medicine, and Steve R. Williams, MD, University of Louisville School of Medicine and [Kentucky Regional SCI Center Model System](#). In the video, Dr. Stillman and Dr. Williams discuss the advantages of an interdisciplinary primary care/spinal cord medicine clinic for maintaining optimum health, as well as the current disparities in primary care in the United States for people living with SCI. They further describe how individuals can advocate for appropriate interdisciplinary health care for themselves or others affected by SCI. A library of all videos in the Knowledge in Motion Education Series can be viewed [here](#).

**Model System Researchers Host the Mobile Health in Rehabilitation Conference**

Model System researchers at the [New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center Model System (NERSCIC)](#) and the [Boston Rehabilitation Outcomes Center (Boston ROC)](#) hosted the Mobile Health in Rehabilitation conference in Boston, Massachusetts on October 23-24, 2014. Presentations focused on the applications of mobile health technologies in activity monitoring, measuring impairments and quality of movement, and data analysis for research and clinical practice. A recording of the archived webcast and conference proceedings are available [here](#).

**Model Systems Researchers University of Michigan Collaborate with Partners in Brazil**

The 2014 UM-Brazil Platform Symposium, Collaborating to Study and Improve Health, was held on November 12-13 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The aim of this symposium was to bring...
together Brazilian collaborators and their University of Michigan Medical School partners to discuss their recent achievements and share results of joint research, as well as to foster the creation of new partnerships with Brazilian faculty working at the institutions that are our preferred partners. Dr. Denise Tate presented: Comparing Quality of Life among Persons with Spinal Cord Injury Living in Brazil and the United States. More information about the symposium can be found here.

========Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)=====

Resource Highlight: Cognitive Problems after Traumatic Brain Injury factsheet

Do you know someone who recently sustained a traumatic brain injury? Refer that person to the Cognitive Problems after Traumatic Brain Injury factsheet. Learn about how TBI can cause problems remembering, understanding, and using information, and strategies for overcoming these issues. Access TBI factsheets here.

TBI Model System Researchers Held Conference

The Moss TBI Model System, in collaboration with six other local brain injury rehabilitation providers, held a conference, New Roads, New Directions: Finding Your Way after Brain Injury, for people with brain injury and their families on November 8, 2014 in Philadelphia. Keynote speaker Doug Markgraf presented his experiences that led to the documentary film, This Beats a Coma. Other popular sessions dealt with how to find helpful apps, how to stay safe on social networks, and how to face the day-to-day challenges of caregiving. Find out more information about this conference here.

======Burn======

Resource Highlight: Managing Pain after Burn Injury Factsheet

Do you want to learn how to help someone who has sustained a burn injury manage their pain? Read more about Managing Pain after Burn Injury by accessing the factsheet here.

Burn Model System Researcher Presents at ISBI 2014

Nicole S. Gibran, MD, FACS, project director of the Northwest Regional Burn Model System Center (NWRBMS), presented at the 17th Congress of the International Society for Burn Injuries held on October 12-16, 2014, in Sydney, Australia. She was an invited speaker within the Psychosocial Support for Burn Patients symposium. Dr. Gibran addressed the use of burn-specific versus general psychosocial measures in research, including longitudinal research studies concerning the recovery and community re-integration of burn survivors. To see more information about the conference, click here.

Model System Develops Step-By-Step Instructional Videos for Burn Survivors
The Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System (BH-BIMS), led by Occupational, Physical and Speech and Language Therapists at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, has developed 2-3 minute step-by-step instructional videos for use in the rehabilitation of people with burn injury. They are appropriate for viewing by clinicians, caregivers, and survivors. There are 23 videos demonstrating exercises and stretches for the ankle, knee, hip, wrist, elbow, shoulder, neck and face. The exercises include: abduction, extension, and flexion of joints, grasp, cervical rotation, facial massage, and oral splinting. View the videos [here](#). After viewing the videos please provide feedback in a brief survey [here](#).

**MSKTC Seeks Parents of Children with Burn Injury**
The MSKTC seeks parents of children with burn injury to test two factsheets: *Going Back to School after a Major Burn Injury* and *Help Your Child Recover and Build Your Child's Resilience after a Burn Injury*. Participants will be interviewed for their input on these factsheets and receive a $25 gift card. For more information or to schedule an interview, call 202-403-5600 or email msktc@air.org.

**Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11, 2015</td>
<td>Brain Injury Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 14-18</td>
<td>37th Annual John A. Boswick Maui Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 15-17</td>
<td>39th Annual Williamsburg TBI Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 21-24</td>
<td>ABA 47th Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14-16</td>
<td>ISCoS and ASIA Joint Scientific Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>