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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 106

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](#)

### Resource Highlight: Employment after Injury

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), as observed by the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). ODEP is celebrating the 75th observance of NDEAM and the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with the theme "Increasing Access and Opportunity." The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) compiles employment-related research and resources in the [Employment Outcomes program database](#). Learn more [here](#).

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) has developed additional resources to support individuals adapting to working after injury:

SCI Resources: "Employment after SCI"

- SCI Model System researchers, in collaboration with the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), developed consumer resources on "Employment after SCI," which include a factsheet, slideshow, and publications. Work is important to people not only because they can earn an income and receive health insurance and other benefits, but also because it gives them opportunities to interact with others and improve self-esteem and overall life satisfaction. Although there is no cause-effect relationship, there are consistent findings in the research that people who are employed after SCI live longer and report higher satisfaction with life and better health than people who are not working. The factsheet was developed by researchers from the [Burn Model Systems Data and Statistical Center](#) (Kurt Johnson, PhD) and the [Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (Jim Krause, PhD), with support from the MSKTC. The resources may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. The hot topic module is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).

Burn Resources: "Employment After Burn Injury" Hot Topic Module

- Burn Model System researchers, in collaboration with the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), developed the "Employment After Burn Injury" hot topic module, which includes a factsheet, slideshow, and video series. Returning to work after a burn injury can be an important phase of recovery that helps individuals return to a routine. Work not only provides an income and other benefits, but can also offer a sense of purpose and confidence that is critical in maintaining a higher quality of life. The factsheet was developed by researchers from the [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#) (Shelley A. Wiechman, PhD; and Sabina Brych, BS), with support from the MSKTC. This factsheet was reviewed and updated by researchers from [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#), the Northwest Regional Burn Model System, and other non-Model System researchers. The resources may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. The hot topic module is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).

## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

### TBI Model System Researcher Presents at John and Rosa Cifu Lectureship in Traumatic Brain Injury

Thomas A. Novack, PhD, ABPP, co-director of the [University of Alabama at Birmingham Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) (UAB-TBIMS), presented at the 4th Annual John and Rosa Cifu Lectureship in Traumatic Brain Injury on October 28. Dr. Novak presented a virtual Zoom lecture entitled, "Return to Driving After TBI." Learn more about the UAB-TBIMS work [here](#).

### Resource Highlight: "Voting Tips for People Living with Traumatic Brain Injury" Factsheet

TBI Model System researchers, in collaboration with the [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), recently published the consumer factsheet entitled, "Voting Tips for People Living with Traumatic Brain Injury." People with traumatic brain injury (TBI) may experience challenges in voting due to a range of impairments in physical, auditory, visual, communication, cognitive, emotional, or behavioral function. Obstacles may include registering to vote, remembering to vote, accessing transportation, physically navigating the polling place, understanding ballot design, and utilizing technologies for voting. All that on top of deciding who to vote for! The information in this factsheet is intended to help people with brain injury overcome such obstacles. The factsheet was developed by researchers from the [Indiana University School of Medicine / Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana TBI](#) (Flora M. Hammond, MD, FACRM) along with Mark A. Hirsch, PhD, FACRM; Christine S. Davis, PhD; Julia Nelson Snow, MA; Martha Kropf, PhD; and Jason Karlawish, MD, in collaboration with the MSKTC. The factsheet, available in both English and Spanish, may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website [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 [msktc@air.org](mailto:msktc@air.org) to register.

## Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

### SCI Model System Researcher Receives 2020 Mulcahey Award

Jennifer Coker, PhD, MPH, from the [Rocky Mountain Regional Spinal Injury System](#), presented her research and received the 2020 MJ Mulcahey Award for Research in Outcomes Measurement from the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA). The Mulcahey Award recognizes the best abstract submitted to the annual ASIA conference, in the field of outcomes measurement (or outcomes research) in spinal cord injury rehabilitation. Dr. Coker received the award as the lead author of the paper, "Evaluation of a self-report method to obtain ASIA Impairment Scale in people with SCI who reside in the community." View the abstract [here](#). Learn more about the award [here](#).

