

If you're having problems viewing this email [click here](#).



## Headlines from the MSKTC

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

June 2021  
Issue 114

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.

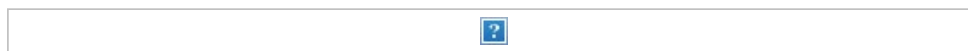
Upcoming Conferences:

**July 8-10, 2021**  
[Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Spinal Injury Association \(ASIA\)](#)

**July 19-30, 2021**  
[National Conference on Independent Living \(NCIL\) Annual Conference](#)

**September 26-29, 2021**  
[American Congress of Rehabilitative Medicine \(ACRM\) 98th Annual Conference](#)

**October 25, 27, 29, 2021**  
[Knowledge Translation for Disability & Rehabilitation Research \(KTDRR\) Virtual Knowledge Translation Conference](#)



## Burn Injury (BURN)

### MSKTC and Burn Model System Win Silver Digital Health Award for Video

The [Sexuality and Intimacy After Burn Injury](#) video, produced by the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) in collaboration with researchers and individuals with the [North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System](#), was awarded a Spring 2021 Silver Digital Health Award. This 18-minute video highlights burn survivors and their partners who share their experience navigating sexuality and intimacy after burn injury. It also includes the perspectives of health care professionals who explain the importance of openly discussing physical and emotional components related to sexuality and intimacy after burn injury. The Digital Health Awards — from the Health Information Resource Center — recognize high-quality digital health resources for consumers and health professionals. Learn more [here](#).

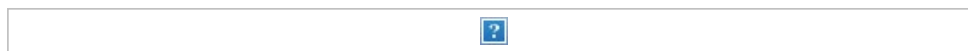
### Burn Model System Researchers Receive ABA Top Papers of the Year in Two Journals

During the 53rd Annual American Burn Association Meeting (ABA2021), editors announced their top papers of the year. Two papers senior-authored by the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) were recognized:

- “An examination of follow-up services received by vulnerable populations: A Burn Model System National Database study,” was recognized as one of the top 10 papers of 2020 in the *Journal of Burn Care and Research*. This study's goal was to assess for differences in long-term occupational or physical therapy (OT/PT) and psychological service use after burn injury in vulnerable populations. View the abstract [here](#).
- “Recognizing the long-term sequelae of burns as a chronic medical condition,” was recognized as one of the top 5 most impactful papers in the *Journal of the International Society for Burn Injuries*. View the abstract [here](#).

### Resource Highlight: “Outpatient Opioid Management for Adult Burn Survivors: Update for Community Providers” Factsheet

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) developed a new factsheet entitled, “Outpatient Opioid Management for Adult Burn Survivors: Update for Community Providers.” This factsheet aims to provide information about opioid management for adults after they have been discharged from a hospital for treatment of their acute burn injury. This information will help community healthcare providers in their provision of comprehensive care in the setting of a national opioid crisis. The factsheet was developed by researchers from the [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#) (Gretchen J. Carrougher, MN, RN), University of Washington Medicine Regional Burn Center (Samuel P. Mandell, MD, MPH, FACS), and Pain Institute of Nevada (Katherine D. Travnicsek, MD), with support from the MSKTC. The factsheet may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).



## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

### TBI Model System Welcomes New Co-Director

The [University of Alabama at Birmingham Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (UAB-TBIMS) welcomes Jennifer (Jenny) Marwitz, MA, as its co-director. Marwitz joins the UAB-TBIMS via the [Virginia Commonwealth University Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) where she served as the project director and coordinator. Marwitz has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles related to TBI with a focus on rehabilitation outcome, families, return to work, and emotional well-being following TBI. She currently serves as chair for the TBIMS Data Management Committee as well as Managing Editor of the journal, *Brain Injury*. She will also serve as the director of TBI research for the [UAB Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation](#). Robert Brunner, MD, will remain as the UAB-TBIMS project director.

