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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:

**May 6-7, 2019**  
[Brain Injury Rehabilitation Conference](#)

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

## Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

### SCI Model System Researchers Publish Title Registration with Campbell Collaboration

Researchers from [University of Alabama at Birmingham \(UAB\) Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), Jia Li, Christian Sidebottom, Devin Drummer, Thomas Hoover, Rachel Cowan, and Ceren Yazar-Fisher, with support from Xincheng "Cindy" Cai from [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#), published a title registration with the Campbell Collaboration for the scoping review, "Nutrition status and its relationship with health status in individuals with spinal cord injury: A scoping review." This review examines the nutritional status of adults with acute or chronic SCI, the relationship between nutrition status and various health outcomes among adults with acute or chronic SCI, and the effect of dietary modifications on health outcomes among adults with acute or chronic SCI. Access the title registration [here](#).

### National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center Updates Data Sheet

[National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center](#) (NSCISC) has updated the data sheet, "[Recent trends in causes of spinal cord injury](#)." This data sheet provides a category breakdown for causes of spinal cord injury that occurred between 2010 and 2018. During that timeframe, there were 6,427 (N) persons enrolled in the National Spinal Cord Injury Database. NSCISC supports and directs the collection, management, and analysis of National SCI Database. It is the world's largest and longest-running SCI research database and is maintained at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

### SCI Model System Researcher Participates at the Boston ReelAbilities Film Festival

Chloe Slocum, MD, researcher at [Spaulding New England Regional SCI Model Center](#), served as a co-panelist on the needs of persons and veterans with spinal cord injury, community resources, and spinal cord injury rehabilitation with U.S. Army Colonel Kenneth Mintz at the Boston ReelAbilities Film Festival. The movie, *American Veteran*, tells the story of Sgt. Nick Mendes, who was paralyzed from the neck down by an IED and suffers from PTSD. The discussion focused on the new population of American veterans: service members so severely wounded they would have died in previous wars, but who survive because of advanced medical technology and their subsequent integration back into their communities.

### SCI Model System Researchers Present at the American Spinal Injury Association's Annual Meeting

SCI Model System researchers presented at the American Spinal Injury Association's annual meeting held April 2-5, 2019, in Honolulu, Hawaii. This meeting uniquely integrates disciplines germane to SCI research, medicine, rehabilitation, and community-based care by offering a broad perspective of topics in workshop, instructional course, oral, and scientific poster formats. The list of participants who have submitted conference presentation information to MSKTC can be found [here](#).

### **SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics***

Susan Robinson-Whelen, PhD, and Rya Clark, RD, LD, CNSC, researchers at [Texas Spinal Cord Injury Model System at TIRR Memorial Hermann](#), co-authored the article, "Baseline dietary intake of individuals with spinal cord injury who are overweight or obese," which was published in *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. The article examines dietary intake and dietary quality in a sample of men and women with SCI who were overweight or obese. Compared to established guidelines for the general population, the authors found that the sample reported inadequate intake of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, fiber, seafood and plant protein, and healthy fats. The sample also reported excess intake of added sugars and saturated fats. The authors highlight the need for comprehensive nutritional guidelines for individuals with SCI. Learn more [here](#).

### **SCI Model System Researchers Selected as Fellows of American Spinal Injury Association**

Amie McLain, MD, project director of [University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), Yuying Chen, MD, project director of [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center](#), and Ralph Marino, MD, project director of [Regional SCI Center of the Delaware Valley](#), were recently selected as Fellows of American Spinal Injury Association (FASIA). The FASIA is bestowed by the Board of Directors in recognition of distinguished accomplishment within the fields of spinal cord injury research, clinical practice, education, and advocacy, and for a longstanding membership of service to the society. Award presentations were made during the during the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting in Waikiki, Hawaii.

### **SCI Model System Researcher Wins the 2019 Apple Award**

Rachel Cowan, PhD, researcher at [University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), and Morgan Callahan, MD, won the 2019 Apple Award for "excellence in publishing in the spinal cord injury rehabilitation literature" for their paper entitled, "Relationship of fitness and wheelchair mobility with encounters, avoidances, and perception of environmental barriers among manual wheelchair users with spinal cord injury." The award is named in honor of Dr. David Apple, a founding member and past president of the American Spinal Injury Association.

## **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

**TBI Model System Researchers Publish Articles in *Contemporary Clinical Trials***  
**TBI** Model System researchers recently published two articles in *Contemporary Clinical Trials*.

