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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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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 22-25, 2019**  
[NCIL Annual Conference](#)

### MSKTC and Model System Win Silver Telly Award for Video

The [Exercise and Fitness After Spinal Cord Injury video](#), produced by the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center \(MSKTC\)](#) in collaboration with researchers and individuals with SCI from the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#), was awarded a 2019 Silver Telly Award. The 19-minute video features individuals with SCI who share their fitness routines and explain how exercise has improved their quality of life. The [Telly Awards](#) is the premier award honoring video and television across all screens.

**Model Systems Researchers Publish in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**  
Researchers from [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#), [Spaulding-Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#), [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center Model System](#), and the Committee on Trauma at the American College of Surgeons published the manuscript, "Challenges to the standardization of trauma data collection in Burn, Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, and other trauma populations: A call for common data elements for acute and longitudinal trauma databases" in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. This article details inconsistencies in the documentation of common data collection among five trauma databases. View the abstract [here](#).

## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

### TBI Model System Center Hosts Annual Leadership Forum

[North Texas TBI Model System](#) was proud to host the 13th Annual TBI Model Systems Leadership Forum April 24-27, 2019, in Dallas, TX. Attendees included 75 occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language therapists, and nurses working in leadership roles at 23 currently-funded or follow-up Model System sites. These clinical leaders in the area of TBI rehabilitation presented on clinical initiatives and best practices taking place in their facilities and solicited feedback from expert attendees on quality improvement initiatives. Unique to the conference this year was a pre-conference workshop entitled *Sexuality and Intimacy after Brain Injury*. The educational workshop was in high-demand and was the product of a multi-site collaboration that formed from this conference in 2016. Collaborations between attendees are ongoing and continue to grow each year.

### TBI Model System Center Presents at First Annual NYU Langone Family Health Centers Research Exchange Day

[Rusk Rehabilitation TBIMS at NYU Langone Health and Bellevue Hospital](#) has participated in several activities to promote knowledge and advance the objectives of the site-specific research project, "Living with TBI." To build relationships with medical, research, and community partners, a poster titled "Defining TBI as a chronic condition: Development of community partnerships to screen for TBI in a culturally diverse population (Phase 1/3)" was presented at the First Annual NYU Langone Family Health Centers Research Exchange Day. This article describes the three-phased community-engaged approach in understanding the barriers and facilitators to managing TBI as a chronic condition. The research team will also conduct an interactive, accessible workshop at the Brain Injury Association of New York State annual conference on June 5, 2019, to provide caregivers of persons with TBI with techniques, tips, and tools to avoid and recover from burnout.

**TBI Model System Researchers Publish in *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation***

TBI Model System researchers authored the article, "Functional outcome trajectories following inpatient rehabilitation for TBI in the United States: A NIDILRR TBIMS and CDC Interagency Collaboration," which was published in *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. The article describes trajectories of functioning up to five years after TBI that required inpatient rehabilitation in the United States. Authors are from the following currently-funded TBI Model System centers: [New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD), [Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System](#) (Jessica Ketchum, PhD), [Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (John D. Corrigan, PhD), and [Indiana University School of Medicine/Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana TBI](#) (Flora Hammond, MD). Authors also include Cate Miller, PhD, the TBI Model System program manager at [NIDILRR](#), Juliet Haarbauer-Krupa, PhD, senior health scientist at CDC, and Jeffrey Cuthbert, PhD, of the Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, CO. View the abstract [here](#).

**Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)****SCI Model System Researcher Serves as Committee Member on the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Board on Health Care Services**

Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), recently served as a committee member on the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Board on Health Care Services, which has published a new comprehensive report on the "Functional assessment of adults with disabilities," sponsored by the Social Security Administration. In this consensus study, committee members lay out their findings and conclusions on ways to collect information about work-related physical and mental demands of adults with disabilities. Additionally, this report provides an overview on methods for collecting data related to functional limitations that individuals with SCI may face based on work requirements. The full report can be viewed [here](#).

**SCI Model System Researchers Present at ACRM Spring Meeting**

Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, APT, and Rachel Hibbs, DPT, from the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#) taught a course entitled *Practical Hands-On Wheelchair Skills Training* for the ACRM Training Institute at the ACRM Spring Meeting on April 13, 2019, about using the Wheelchair Skills Training Program to teach wheelchair users how to complete indoor, community, and advanced wheelchair skills, and how to use outcome measures to evaluate the training in a clinical setting. This course will be repeated on November 3, 2019, as part of the ACRM annual conference.

**SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation***

SCI Model System researchers authored the article, "Surgical and non-surgical treatment of penetrating spinal cord injury: An analysis of long-term neurological and functional outcomes," which was published in *Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation*. This research was solely based on data from the [National Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems Database](#). Authors are from the [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center](#) (Yuying Chen, MD, PhD) and the [Northeast Ohio Regional Spinal Cord Injury System](#) (Greg Nemunaitis, MD; Mary Jo Roach, PhD; Michael Kelly, MD). View the abstract [here](#).

**SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Spinal Cord***

SCI Model System researchers authored the article, "Contextualizing disability: A cross-sectional analysis of the association between the built environment and functioning among people living with spinal cord injury in the United States," which was published in the February 2019 issue of *Spinal Cord*. This study utilizes survey data from 402 participants from four SCI Model System centers to analyze the relationship between living environment and level of physical functioning as reported by adults living with SCI. The authors are from the following currently- or previously-funded SCI Model System Centers: [Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System](#) (Amanda L. Botticello, PhD and Rachel Byrne, MA), University of Michigan SCI Model System (David Tulskey, PhD and Claire Kalpakjian, PhD), [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#) (Allen Heinemann, PhD), [Rocky Mountain Regional SCI System](#) (Susan Charlifue, PhD), [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) (Mary Slavin, PhD) and Raritan Valley Community College (Tanya Rohrbach, MS). View the article [here](#).

**SCI Model System Researcher Publishes in *American Journal of Occupational Therapy***  
Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), co-authored the article, "Cognitive, emotional, and physical functioning as

predictors of paid employment in people with stroke, traumatic brain injury, and spinal cord injury," which was published in *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*. After completing physical, emotional, and cognitive assessments of 480 adults with varying neurological injuries (traumatic, spinal cord, and stroke), along with administering an occupational outcome questionnaire, this study examined how well these factors predict individuals with SCI abilities to return to employment after injury. View the article [here](#).

**SCI Model System Researcher Publishes in *Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine***  
Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), along with Sherri LaVela, PhD, MPH, Bella Etingen, PhD, and Anna Miskovic, PsyD, co-authored the article, "What determines low satisfaction with life in individuals with spinal cord injury?," which was published in *Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*. This article administers a cross-sectional national survey to 896 veterans with SCI residing within communities to assess levels of grief/loss, social support, and independence, among other variables, to create interventions aimed at improving life satisfaction for veterans with SCI in the future. View the abstract [here](#).

## Burn Injury (BURN)

**Burn Model System Researchers Publish in *Journal of Burn Care and Research***  
Researchers from [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) recently published the manuscript, "Investigation into possible association of oxandrolone and heterotopic ossification following burn injury" in *Journal of Burn Care and Research*. This article found no association between oxandrolone administration and heterotopic ossification development in clinical practice as well as in a mouse model. View the abstract [here](#).

**MSKTC Recruiting Participants for Burn Injury Consumer Factsheet Testing**  
[MSKTC](#) is recruiting individuals with burn injury and their caregivers to provide feedback on a new factsheet entitled, "Delirium 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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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)