### TBI Model System Researcher Receives Lowman Award from ACRM

Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD, principal investigator for the [New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#), received the 2021 Edward Lowman Award from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM). The award recognizes a researcher whose career reflects an energetic promotion of the spirit of interdisciplinary rehabilitation. Dr. Dams-O'Connor received the award in recognition of her multidisciplinary research dedicated to improving the lives of people living with brain injury. Learn more about the award [here](#).

### TBI Model System Researchers Recognized with Mitchell Rosenthal Award

Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD, from the [New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#), led a team of authors from the TBI Model System to develop a paper that was granted the 2021 Mitchell Rosenthal Award. The team was recognized with this honor for their article, "Reinjury after moderate to severe TBI: rates and risk factors in the NIDILRR Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems," published in *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. The study found a subset of individuals who receive inpatient rehabilitation for TBI are at an increased risk for reinjury, and an injury-prone phenotype may be characterized by engagement in risk behaviors. Factors associated with reinjury risk may differ for younger versus middle-aged and older adults. Findings underscore the need for empirically informed risk stratification models to identify TBI survivors at risk for reinjury. View the abstract [here](#).

### TBI Model System Researcher Interviewed for *Brain Injury Today* Podcast

Jeanne Hoffman, PhD, principal investigator for the [University of Washington Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#), was interviewed for an episode of *Brain Injury Today*, the podcast of the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington (BIAWA). In the episode, "Your COVID Vaccine Questions Answered," Dr. Hoffman answered questions from the brain injury community about the COVID-19 vaccine, including the benefits of vaccination, the importance of public health measures, choosing which vaccine to get, potential side effects, and addressing worries sparked by myths and misinformation circulating online. Dr. Hoffman also discussed rehabilitation for people facing the long-term effects of COVID. Listen to the episode [here](#).

### MSKTC Recruiting Family Support Members of Veterans with TBI for Consumer Factsheet Testing

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) is recruiting family support members of individuals, particularly veterans, with traumatic brain injury to provide feedback on a new consumer factsheet entitled, "Stress Management Strategies for Caregivers." To be eligible, participants must be at least 18 years old. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes. Participants will receive \$25 for their time. Call (202) 403-5600 or email [mktc@air.org](mailto:mktc@air.org) to register.



## Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

### SCI Model System Researchers Recognized by Peers as "Top Doctors"

Ross Zafonte, DO, and David Rosenblum, MD, doctors from the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#), were recently recognized by their peers in a nationwide survey conducted by Castle Connolly as "Top Doctors." The survey is conducted across the country and reported locally in the magazines Boston and Connecticut. Dr. Zafonte and Dr. Rosenblum are both physical medicine and rehabilitation doctors who work collaboratively in the SCI Model System. Dr. Zafonte treats patients at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and across the Partners Network in Massachusetts. Learn more about Dr. Zafonte [here](#). Dr. Rosenblum treats patients at Gaylor Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut. Learn more about Dr. Rosenblum [here](#).

### SCI Model System Researchers Celebrate International Clinical Trials Day

Researchers from the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) at Gaylor

Hospital and Milne Institute for Healthcare Innovation recently celebrated International Clinical Trials Day. On May 20, 1747, Scottish physician James Lind conducted the first clinical study on the treatment of scurvy with 12 sailor participants. Event celebrations included highlights of research studies and presentations Gaylord participants, including SCIMS researchers, have been involved with in the past as well as highlighting current research in a variety of topics. More information about this research is available [here](#).

#### Resource Highlight: "Opioids and Your Health" Factsheet

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) developed a new factsheet entitled, "Opioids and Your Health." This factsheet explains how opioids can affect your health after a spinal cord injury. It also describes problems to watch for if you take opioids for any reason. The factsheet was developed by researchers from [Mount Sinai Hospital Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (Thomas N. Bryce, MD), [Ohio Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (Jan Schwab, MD, PhD), with Philip Siddall, MBBS, PhD, and Tiffany Wong, MD, with support from the MSKTC. The factsheet may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).



Share this newsletter on social media

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)