- "A randomized controlled trial protocol for people with traumatic brain injury enrolled in a healthy lifestyle program." Authors are from the following currently-funded TBI Model System center: [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Shannon Juengst, PhD; Kathleen Bell, MD; Simon Driver, PhD; Rosemary Dubiel, DO; Monica Bennett, PhD; Evan Elizabeth McShan, MS). View the abstract [here](#).
- "Care partner problem solving training (CP-PST) for care partners of adults with traumatic brain injury during inpatient rehabilitation: Study protocol for a multisite, randomized, single-blind clinical feasibility trial." Authors are from the following currently-funded TBI Model System centers: [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Shannon Juengst, PhD; Valeria Silva, BS; Kathleen Bell, MD; Simon Driver, PhD; Chung Lin Kew, BS; Andrew Nabsny, BS), [JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Yelena Goldin, PhD; Keith Cicerone, PhD; Georgianna Dart, PsyD), [Northern New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury System](#) (Jeanne Lengenfelder, PhD; Nancy Chiaravalloti, PhD), and [Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System](#) (David Mellick, MA). View the abstract [here](#).

**TBI Model System Investigators Participate in Walk and Roll for Brain Injury**  
[North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) investigators participated in the annual "Walk 'n Roll for Brain Injury" event held March 30, 2019, in Addison, Texas. Several hundred people with brain injury, including TBI Model System participants and their families, braved the cold, wet, and windy weather to complete the walk together. Walk 'n Roll is organized by the Brain Injury Association - Texas Division and helps raise awareness and funds to support programming for survivors and their family members.

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

TBI Model System researchers authored the article, "Longitudinal effects of medical comorbidities on functional outcome and life satisfaction after traumatic brain injury: An individual growth curve analysis of NIDILRR Traumatic Brain Injury Model System data," which was published in *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. This article explores associations of specific physical and neuropsychiatric medical conditions to motor and cognitive functioning and life satisfaction over the first 10 years following TBI. Authors are from the following currently-funded TBI Model System centers: [Indiana University School of Medicine/Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana TBI](#) (James Malek, PhD; Flora Hammond, MD), [Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System](#) (Jessica McKinney Ketchum, PhD; Gale Whiteneck, PhD), [Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (John Corrigan, PhD; Jennifer Bogner, PhD), [New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD), [Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Tessa Hart, PhD), [UAB Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Thomas Novack, PhD), and [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Marie Dahdah, PhD). View the article [here](#).

#### **TBI Model System Researchers Present at 13th World Congress on Brain Injury**

TBI Model System researchers presented at the 13th World Congress on Brain Injury held March 13-16, 2019, in Toronto, Canada. This conference is the largest gathering of international professionals working in the field of brain injury. The list of Model System participants can be found [here](#).

#### **TBI Model System Researcher Receives Moody Prize**

Tessa Hart, PhD, former principal investigator at [Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#), will receive the [2019 Robert L. Moody Prize for Distinguished Initiatives in Brain Injury Research and Rehabilitation](#) from the Center for Recovery, Physical Activity and Nutrition in the School of Health Professions at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and the Transitional Learning Center of Galveston. Dr. Hart will receive the prize in recognition of her significant contributions in brain injury rehabilitation and research. The award will be presented at the Galveston Brain Injury Conference in May.

#### **MSKTC and TBI Model System Researchers Publish Article in *NeuroRehabilitation***

Lynn Gerber, MD, co-principal investigator of [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center \(MSKTC\)](#), collaborated with TBI Model System researchers to author the article, "Scoping review of clinical rehabilitation research pertaining to traumatic brain injury: 1990-2016," which was published in *NeuroRehabilitation*. This scoping review analyzes 25 years of published traumatic brain injury clinical rehabilitation research to determine the frequency with which function is a research goal. In addition to researchers from MSKTC (Lynn H. Gerber, MD; Haley Bush, BS; Steven Garfinkel, PhD; Xinsheng "Cindy" Cai, PhD), authors include a colleague from a previously-funded TBI Model System center: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (Amy Wagner, MD) and Department of Veteran Affairs-funded Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center (Bridget Cotner, PhD). View the abstract [here](#).

#### **MSKTC Recruiting Participants for TBI Consumer Factsheet Testing**

[MSKTC](#) is recruiting individuals with TBI and their caregivers to provide feedback on a new factsheet entitled, "Social Skills 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 [msktc@air.org](mailto:msktc@air.org) to register.

## **Burn Injury (BURN)**

#### **Burn Model Systems National Database Updates National Database**

[Burn Model Systems National Database](#) has updated the facts and figures factsheets, "National database: 2019 profile of adults included in the Burn Injury Model Systems" and "National database: 2019 profile of children included in the Burn Injury Model Systems." The factsheets serve as a quick reference on demographics, length of hospital stay, and the health and well-being of adults and children with burn injury. Learn more [here](#).

#### **Burn Model System Researcher Receives Leadership Award**

Nicole S Gibran, MD, principal investigator at [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#), received the President's Leadership Award from the American Burn Association (ABA). Dr. Gibran received this award at the 51st annual meeting of the ABA in recognition of her distinguished and exceptional service to the American Burn Association and to the profession of burn care. This recognition is awarded on a periodic basis to acknowledge such leadership qualities as vision, dedication, courage, and steadfastness in the service of the ABA, burn care professionals, and burn-injured patients.

#### **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 [mstk@air.org](mailto:mstk@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)