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## Headlines from the MSKTC

Connecting consumers to research-based information in  
Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord 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 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 26, 28, 30, 2021**  
[Knowledge Translation for Disability & Rehabilitation Research \(KTDRR\) Virtual Knowledge Translation Conference](#)

### TBI and SCI Model System Researchers Recruiting Participants for Clinical Trial

Researchers from the [University of Washington Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) and [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#) are recruiting individuals to participate in a clinical trial of the [Employment-Related Telephone Intervention for Pain Study](#) (E-TIPS), a cognitive-behavioral pain self-management intervention delivered by telephone. To be eligible, participants must be at least 18-year-old, self-report a physical disability with chronic pain, and be employed 15-20 hours per week or more on average. Participants who are randomized into treatment will receive individual cognitive behavioral therapy over the telephone. No in-person visits will be required, and participants will be compensated. For more information, contact Angelika Kudla at [akudla@sralab.org](mailto:akudla@sralab.org) or call (312) 238-8167.



## Burn Injury (BURN)

### MSKTC and Burn Model System Win Bronze Telly 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 2021 Bronze Telly 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 Telly Awards is the premier award honoring video and television across all screens. Learn more [here](#).

### Burn Model System Researchers Publish in *Journal of Burn Care & Research*

Burn Model System (BMS) researchers published the article, "Living well' after burn injury: Using case reports to illustrate significant contributions from the Burn Model System research program," in *Journal of Burn Care & Research*. This research review describes how 25 years of contributions from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research's (NIDILRR) BMS program have impacted the recovery and lives of individuals with a significant burn injury. Using case reports, unique BMS contributions to patient recovery were identified and categorized into one of several domains: treatment, assessment measures, sequelae, peer support, employment, and long-term functional outcomes. The case study participants featured in this review identified NIDILRR research contributions as having direct, personal benefit to their recovery. Authors are from the following currently-funded BMS centers: [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#) (Gretchen J. Carrougher, MN, RN; Kara McMullen, MPH; and Nicole Gibran, MD, FACS), [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) (Audrey E. Wolfe, MPH; and Jeffrey Schneider, MD), [North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System](#) (Radha Holavanahalli, PhD; and Loren Patterson), and [Burn Model System Data and Statistical Center](#) (Dagmar Amtmann, PhD) with Diana Tenney, Joseph Yeakley, and Christopher Madison. View the abstract [here](#).

### Burn Model System Researcher Participates in Online Forum: "The Human Cost of Incendiary Weapons and Shortcomings of International Law"

Jeffrey Schneider, MD, principal investigator for the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#), participated in "The Human Cost of Incendiary Weapons and Shortcomings of International Law," an online forum hosted by Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic. This online event highlighted the horrific human cost of incendiary weapons and the need for a more effective international response. Dr. Schneider discussed the complexities of treating burn injuries and the long-term

physical, psychological, cognitive, and social impacts burn injury survivors face. Dr. Schneider and the other presenters drew on their first-hand experiences and professional expertise to detail the humanitarian consequences of incendiary weapons and called on states to strengthen international law regulating their use. Learn more about the event [here](#).



## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

### **TBI Model System Researchers Publish in *Journal of Neurotrauma***

TBI Model System researchers collaborated with researchers at INROADS: Intersecting Research on Opioid Misuse, Addiction, and Disability Services and recently published the article, "Association between lifetime history of traumatic brain injury, prescription opioid use, and persistent pain: A nationally representative study," in *Journal of Neurotrauma*. The study found that persistent pain among adults with lifetime TBI is elevated compared with the general population, which may contribute to increased opioid use among persons with TBI, particularly those with recent injuries or multiple lifetime TBIs. The authors noted that pain is the most commonly cited reason for starting an opioid prescription in the general population, and people with TBI are more likely to have persistent pain than those without TBI. A significant number of participants in this study reported a history of TBI and pain, and they were more likely to report using opioids for pain. People with TBI who use opioids for pain management may be at risk for developing an opioid use disorder or unintentional poisoning from overuse of these drugs. Physicians and pain management specialists may want to be aware of their patient's history of TBI, particularly multiple or later-in-life TBI, when developing pain management plans. Authors are from the following currently-funded Model System centers: [New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Raj G. Kumar, PhD, MPH; Katherine A. Ornstein, PhD, MPH; and Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD) and [Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (John D. Corrigan, PhD) with Rachel Sayko Adams, PhD, MPH. View the abstract [here](#).

