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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

February 2020
Issue 98

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:

March 4, 2020
[Brain Injury Awareness
Day on Capitol Hill](#)

March 17-20, 2020
[52nd American Burn
Association Annual
Meeting](#)

March 26-29, 2020
[AOTA Annual Conference](#)

May 3-6, 2020
[Annual Scientific Meeting
of the American Spinal
Injury Association \(ASIA\)](#)

May 8-9, 2020

TBI and SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*

TBI and SCI Model System researchers published the results of a cross-sectional survey study in the January 2020 edition of *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. The manuscript titled, "Measuring pain in TBI: Development of the TBI-QOL Pain Interference item bank and short form," details the development and psychometric validation of an item bank, computer adaptive test (CAT), and short form to assess pain interference in the TBI population. Authors are from the following currently-funded TBI and SCI Model System centers: [Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System of TIRR](#) (Mark Sherer, PhD, ABPP, FACRM; and Angelle M. Sander, PhD), [Rusk Rehabilitation TBIMS at NYU Langone Health and Bellevue Hospital](#) (Tamara Bushnik, PhD), [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#) (Allen Heinemann, PhD, ABPP (RP), FACRM; and Elliot J. Roth, MD), and [Northern New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury System](#) (Nancy D. Chiaravalloti, PhD), with Pamela A. Kisala, MA; Aaron J. Boulton, PhD; David S. Tulsy, PhD; Anna L. Kratz, PhD; and Noelle E. Carlozzi, PhD. View the abstract [here](#).

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

MSKTC Researchers to Attend Brain Injury Awareness Day

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) will promote TBI Model System research and resources during Brain Injury Awareness Day events on Capitol Hill on March 4 in Washington, DC. As in previous years, there will be an awareness fair, congressional briefing, and reception. For more information click [here](#).

TBI Model System Researcher Publishes in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*

Jessica Ketchum, PhD, from [Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System](#), co-authored the article, "A standard method for determining the minimal clinically important difference for rehabilitation measures," published in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. In this commentary, the authors describe a systematic approach to triangulate on the minimal clinically important difference (MCID) using both distribution-based and anchor-based methods. Adaptation of a systematic approach for obtaining the MCID in rehabilitation would facilitate communication and comparison of results among rehabilitation researchers and providers. View the abstract [here](#).

TBI Model System Researchers Publish in *Rehabilitation Psychology*

TBI Model System researchers from [Virginia Commonwealth Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) authored the article, "Can a couples' intervention reduce unmet needs and caregiver burden after brain injury?," published in *Rehabilitation Psychology*. The study sought to examine the effectiveness of the Therapeutic Couples Intervention (TCI) on caregiver needs and burden after brain injury. The investigation provides evidence that, following brain injury, a structured couples intervention can reduce unmet needs and burden in caregivers. Future multicenter research examining long-term durability of treatment gains and specific

[15th Annual Brain Injury Rehabilitation Conference](#)

July 20-23, 2020
[National Conference on Independent Living \(NCIL\) Annual Conference](#)

September 6-9, 2020
[Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals \(ASCI\) Annual Meeting](#)

characteristics of positive responders is warranted. View the abstract [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 new consumer factsheets on a wide range of topics such as behavior problems and sleep apnea. 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.

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

SCI Model System Researcher Presents at IPHAM Seminar

Allen Heinemann, PhD, ABPP (RP), FACRM, co-principal investigator of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), presented at Northwestern University's Institute for Public Health and Medicine (IPHAM) Seminar Series on February 20, 2020. The presentation, hosted by the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, is titled, "Lessons Learned while Implementing Patient-Reported Outcome Measures during Inpatient Rehabilitation." View details [here](#).

SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Journal of NeuroEngineering and Rehabilitation*

SCI Model System researchers published a manuscript online titled, "Budget impact analysis of robotic exoskeleton use for locomotor training following spinal cord injury in four SCI Model Systems," in the *Journal of NeuroEngineering and Rehabilitation*. The base case analyzes decreased hospital costs of locomotor training when robotic exoskeletons were used for over-ground training. Authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System centers: [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#) (Allen W. Heinemann, PhD; Arun Jayaraman, PT, PhD; Chaithanya K. Mummidisetty, MS; and Daniel Pinto, PT, PhD), [Rocky Mountain Regional Spinal Cord Injury System](#) (Susan Charlifue, PhD; and Candy Tefertiller, PT, DPT, NCS), [Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (Edelle Field-Fote, PT, PhD, FAPTA; and Cathy Furbish, PT, DPT), and Texas Spinal Cord Injury Model System at TIRR (Shuo-Hsiu Chang, PT, PhD; and Heather Taylor, PhD). View the research findings [here](#).

SCI Model System Researcher Publishes in *The Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*

Allen Heinemann, PhD, ABPP (RP), FACRM, co-principal investigator of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), co-authored a manuscript titled, "Integrating Spinal Cord Injury — Quality of Life instruments into rehabilitation: Implementation science to guide adoption of patient-reported outcomes measures," in *The Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*. The paper, published online in January 2020 ahead of print, provides a development strategy for integrating the SCI-QOL item banks into inpatient SCI rehabilitation. View the abstract [here](#).

Burn Injury (BURN)

Burn Model System Researchers Publish Letter to the Editor in *Burns*

Researchers from [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#), [North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System](#), [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#), and [Burn Model System National Data and Statistical Center](#) recently published a letter to the editor, "Exploring the Burn Model System National Database: Burn injuries, substance misuse, and the CAGE questionnaire," in the journal *Burns*. The study finds that nearly 1 in 5 burn survivors screened positive for a potential pre-injury substance misuse issue. Additionally, a portion of individuals not displaying misuse issues pre-injury screened positive for potential misuse issues during at least one timepoint follow-up. The findings reflect the need for long-term drug and alcohol misuse screening in burn survivors. View the abstract [here](#).

Burn Model System Researchers Recruiting Participants for Research Study

Researchers from [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) are recruiting adult burn survivors to participate in the LIBRE Journey Study to understand the impact of burn injury on relationships with family and friends, social interactions, social activities, work and employment, and romantic and sexual relationships. To be eligible, participants must be at least 18 years old, living in the US or Canada, and with burns to 5% or more of their body

or to their face, hands, feet, or genitalia. Participants will receive an Amazon gift card worth up to \$100. Interested individuals should call (617) 952-6302 or email BostonHarvardBIMS@partners.org. Learn more [here](#).

MSKTC Recruiting Participants for Burn Consumer Testing

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) is recruiting individuals with burn injury and their caregivers to provide feedback on a new factsheet and video entitled, "Sexuality and Burn Injury 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.

 Share this newsletter on social media

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