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Headlines from the MSKTC

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

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Issue 103

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:

July 20-August 7, 2020

[National Council on Independent Living \(NCIL\) Annual Conference on Independent Living](#)

September 12-13 and 21-22, 2020

[Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals \(ASCIP\) Annual Conference](#)

October 4-7, 2020

[American Spinal Injury Association \(ASIA\) Annual](#)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Resource Highlight: "Mortality Secondary to Unintentional Poisoning" Quick Review

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) recently published a quick review for the publication, "Mortality Secondary to Unintentional Poisoning after Inpatient Rehabilitation among Individuals with Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury." Authors are from [Indiana University School of Medicine / Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Traumatic Brain Injury](#) (Flora M. Hammond, MD; and Lance E. Trexler, PhD), [Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center](#) (Jessica McKinney Ketchum, PhD; and Cindy Harrison-Felix, PhD, FACRM), and the following currently-funded TBI Model System centers: [New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD), and [Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (John Corrigan, PhD). Authors are also from NIDILRR (Cate A. Miller, PhD, TBI Model System Program manager) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Juliet Haarbauer-Krupa, PhD; and Mark Faul, PhD). In plain language, the quick review describes how researchers compared the characteristics of individuals with TBI who die from unintentional poisoning to those of individuals with TBI who die from other causes to see what characteristics, if any, distinguish the two groups. People with TBI, their caregivers, family, and clinicians can use the results of the study to better understand the characteristics associated with unintentional poisoning for individuals with TBI. In particular, assessment of pre-injury substance use, post-injury alcohol use, and level of anxiety may help identify those at risk. Understanding these characteristics may alert clinicians to the need to evaluate these characteristics and develop appropriate plans for surveillance and treatment. The review is available [here](#).

Resource Highlight: "Concussion Recovery" Factsheet

TBI Model System researchers, in collaboration with the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), recently published the consumer factsheet entitled, "Concussion Recovery." The factsheet was developed by researchers from the following currently-funded TBI Model System centers: [UAB Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Laura Dreer, PhD), [Southeastern Michigan Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Robin Hanks, PhD), and [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Kathy Bell, MD), with support from the MSKTC. Available in both English and Spanish, this resource explains common symptoms and the recovery process after a concussion. The factsheet may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website [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

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Spinal Cord Series and Cases*

SCI Model System researchers from Texas Spinal Cord Injury Model System at TIRR (Radha Korupolu, MD; Argyrios Stampas, MD; and Isaac Hernandez, MD) published the paper, "COVID-19: Screening and triage challenges in people with disability due to spinal cord injury," in *Spinal Cord Series and Cases*. As of March 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has described priority levels for testing patients with suspected COVID-19 and information on when to seek medical attention. However, there is a paucity of further guidance for people with SCI who may not present with typical symptoms of COVID-19 due to altered physiology. This may pose challenges with surveillance, risk stratification, and initial management of this vulnerable population. This point-counterpoint discussion outlines important differences in presentation along with COVID-19 cases co-morbid with SCI. View the article [here](#).

SCI Model System Researcher Publishes in *Spinal Cord*

Argyrios Stampas, MD, researcher from Texas Spinal Cord Injury Model System at TIRR, published the paper, "The first 24 h: Opioid administration in people with spinal cord injury and neurologic recovery," in *Spinal Cord*. The paper explored the impact of opioid administration on neurological recovery in the first 24 hours following spinal cord injury. The preliminary findings suggest that higher doses of opioids administered within 24 hours of injury are associated with increased pain in the chronic phase of people with SCI. View the abstract [here](#).

SCI Model System to Host Lecture and Webcast: Getting More Out of Less: Increasing the Signal to Noise Ratio in the Spinal Cord

Researchers from the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) will host a lecture and webcast, "Getting More Out of Less: Increasing the Signal to Noise Ratio in the Spinal Cord," on August 20, as part of the Knowledge in Motion lecture series. Dr. Amanda Zimmerman, PhD, Senior Scientist at Axonis Therapeutics will discuss how the inhibitory/excitatory balance in the spinal cord is critical to both movement and sensation, and how it is disrupted after SCI. Preclinical research shows nuanced regulation of inhibition can lead to substantial functional improvements after SCI. Discussion about bringing this research into the clinic will follow. Online registration is free and required. Register [here](#).