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

TBI Model System researchers recently published the article, "Enhancing self-advocacy after traumatic brain injury: A randomized controlled trial," in *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. The study sought to evaluate the efficacy of a novel intervention - a manualized group intervention, Self-Advocacy for Independent Life (SAIL) - aimed at enhancing self-advocacy in individuals living with TBI. The study found individuals living with chronic TBI sequelae can increase self-efficacy specific to self-advocacy, general self-efficacy, and satisfaction with life, through a TBI-specific intervention aimed at empowering individuals to advocate for their own needs and wishes. Sustaining gains over time may require ongoing community collaboration and support. This could involve community-based systems of self-advocacy education, resources, and peer support. Authors are from the [Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System](#) (Lenore Hawley, MSSW, LCSW, CBIST; Clare Morey, MA CCC-SLP; Mitch Sevigny, MS; Jessica Ketchum, PhD; Cynthia Harrison-Felix, PhD, FACRM; and Candace Tefertiller, PT, DPT, PhD, NCS) with Grahame Simpson, PhD. View the abstract [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)

### **Resource Highlight: MSKTC Online Courses — "Safe Wheelchair Transfer Training"**

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), in collaboration with researchers from the SCI Model System and the American Institutes for Research (AIR), recently published the online course entitled, "Safe Wheelchair Transfer Training." This training will teach how to position their chair and body correctly to avoid injury while transferring between two surfaces. The course covers how to perform special transfers, such

as car and shower. It is designed for manual and power wheelchair users and anyone interested in learning about a three-phase technique for safe wheelchair transfers. The course was developed by researchers from the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#) and AIR, with support from the MSKTC. The course is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).

**SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Assistive Technology***

SCI Model System researchers recently published the article, "Development and efficacy of an online wheelchair maintenance training program for wheelchair personnel," in ***Assistive Technology***. Researchers sought to develop an online version of the wheelchair maintenance training program (WMTP) and compare learning outcomes from the in-person and online programs using the wheelchair maintenance training questionnaire (WMT-Q), administered before and after the intervention. This study indicates that there was a similar-increased knowledge for participants, indicating that web-based training may be a viable approach for delivering maintenance training. Authors are from the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#) (Jon Pearlman, PhD; Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, ATP; Michael Boninger, MD; and Rory A. Cooper, PhD) with Sara Múnera and Maria Toro. View the article [here](#).

**SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Archives of Rehabilitation Research and Clinical Translation***

SCI Model System researchers recently published the article, "Concurrent validity and reliability of the Transfer Assessment Instrument Questionnaire (TAI-Q) as a self-assessment measure," in ***Archives of Rehabilitation Research and Clinical Translation***. Researchers sought to evaluate the psychometric properties of the Transfer Assessment Instrument Questionnaire (TAI-Q), a self-assessment measure to evaluate transfer quality compared with clinician-reported measures. The study found that when paired with video review, the TAI-Q demonstrates moderate to acceptable levels of reliability and validity for the total score. Self-assessment was completed quickly (<5min) and could help to potentially screen for deficiencies in transfer quality and opportunities for intervention. Authors are from the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#) (Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, ATP; Stephanie Rigot, DPT; Michael L. Boninger, MD; Randall Huzinec, PT; and Kaitlin DiGiovine) with J.H. Sung, and L.A. Rice. View the article [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, "Spinal Stimulation for Individuals with Paraplegia," as part of the ***Knowledge in Motion*** lecture series. Lisa A. Beck, MS, APRN, CNS, CRRN, clinical nurse specialist, and Megan Gill, PT, DPT, NCS, clinician-researcher, of the Mayo Clinic, described different options of spinal stimulation available currently in research, how epidural stimulation works for individuals with complete paraplegia as well as how mobility and health changes are affected with epidural stimulation. These topics were discussed during a live Q&A session. View the videos from this lecture series [here](#).

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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)**

