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Model Systems
Knowledge Translation
Center

Headlines from the MSKTC

Connecting consumers to research-based information in
Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Burn Injury

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The MSKTC provides:

Consumer Information that offers guidance on treatment, social issues, and daily living after SCI, TBI, and burn injuries.

Systematic Reviews that compile, evaluate, and summarize published research evidence related to a specific medical or health topic.

Databases of research articles posted by the SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems.

Upcoming Conferences:

September 12-13 and 21-22, 2020
[Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals \(ASCIP\) Annual Conference](#)

October 4-5, 2020
[American Spinal Injury Association \(ASIA\) Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

October 19-24, 2020
[American Congress of Rehabilitative Medicine \(ACRM\) 97th Annual Conference](#)

Model System Researchers Publish in *PAIN Reports*

Model System researchers published the article, "Conditioning open-label placebo: A pilot pharmacobehavioral approach for opioid dose reduction and pain control," in ***PAIN Reports***. Researchers piloted the use of conditioning open-label placebo (COLP) pain management for inpatients with spinal cord injury and polytrauma. The study found COLP significantly decreased opioid consumption suggesting COLP could be an important tool in reducing the opioid usage for patients with moderate to severe pain. Authors are from the following currently-funded Model System centers: [Spaulding-Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Ross Zafonte, DO), [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) (Kevin Charles O'Connor, MD; and Ross Zafonte, DO), and [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) (Jeffrey Schneider, MD). View the article [here](#).

Resource Highlight: Returning to School

We are reaching the end of Summer and children in the US are starting to return to school. Back to school looks very different right now, due to COVID-19. Whether back to school would mean in-school learning, online learning, or a hybrid model, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) compiled resources to help make this year a successful one. Learn more [here](#).

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) has also developed resources to support students going back to school:

TBI Resource: "Returning to School After Traumatic Brain Injury" Factsheet

- TBI Model System researchers, in collaboration with the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), developed the consumer factsheet entitled, "Returning to School After Traumatic Brain Injury." The factsheet was developed by researchers from the [Virginia Commonwealth Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Paul Wehman, PhD; and Pam Targett, MEd), with support from the MSKTC. Portions of this document were adapted from materials developed by the [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#). Available in both English and Spanish, this resource explains how TBI may affect students and how to support students with TBI going back to school. The factsheet may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).

Burn Resource: "Going Back to School After a Major Burn Injury" Factsheet

- Burn Model System researchers, in collaboration with the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), developed the consumer factsheet entitled, "Going Back to School After a Major Burn Injury." The factsheet was developed by researchers from the following currently-funded Burn Model System centers: [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) (Lynne Friedlander, MEd), and [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#) (Shelley Wiechman, PhD, ABPP), with support from the MSKTC. Available in both English and Spanish, this resource explains how burn injury may affect students and how to support students with burn injury going back to school. The factsheet may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

TBI Model System Hosts Virtual Course: Strategies for Sleep After TBI

Researchers from the [University of Washington Traumatic Brain Injury Model System Center](#), in collaboration with the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington, led a virtual course, "Strategies for Sleep After Traumatic Brain Injury." Presenters provided information and strategies for supporting good sleep after brain injury. They also discussed how and why sleep can be disrupted and offered several tools to help improve sleep. Learn more [here](#).

TBI Model System Researchers Recruiting Participants for Survey

Researchers from the [New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) are conducting a survey to measure the impact of COVID-19 on the health, well-being, and mental health of individuals with TBI. The survey is open to individuals over the age of 18 who have sustained a TBI. Respondents are asked to provide anonymous information about their thoughts, experiences, and emotions regarding the pandemic, COVID-19's impact on their TBI, and access to care, as well as demographics. Participants may enter to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Learn more [here](#).

MSKTC Recruiting Participants for TBI Consumer Factsheet Testing

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) is recruiting individuals with traumatic brain injury and their caregivers to provide feedback on a new factsheet entitled, "Cognitive Problems After Traumatic Brain Injury." To be eligible, participants must be at least 18 years old. Participants will receive a \$25 gift card for their time. Call (202) 403-5600 or email mstkctc@air.org to register.

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

SCI Model System Researcher to Present at ASCIP 2020

Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, ATP, co-director of the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#), will present at the upcoming Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals (ASCIP) 2020 Virtual Conference on September 12. Dr. Worobey will give the Therapy Leadership Council Distinguished Lecture on "Wheelchairs: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly (and What We Can Do about It)." Information about the conference can be found [here](#).

SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*

SCI Model System researchers from [University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (William R. Reed, DC, PhD; Carla R. Lima, MD; Robert E. Sorge, PhD; Ceren Yarar-Fisher, PhD; Mualla Eraslan, BS; Christopher P. Hurt, PhD; Timothy J. Ness, MD, PhD; Jianguo G. Gu, MB, PhD; and Peng Li, PhD) published the article, "Spinal mobilization prevents NGF-induced trunk mechanical hyperalgesia and attenuates expression of CGRP," in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*. Spinal mobilization (SM) prevents the development of local (trunk) nerve growth factor (NGF)-induced mechanical hyperalgesia and distant (hindpaw) allodynia, in part, through attenuation of calcitonin gene-related peptide expression in lumbar DRG sensory neurons. NGF decreases rat exploratory behavior and increases spontaneous pain for which passive SM acts to mitigate these pain-related behavioral changes. These initial study findings suggest that beginning daily SM soon after injury onset might act to minimize or prevent the development of low back pain by reducing production of pain-related neuropeptides. View the article [here](#).

SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Trials*

SCI Model System researchers from [University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (Jia Li, PhD; Casey Morrow, PhD; Stephen Barnes, PhD; Jan Jansen, MBBS, PhD; Barbara Gower, PhD; Keneshia Kirksey, MD; David Redden, PhD; and Ceren Yarar-Fisher, PhD) published the study protocol, "Evaluation of a ketogenic diet for improvement of neurological recovery in individuals with acute spinal cord injury: Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial," in *Trials*. Intervention with a more neuroprotective diet during acute care of SCI can be implemented anywhere in the world at low cost and without major regulatory hurdles. Better functional recovery will lead to a better quality of life and long-term health outcomes in individuals with SCI. While this study targets SCI, if successful it

has the potential to improve neurological outcomes for individuals with various traumatic injuries. View the article [here](#).

SCI Model System Researchers Published in *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*

SCI Model System researchers, including the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (MRSCICS), co-principal investigator Allen Heinemann, PhD, and project coordinator Kayla Jones, co-authored the abstract, "Understanding patient engagement in spinal cord injury rehabilitation and therapists' use of communicative and relational strategies," in *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*. The abstract summarizes preliminary results of a qualitative study conducted through focus groups with SCI patients and physical and occupational therapists to identify interpersonal strategies that encourage patient engagement in physical rehabilitation. View the abstract [here](#).

Burn Injury (BURN)

MSKTC Recruiting Participants for Burn Consumer Factsheet Testing

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) is recruiting individuals with burn injury and their caregivers to provide feedback on a new factsheet entitled, "Sexuality and Intimacy After Burn Injury." To be eligible, participants must be at least 18 years old. Participants will receive a \$25 gift card for their time. Call (202) 403-5600 or email mstk@air.org to register.

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Connect with us by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter. We have three injury areas:



The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) supports the Model Systems program in meeting the information needs of individuals with spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and burn injury. The MSKTC is funded by National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) and is operated by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in collaboration with George Mason University (GMU) and BrainLine at WETA under grant number 90DP0082.

Learn more about the MSKTC at www.MSKTC.org