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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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Issue 107

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:

December 7, 2020
[Southern Region BURN Conference](#)

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](#)

Celebrating 50 Years of Improving Care and Research for People Living with Spinal Cord Injury

The Spinal Cord Injury Model System (SCIMS) program is celebrating 50 years of research to improve care and outcomes for people with SCI. The SCIMS has grown from one center in Arizona to a network of more than 31 different centers in the United States that have received recognition as SCI Model System centers over the life of the program. Currently, there are 14 SCIMS centers that conduct research across the United States, funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). Each SCIMS center carries out its own site-specific research projects and collaborates with other centers on module research projects. Each of these centers contributes data to the [National SCI Model System Database](#), which is the world's largest and longest-active SCI research database. The SCIMS program collaborates with the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) to translate research to develop a variety of user-friendly resources such as factsheets, videos, narrated slideshows, and quick reviews. Learn more about the achievements and current activities of the SCI Model System centers from the MSKTC [here](#). Learn more about the SCIMS 50th anniversary [here](#).



Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

TBI Model System Researchers Publish ACRM Endorsed Case Definition

TBI Model System researchers recently completed a long-term project on establishing a case definition for the post-traumatic confusional state. The resulting case definition has been endorsed by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, and the article, "Post-traumatic confusional state: A case definition and diagnostic criteria," appears in the November issue of *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. Authors from the currently-funded TBI Model System centers include: [Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System of TIRR](#) (Mark Sherer, PhD, ABPP, FACRM), [Spaulding-Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Yelena G. Bodien, PhD; Joseph Giacino, PhD), [JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (Brian Greenwald, MD), [Indiana University School of Medicine / Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana TBI](#) (Flora Hammond, MD), and [Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation TBI Model System Center](#) (Risa Nakase-Richardson, PhD). View the article [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 mstkct@air.org to register.



Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

SCI Model System Researcher Serves on U.S. Government Accountability Office

Expert Panel

Anne Deutsch, PhD, SCIMS Data Scientist from the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), recently served on an expert panel during a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) meeting on Long-Term Health Care Costs for Firearm Injuries. The meeting was convened by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

SCI Model System Researcher Presents at EX4L

David Rosenblum, MD, from the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) presented to the Exercise 4 Life Program (EX4L) at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare's Physical Therapy Orthopedics & Sports Medicine clinic in Cheshire, CT. The presentation reviewed the specific challenges people with SCI may face, research on exercise in SCI, and a discussion on the importance of routine exercise to help prevent medical complications following SCI. Funded by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, the EX4L Program offers participants the opportunity to work simultaneously with exercise physiologists and physical therapists in an adaptive gym setting.

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

SCI Model System researchers recently published the article, "A comparison of diagnostic stability of the ASIA Impairment Scale versus Frankel Classification Systems for traumatic spinal cord injury," in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. The study found more individuals diagnosed with neurologically incomplete SCI regressed to complete status at 1 year when using the Frankel system compared with American Spinal Injury Association Impairment Scale (AIS) classification, which is based on sacral sparing. This reinforces the finding that the "sacral sparing" definition is a more stable classification in traumatic SCI. Authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System centers: [Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System](#) (Steven Kirshblum, MD; Amanda Botticello, PhD, MPH; and John Benedetto, MS), [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) (Jayne M. Donovan, MD), and [Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley](#) (Ralph Marino, MD), with Shelly Hsieh, MD; and Nicole Wagaman, DO. View the abstract [here](#).

SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *The Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*

SCI Model System researchers recently published the article, "Reliability of S3 pressure sensation and voluntary hip adduction/toe flexion and agreement with deep anal pressure and voluntary anal contraction in classifying persons with traumatic spinal cord injury," in *The Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*. The study found pressure sensation at the S3 dermatome (S3P), and voluntary hip adductor or toe flexor contraction (VHTC) show promise as alternatives to deep anal pressure (DAP) and voluntary anal sphincter contraction (VAC) for determining sacral sparing in persons with neurologic levels T10 and above. Reliability and agreement should be evaluated at earlier timepoints and in children with SCI. Authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System centers: [Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley](#) (Ralph Marino, MD), [Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System](#) (Steven Kirshblum, MD; and Trevor Dyson-Hudson, MD), [Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (Edelle Field-Fote, PhD), and [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) (Ross Zafonte, DO), with Mary Schmidt-Read, PT, DPT, MS; and Anna Chen, MD. View the abstract [here](#).

SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Spinal Cord*

SCI Model System researchers recently published the article, "The effect of zoledronic acid on attenuation of bone loss at the hip and knee following acute traumatic spinal cord injury: A randomized-controlled study," in *Spinal Cord*. The study sought to examine the effect of early intravenous zoledronic acid (ZA) on bone markers and areal bone mineral density (aBMD) in persons with acute ASIA Impairment Scale (AIS) A traumatic SCI. Authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System center: [Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley](#) (Christina V. Oleson, MD; Ralph Marino, MD; and Benjamin E. Leiby, PhD), with Christopher S. Formal, MD; and Christopher M. Modlesky, PhD. View the abstract [here](#).

SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Spinal Cord*

SCI Model System researchers from Texas Model Spinal Cord Injury System at TIRR, Radha Korupolu, MD; Argyrios Stampas, MD; and colleagues recently published a paper entitled, "Comparing outcomes of mechanical ventilation with high vs. moderate tidal volumes in tracheostomized patients with spinal cord injury in acute inpatient rehabilitation setting: A retrospective cohort study," in *Spinal Cord*. The study evaluated the safety and efficacy of high versus moderate tidal volumes in SCI patients on mechanical ventilation via tracheostomy during acute inpatient rehabilitation. The results suggest that higher tidal volumes were associated with increased risk of pneumonia and higher odds of adverse pulmonary events. View the abstract [here](#).

SCI Model System to Host Lecture and Webcast in Knowledge in Motion Lecture Series

Researchers from the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) will host 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, will discuss 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 will also be discussed with a live Q&A session. The lecture and webcast will be held Wednesday, December 2, 6:30-8:00pm ET. Online registration is free and required. Register [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 new infocomic entitled, "Bowel Function after SCI." 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 to register.



Burn Injury (BURN)

Burn Model System Researcher Publishes in *PM & R*

Jeffrey Schneider, MD, project director of the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#), recently published the article, "Ambulatory rehabilitation of patients hospitalized with SARS CoV-2 infections: Early pandemic experience in New York City and Boston," in *PM & R*. This study was a collaboration between Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Columbia University Medical Center. The report describes how the teams were able to create a novel clinical program to evaluate and treat patients with rehabilitation needs following their hospitalization for COVID-19. View the article [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 msktc@air.org to register.



Connect with us by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter. We have three injury areas:



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