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Headlines from the MSKTC

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

December 2020
Issue 108

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:

January 14, 2021
[Administration for Community Living \(ACL\) Event](#)

March 7-11, 2021
[43rd Annual Boswick Burn & Wound Symposium](#)

April 6-9, 2021
[53rd Annual American Burn Association Meeting](#)

April 8, 2021
[American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference](#)

Resource Highlight: Resources in Spanish

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), in collaboration with Model System researchers, publish consumer factsheets that are available in both English and Spanish. The MSKTC has created new webpages for all the Spanish resources in spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and burn injury in one place. The resources may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution.

- Burn injury factsheets in Spanish are available [here](#).
- SCI factsheets in Spanish are available [here](#).
- TBI factsheets and infocomics in Spanish are available [here](#).



Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

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

TBI Model System researchers recently published the article, "Outcomes 1 and 2 years after moderate to severe traumatic brain injury: An international comparative study," in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. This study compared TBI outcomes from two cohorts: [The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#) Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) in the United States and the Longitudinal Head Injury Outcome Study, conducted by the Monash Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre (MERRC) in Victoria, Australia. Findings may suggest that routine provision of community-based supports could confer benefits for long-term TBI outcomes. Authors are from the following currently-funded TBI Model System centers: [Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System](#) (Cynthia Harrison-Felix, PhD, FACRM; and Jessica M. Ketchum, PhD), and [Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (John D. Corrigan, PhD), with Jennie Ponsford, PhD; Gershon Spitz, PhD; and A. Cate Miller, PhD (TBI Model System Program manager, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research). View the abstract [here](#).

TBI Model System Researcher Interviewed for *RehabCast* Podcast

Mark Sherer, PhD, ABPP, FACRM, principal investigator for the [Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System of TIRR](#), and Yelena Bodien, PhD, co-investigator for the [Spaulding-Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#), were interviewed for the October 2020 episode of *RehabCast*, the podcast of the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. The interview focuses on a recent article, "Post-traumatic confusional state: A case definition and diagnostic criteria," which offers a better description of the characteristics of the condition commonly labeled post-traumatic amnesia which can occur after TBI. The case definition has been endorsed by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, which has endorsed fewer than 10 of these papers or guidelines in its history. Listen to the episode [here](#).

Resource Highlight: Anger and Frustration After Brain Injury

TBI Model System researchers from [Indiana University School of Medicine / Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Traumatic Brain Injury](#) worked with WETA - BrainLine to create a series of resources on anger and frustration after brain injury. The informational resources on their website are based on findings from TBIMS-funded projects. The resources are available [here](#). Materials on their webpage include information about:

- [Symptoms and Strategies](#)

- [Anger and Irritability in Relationships](#)
- [Q&A](#)
- [Video Interviews](#)
- [5 Dimensions of TBI-Related Irritability Infographic](#)
- [The Power of the PAUSE](#) (Tip sheets on learning to PAUSE when angry)
- [Managing Anger and Irritability After TBI: Caring for Someone with a Brain Injury](#)

TBI Model System Researchers Recruiting Participants for Survey

Clinicians and researchers across the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems of Care are conducting a survey to measure the impact of COVID-19 on the health, well-being, and mental health of individuals with TBI. The survey is open to individuals over the age of 18 who have sustained a TBI. This brief survey (15 - 20 minutes) will ask respondents to provide anonymous information about how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their health, well-being, and mental health. Participants may enter to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Provide feedback for the survey [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 number of new factsheets on topics such as obstructive sleep disorder after TBI, behavior changes, and voting tips for people with TBI. The MSKTC is also recruiting caregivers of individuals with traumatic brain injury to provide feedback on a new factsheet entitled, "Stress Management Strategies for Caregivers." 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 to register.



Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

SCI Model System Researcher Participates in HCBS Conference

Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), participated in the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Conference. Dr. Heinemann participated in the panel presentation, "Implementing Standards for Person-Centered Planning and Practice," with co-presenters: Shawn Terrell, health insurance specialist with the Administration for Community Living (ACL); Bevin Croft, co-director of the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) and the Human Services Research Institute; and Janice Tondora, PsyD, associate professor of psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine. This session discussed the growing interest among stakeholders in developing and implementing standards and competencies for person-centered planning facilitation. The recent recommendations of the National Quality Forum project on Person-Centered Planning and Practice were reviewed, and two national efforts to support implementation by state programs were discussed. Details are available [here](#).

SCI Model System Researcher Serves on Editorial Board of *Spinal Cord*

Edelle Field-Fote, PhD, PT, principal investigator of the [Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), has been named to the editorial board of *Spinal Cord*, the journal of the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS). Dr. Field-Fote and five other individuals were selected from a pool of talented researchers and academics from around the world to serve on the board. Learn more [here](#).

SCI Model System Celebrates National Pressure Injury Prevention Day

A partner site in the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center, Gaylord Specialty Healthcare](#), celebrated National Pressure Injury Prevention Day on November 19. This day is celebrated with an increased awareness of the team effort involved in preventing pressure injuries. Information was shared with patients and staff about understanding one's risk and how to plan for preventative and curative steps. This year the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel added [resources](#) specifically related to COVID-19 and skin care for both patients and healthcare professionals. This included the poster, "[Protecting Facial Skin Under PPE N95 Face Masks](#)." Find more information on the work of the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel [here](#).

SCI Model System Hosts Lecture and Webcast in *Knowledge in Motion* Lecture Series

Researchers from the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) hosted a lecture and webcast, "Neurogenic Bladder After SCI: Common Questions and Misconceptions," as part of the *Knowledge in Motion* lecture series. Dr. Todd A. Linsenmeyer, MD, director of urology, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation Research

Professor, discussed common questions on how spinal cord injury affects bladder function, reasons for bladder evaluation, and various types of bladder management, urinary tract infections, and other possible problems such as autonomic dysreflexia. Various misconceptions about these topics were dispelled during the live Q&A session. View the video [here](#).

SCI Model System Researcher to Present Keynote at ACL Event

Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), will present the keynote presentation as part of the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) event, "Building the Research Pipeline: Home and Community-Based Services." This event will focus on building the pipeline for new researchers focused on home and community-based services. The event will aim to: reduce the barrier to entry by organizing existing research and making it more accessible for researchers new to this field, push the research community to think about how to conduct more policy-relevant research in this space, and engage the existing research and policy community in identifying existing gaps in the knowledge-base and prioritizing filling those gaps. The virtual event will be held January 14, 2021. Registration information is available [here](#).

MSKTC Recruiting Participants for SCI Infocomic Testing

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) is recruiting individuals with SCI and their caregivers to provide feedback on a number of new infocomics on topics such as bowel function, bladder management, urinary tract infection, respiratory health, and autonomic dysreflexia after spinal cord 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 to register.



Burn Injury (BURN)

Burn Model System Researchers Publish in *Burns*

Researchers from [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) published a letter to the editor, "COVID-19 pandemic and the burn survivor community: A call for action," in *Burns*. The letter highlights the challenges posed by COVID-19 on the burn community specifically as the pandemic threatens the community and clinical support that is needed by many burn survivors. Researchers urge clinicians to develop distanced ways of assisting burn survivors by connecting them with online support as well as developing online systems for providing accurate clinical help to those needing assistance with recovery and rehabilitation. The article can be found [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 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