SCI Model System Researchers Host Webinar: Women's Mental Health After Paralysis

Researchers from the Texas Spinal Cord Injury Model System at TIRR offered a webinar through the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation entitled, "Women's Mental Health After Paralysis." The webinar was organized in conjunction with the release of the Reeve Foundation pamphlet by the same title. The Texas Model Spinal Cord Injury System collaborators (Susan Robinson-Whelen, MD; Rosemary Hughes, PhD; and Linda Norah-Davis) were involved in implementing the site project, **Zest: A Psychological Health Promotion Program for Women with SCI**. The collaborators shared a variety of helpful tips and strategies from the Zest intervention program. View an overview of the webinar [here](#).

Resource Highlight: "Adaptive Sports and Recreation" Narrated Slideshow

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) developed a new narrated slideshow entitled, "Adaptive Sports and Recreation." Based on the Adaptive Sports and Recreation factsheet, this resource summarizes the important role that adaptive sports and recreation can play after SCI. This presentation shares the importance of adaptive sports and recreation, provides steps for getting involved in these activities, and helps people living with SCI prevent injuries while participating in sports activities. The slideshow may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).

Resource Highlight: "Exercise After Spinal Cord Injury" Narrated Slideshow

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) developed a new narrated slideshow entitled, "Exercise After Spinal Cord Injury." Based on the Exercise After Spinal Cord Injury factsheet, this presentation summarizes the importance of exercise after SCI. This resource can help people with SCI understand the importance of regular physical activity, overcome barriers to getting involved, and identify potential health problem as they plan exercise activities. The slideshow may be reproduced and distributed freely with

appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).

SCI Model System Researchers Recruiting Participants for Research Study

Researchers from the Texas Model Spinal Cord Injury System Center at TIRR are recruiting for a study to test a psychological health promotion program for women with spinal cord injury (SCI). A Psychological Health Promotion Program for Women with SCI, or simply Zest, is a 10-week online program delivered through the Second Life virtual world platform. Participants must be women, 18 years or older, with a traumatic SCI who are at least one-year post injury. Participants must also have access to and be able to use a computer with high speed Internet and must be able to communicate in online group conversations in English. Eligible participants will receive a small compensation for their time. For more information, contact the project at zest@memorialhermann.org or call (713) 797-7572. Learn more [here](#).

Burn Injury (BURN)

MSKTC and Burn Model System Researchers Publish in *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*

Burn Model System researchers published the article, "Paucity of clinical practice guidelines for rehabilitation of burn survivors," in *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. The study found there is a scarcity of clinical practical guidelines (CPGs) relevant to clinical rehabilitation for burn survivors. It is likely that rehabilitation of burn survivors will improve if more people gain skills in meeting the needs of individuals with burn injury. An increase in trained professionals may lead to an increase in intervention trials and research to establish evidence for CPGs. People engaged in burn research have an opportunity to devise a systematic, generally agreed upon approach toward evaluating burn patients and treatment outcomes that will permit data sharing across the world and assess patients throughout the acute and chronic phases of burn injury. Authors are from the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (Lynn Gerber, MD; Rati Deshpande, MD; Shruthi Prabhakar; Cindy Cai, PhD; Steven Garfinkel, PhD; and J Mary Louise Pomeroy, MPH), and the following currently-funded Burn Model System centers: [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#) (Peter Esselman, MD), and [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) (Jeffrey Schneider, MD). View the abstract [here](#).

Burn Model System Researchers Publish Article in *Journal of Burn Care and Research*

Researchers from [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) recently published the article, "Interpreting Life Impact Burn Recovery Evaluation (LIBRE) Profile Scores for use by Clinicians, Burn Survivors, and Researchers," in the *Journal of Burn Care and Research*. Numeric score cut points for all six LIBRE Profile domains and descriptions of abilities associated with each level are developed. These levels and descriptions will help clinicians and burn survivors interpret LIBRE Profile scores. View the abstract [here](#).

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 msktc@air.org to register.

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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

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Learn more about the MSKTC at www.MSKTC.org