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## Headlines from the MSKTC

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

March 2021  
Issue 111

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:

**April 7-9, 2021**  
[53rd Annual American Burn Association \(ABA\) Meeting](#)

**April 8-11, 2021**  
[American Occupational Therapy Association \(AOTA\) Annual Conference](#)

**April 17-22, 2021**  
[43rd Annual John A. Boswick Burn & Wound Care Symposium](#)

**April 23-25, 2021**  
[American Academy of Dermatology \(AAD\) Meeting](#)

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



## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

### Brain Injury Awareness

Brain Injury Awareness Month is coming to a close at the end of March, but you can raise awareness any time. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are 2.9 million TBI-related emergency department visits each year in the United States. For more than 30 years, TBI Model System researchers have been working to improve rehabilitation care and outcomes for people living with TBI. Learn more about the research and accomplishments of the TBI Model Systems [here](#). Access the free research-based resources to support people living with TBI [here](#).

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) and the [TBI Model Systems](#) (TBIMS) are campaigning to raise awareness of Brain Injury Awareness as well as the accomplishments of the TBIMS centers, the TBIMS National Database, and the MSKTC's consumer resources for TBI. Please feel free use the sample language below and share on your social media to support this campaign:

- Looking for resources for #BrainInjuryAwareness? @TBI\_MS resources are free, based on research, and developed for those who need them the most. <https://msktc.org/tbi> #MSKTC\_TBI
- @CDCInjury reports 2.9 million TBI-related #emergencydepartment visits, hospitalizations, and deaths per year in the U.S. Learn how @TBI\_MS have contributed to research and care for people with #braininjury: <https://msktc.org/brain-injury-awareness-0> #BrainInjuryAwareness #MSKTC\_TBI
- Did you know? @TBI\_MS centers have been advancing care and outcomes for people with #braininjury for over 30 years. Find a #MSKTC\_TBI center near you: <https://msktc.org/tbi/model-system-centers> #BrainInjuryAwareness

### TBI Model System Researcher Interviewed for Brain Injury Awareness Month

Thomas Watanabe, MD, co-investigator from the [Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System Center](#), was interviewed for, "Tips on Protecting Yourself from Brain Injuries," on NBC10 News in Philadelphia. Dr. Watanabe discussed signs and symptoms of brain injury and concussion and offered safety tips for individuals returning to outdoor activities like bike riding and other sports as the weather warms. View the interview [here](#).

### TBI Model System Researcher Receives 2021 Nursing Award

Patricia Bosompem, RN, CRRN, from the [JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#), was awarded the 2021 Tracy Morgan Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation Nursing. Bosompem has been a dedicated member of the Brain Trauma Unit at the Center for Brain Injuries for more than 21 years. Actor and comedian Tracy Morgan presented the award and spoke about the importance of brain injury rehabilitation. View the presentation [here](#).

### TBI Model System Researchers Publish in *JAMA Neurology*

TBI Model System researchers recently published the article, "Recovery of consciousness and functional outcome in moderate and severe traumatic brain injury," in *JAMA Neurology*. This study found that disorder of consciousness (DOC) occurred initially in most patients with TBI and persisted in some patients after rehabilitation, but most patients with persisting DOC recovered consciousness during rehabilitation. This recovery trajectory may

**July 19-22, 2021**

[National Conference on Independent Living \(NCIL\) Annual Conference](#)

**September 5-8, 2021**

[Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals \(ASCIP\) Annual Meeting](#)

**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](#)

inform acute and rehabilitation treatment decisions and suggests caution is warranted in consideration of withdrawing or withholding care in patients with TBI and DOC. Authors are from the following currently-funded TBI Model System centers: [Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System](#) (Robert G. Kowalski, MD, MS; and Alan H. Weintraub, MD), [Indiana University School of Medicine / Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana TBI](#) (Flora M. Hammond, MD), [Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation TBI Model System Center](#) (Risa Nakase-Richardson, PhD, FACRM), [Spaulding-Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Ross D. Zafonte, DO; and Joseph T. Giacino, PhD), and [Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (John Whyte, MD, PhD). View the abstract [here](#).

An accompanying editorial was also published, entitled, "Holding out hope after traumatic brain injury." The editorial notes, "The remarkable rate of recovery should give pause to practitioners who counsel families about potential recovery of DOC. If there are no concerning radiographic features, then practitioners should communicate the potential for delayed DOC recovery. This study adds to the TBI literature cautioning against withdrawal of life-sustaining therapy (WLST) and self-fulfilling prophecy." View the editorial [here](#).

### **MSKTC Recruiting Caregivers of Veterans with TBI for Consumer Factsheet Testing**

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) is recruiting caregivers 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 [msktc@air.org](mailto:msktc@air.org) to register.



## **Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)**

### **SCI Model System to Host Current Concepts in Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Conference**

The [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#), in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh Rehabilitation Institute, will present the 6th annual Current Concepts in Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Conference on April 25. The conference will be completely virtual with reduced registration rates (\$25 for professionals, free registration for students) and continuing education credits. Nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, case managers, physiatrists/physicians, fellows, and residents involved with the acute care and rehabilitation of persons with spinal cord injury are encouraged to attend. More information can be found [here](#).

