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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

January 2020  
Issue 97

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:

**February 26-29, 2020**  
[North American Brain Injury Society \(NABIS\) 15th Annual Conference \(ABI2020\)](#)

**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](#)

## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

### TBI Model System Researchers to Present at ABI2020

A host of TBI Model System researchers will present at the [North American Brain Injury Society](#) (NABIS) 15th Annual Conference (ABI2020), February 26-29, in New Orleans, LA. For more information click [here](#).

### TBIMS National Database Available in FITBIR

On behalf of the [Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center](#) (TBINDSC), the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) is pleased to announce that the TBIMS National Database is available in Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research (FITBIR) to promote the priority of the TBIMS Program to conduct research that contributes to evidence-based rehabilitation interventions and clinical and practice guidelines which improve the lives of individuals with TBI. View the study profile [here](#).

### Resource Highlight: "Social Skills After Traumatic Brain Injury" Factsheet

TBI Model System researchers, in collaboration with the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), recently published the consumer factsheet entitled, "Social Skills After Traumatic Brain Injury." The factsheet was developed by researchers from the following currently-funded TBI Model System centers: [Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System](#) (Lenore A. Hawley, MSSW, LCSW; and Jody K. Newman, MA, CCC-SLP), [Indiana University School of Medicine/Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana TBI](#) (Dawn Neumann, PhD), and [Spaulding-Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Therese M. O'Neil-Pirozzi, ScD, CCC-SLP) with support from the MSKTC. Available in both English and Spanish, this resource explains how traumatic brain injury can affect social skills and how to improve these skills. The factsheet series may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).

### Resource Highlight: "Loss of Smell or Taste After Traumatic Brain Injury" Factsheet

TBI Model System researchers, in collaboration with the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), recently published the consumer factsheet entitled, "Loss of Smell or Taste After Traumatic Brain Injury." The factsheet was developed by researchers from the following currently-funded TBI Model System centers: [JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Brian D. Greenwald, MD), [Indiana University School of Medicine/Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana TBI](#) (Dawn Neumann, PhD), and [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Rosemary Dubiel, DO) with support from the MSKTC. Available in both English and Spanish, this resource explains how traumatic brain injury can cause problems with smell and taste. The factsheet series 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**

**May 3-6, 2020**

[Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Spinal Injury Association \(ASIA\)](#)

**May 8-9, 2020**

[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 \(ASCIP\) Annual Meeting](#)

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](mailto:msktc@air.org) to register.

## Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

### SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *The Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*

SCI Model System researchers recently published an article, "The impact of body mass index on one-year mortality after spinal cord injury," in *The Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*. Authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System centers: [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center](#) (Michael J. DeVivo, PhD; Yuying Chen, MD, PhD; and Huacong Wen, MD, PhD) and [University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (Tapan Mehta, PhD; and Navneet Kaur Baidwan, PhD). View the abstract [here](#).

### SCI Model System Researcher Publishes in *The Lancet*

David Gater, MD, PhD, from the [South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System Center](#), co-authored a commentary, "Preparing individuals with spinal cord injury for extreme storms in the era of climate change," in *EClinicalMedicine*, published by *The Lancet*. The article discusses the changes in hurricanes and other coastal storms and the risks to island and coastal communities, then outlines a set of physician roles aimed at preparing people with SCI, caregivers, and providers to proactively mitigate these risks. View the article [here](#).

### SCI Model System Researchers Participate in the ACP Series

TIRR Memorial Hermann Education Academy recently presented its 2019-2020 Advancing Clinical Practice (ACP) Series. This continuing education series aimed to benefit advanced level practice for clinicians treating people with Neurologic Dysfunction. Members of Texas Spinal Cord Injury Model System at TIRR participated in a day-long conference entitled, "Let's Talk About Sex and Spinal Cord Injury: A Team Approach." The conference, held January 10 at TIRR Memorial Hermann, featured a multidisciplinary team of experts who presented current knowledge and resources to help healthcare providers support their patients' medical, psychosocial, and physical rehabilitation needs as related to intimacy and sexuality. Learn more about the workshop [here](#).

### SCI Model System Researchers Attend TIGRR Workshop as Mentors

SCIMS Directors Allen Heinemann, PhD ([Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#)), Edelle Field-Fote, PhD, PT, FAPTA ([Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#)), and Michael Boninger, MD ([University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#)) served as mentors at the "Training in Grantsmanship for Rehabilitation Research (TIGRR)" workshop in Charleston, SC. Hosted by the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), the intensive grant-writing workshop spanned four days and paired select junior investigators with experienced mentors to foster one-on-one research grant support. Read more about the workshop [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](mailto:zest@memorialhermann.org) or call (713) 797-7572. Learn more [here](#).

## Burn Injury (BURN)

### Burn Model System Researchers to Present at ABA Annual Meeting

A host of Burn Model System researchers will present at the [American Burn Association](#) (ABA) 52nd annual meeting, March 17-20, in Orlando, FL. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### Burn Model System Researchers Publish in *Archives of Physical Medicine and*

### Rehabilitation

Burn Model System researchers co-authored a special supplement in the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* titled, "The NIDILRR Burn Model System program: Selected findings II." This is the second supplement in the *Archives of PMR* by the Burn Model System; [the first](#) was published in 2007. Articles cover an array of topics, including the Burn Model System National Database, effectiveness of community-based exercise programs for adult burn survivors, treatment options for contractures and range of motion deficits post-injury, evaluating satisfaction with life, employment after burn injury, and the role of peer support in social recovery, among others. Contributing authors are from the following currently-funded Burn Model System centers: [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#), [North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System](#), [Pediatric Burn Injury Rehabilitation Model System](#), [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#), and [Burn Model System National Data and Statistical Center](#). View the abstract [here](#).

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

Researchers from the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) recently published a letter to the editor, "Recognizing the long-term sequelae of burn injury as a chronic medical condition," in *Burns*. This letter uses data collected by Burn Model Systems to show that while people can recover from the initial phase, they are left with many long-term symptoms. This evolution of burn injury from an acute condition into chronic phase must be recognized so that a more comprehensive system of care can be established. View the letter [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 series on 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 [mstkctc@air.org](mailto:mstkctc@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:

SCI



TBI



Burn



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](http://www.MSKTC.org)