### **SCI Model System Researcher Serves on the ABPMR Board of Directors**

Keneshia McMullen Kirksey, MD, co-investigator from the [University of Alabama at Birmingham \(UAB\) Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), has been named to the physician board of directors of the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR). Dr. Kirksey is engaged in research related to spinal cord injury and disorders, as well as acute and chronic spinal cord injury management. Since 2009, she has been a co-investigator for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation: Model Regional Spinal Injury Care System at UAB. Learn more [here](#).

### **SCI Model System Researcher Chairs SSA Peer Review Committee**

Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), chaired the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine peer review of a report commissioned by the Social Security Administration (SSA). The Consensus Study Report focused on required mental health requirements for selected occupations. View the full text [here](#).

### **SCI Model System Researcher Quoted in *New Mobility***

David Estrada, JD, program manager of the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) (SNERSCIC), was quoted in the February issue of United Spinal Association's *New Mobility* magazine. The article highlights the work of James (Jim) Weisman, retiring CEO of United Spinal Association, and the work he has done for more than 40 years with the SCI community. In the article, Estrada, who served as the president of the Greater Boston Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA), discusses the merger of the NSCIA and United Spinal — which brought about trepidation — and how Jim was always available to put people at ease while explaining next steps. Estrada finishes by stating, "... he's been a great leader." SNERSCIC is thankful for his service and wishes Jim well. View the article [here](#).

### SCI Model System Researchers Collaborate on Clinical Trial

Researchers at the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) are collaborating with ONWARD Medical Inc., which is the sponsor of the first large-scale device approval study to evaluate a neurostimulation device that promises to provide durable therapeutic benefit to people with spinal cord injury. Dr. Randy Trumbower is the principal investigator at the INSPIRE Lab at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Enrollment in “The Up-LIFT Study of Non-Invasive ARC Therapy for Spinal Cord Injury” began at Spaulding in February 2021, and screening of potential participants is ongoing. Information about the study can be found [here](#).

### SCI Model System Publishes Biannual Newsletter

Researchers from the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#) recently published the 11th edition of the biannual **MRSCICS Matters** newsletter. The team sent more than 1,200 hard copies through the mail and developed an electronic version for distribution via email to SCIMS participants and community collaborators. This newsletter featured consumer-focused articles on expansion of the Rehabilitation Measures Database, brain-computer interface research at the Universities of Chicago and Pittsburgh, and respiratory health after SCI. You can access this newsletter, plus all previous versions, on the SRALab Archives website [here](#).



## Burn Injury (BURN)

### MSKTC Researcher to Present at the American Academy of Dermatology Meeting

Ali A. Weinstein, PhD, a researcher from the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), will present the poster, “Examination of Health Information Needs of Caregivers of and Individuals with Burn injuries,” at the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Meeting, April 23-25. The poster summarizes findings from interviews with burn survivors and their caregivers who identified various needs in finding relevant health information, highlighting gaps in current literature and its dissemination. One potential way to address these deficiencies is to more directly involve individuals with burn injuries and caregivers in research. Participants of this study expressed interest in such future research. Non-presenting authors are Geeta Ahuja, MD, Tammie M. Jones, MS, MHA, Alaanah Bhanji, and Ramez Bakhtar. For more information about the meeting click [here](#).

### Burn Model System Researchers Publish in *Burns*

Burn Model System researchers recently published the article, “Measuring the impact of burn injury on the parent-reported health outcomes of children 1-to-5 years: Item pool development for the Preschool1-5 Life Impact Burn Recovery Evaluation (LIBRE) Profile,” in **Burns**. Due to the rapid developmental growth in preschool-aged children, more precise measurement of the effects of burns on child health outcomes is needed. The authors developed a conceptual framework describing domains important in assessing recovery from burn injury among preschool-aged children (1–5 years). The authors developed a working conceptual framework based on the Shriners Hospitals for Children/American Burn Association Burn Outcome Questionnaire 0 to 5 (BOQ0–5), the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine’s Model of Child Health, and the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health for Children and Youth. The authors reviewed 95 pediatric assessments, conducted two clinician focus groups and six parent interviews, and consulted with 23 clinician experts to iteratively refine the framework. Data were qualitatively analyzed using methods informed by grounded theory, and three child health outcome domains emerged from the analysis: symptoms, functioning, and family. Authors are from the following currently-funded Burn Model System centers: [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) (Gabrielle G. Grant, BA; Keri J.S. Brady, MPH; Frederick J. Stoddard, MD; Khushbu F. Patel, PhD; R. Christopher Sheldrick, SPH; Alice Carter, PhD; Robert L. Sheridan, MD; Mary D. Slavin, PT, PhD; Jeffrey C. Schneider, MD; Lewis E. Kazis, ScD; and Colleen M. Ryan, MD) and [Pediatric Burn Injury Rehabilitation Model System](#) (Walter J. Meyer, MD) with Kathleen S. Romanowski, Philip H. Chang, Lynda E. Painting, Laura A. Fowler, Judith K. Nelson, Petra Warnerk, and Tina L. Palmieri. View the abstract [here](#).



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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)