### SCI Model System Researchers Present at ASIA Symposium

Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator (co-PI) of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), and William Z. Rymer, MD, PhD, co-PI of the Acute Intermittent Hypoxia collaborative module, participated in the American Spinal Cord Injury Association (ASIA) 2020 online conference. Dr. Heinemann co-moderated a course entitled, "Refining Outcomes Measurement in Humans with Spinal Cord Injury," which focused on measurement resources by the International Classification of Functioning and the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab Rehabilitation Measures Database. Dr. Rymer moderated a course entitled, "A Critical Analysis of Four Major New Technological Innovations for Treatment of Chronic Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury," which highlighted the work of SCIMS collaborators. View the 2020 ASIA program [here](#).

### SCI Model System Researchers Participate in ACRM Annual Conference

SCI Model System researchers presented their work at, and participated in, the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) 97th Annual Conference, October 19-24. ACRM

holds the largest interdisciplinary rehabilitation research event each fall, and, for the first time, the programming was accessible from anywhere in the world. Learn more [here](#).

Model System researcher presents plenary session at ACRM:

- Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), presented the plenary session entitled, "100 Years of the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: A Legacy of Disseminating the Best Evidence." The session celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Presenters reviewed the historical impact of the well-known journal on the field of physical rehabilitation and highlighted landmark papers from the past century. A group of panelists hosted a roundtable discussion following the presentation. Learn more [here](#).

Model System researchers host symposium at ACRM:

- SCI Model System researchers hosted a symposium that highlighted 50 years of the Spinal Cord Injury Model System's work entitled, "The Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems Program at 50 Years Old: Overview of the Database." Authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System centers: [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#) (Anne Deutsch, PhD, RN), [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center](#), (Yuying Chen, MD, PhD), [Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System](#) (Jeanne Zanca, PhD, MPT; Trevor Dyson-Hudson, MD; and Amanda Botticello, PhD), [South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems](#) (David Gater, MD, PhD; and Liz Felix, PhD), and Texas Spinal Cord Injury Model System at TIRR (Heather Taylor, PhD), with Ken Wood, PhD, and Theresa San Augustin, MD.

Model System researchers presented the following posters at ACRM:

- Huacong Wen, PhD, from the [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center](#), presented the poster, "Linking individual data from the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems center and local trauma registry: Development and validation of probabilistic matching algorithm." Non-presenting authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System centers: National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center (Yuying Chen, MD, PhD), [University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (Russell Griffin, PhD), and [Northeast Ohio Regional Spinal Cord Injury System](#) (Mary Jo Roach, PhD; and Michael C. Kelly, MD). Learn more [here](#).
- Mark Sweatman, PhD, MBA, from the [Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), presented the poster, "Modified PRISM and SCI-SET spasticity measures for persons with traumatic spinal cord injury: Results of a Rasch analyses." Authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System centers: Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System (Mark Sweatman, PhD, MBA; Catherine L. Furbish, DPT, PT, DPT, CLT; and Edelle Field-Fote, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FASIA), and [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#) (Allen W. Heinemann, PhD, ABPP, FACRM). Learn more [here](#).
- Susan Robinson-Whelen, PhD, from the Texas Spinal Cord Injury Model System at TIRR, presented the poster, "Zest: An online psychological health promotion program for women with SCI." Non-presenting authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System center: Texas Spinal Cord Injury Model System at TIRR (Heather B. Taylor, PhD; Linda Norah-Davis, JD; Gonzalez Diana, BS; and Margaret A. Nosek, PhD), with Rosemary B. Hughes, PhD. Learn more [here](#).

#### **SCI Model System Researcher Presents at ASCIP 2020**

Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, ATP, co-director of the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#), presented the Therapy Leadership Council Distinguished Lecture as part of the Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals (ASCIP) 2020 Virtual Conference. Dr. Worobey's lecture was titled, "Wheelchairs: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly (and What We Can Do about It)."

#### **SCI Model System Researcher Presents at the Illinois Brain Injury Association Conference**

Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), presented about employment with physical disability at the annual Illinois Brain Injury Association conference. The presentation entitled, "Job Accommodations and Job Retention Challenges after Traumatic Brain Injury," addressed barriers and facilitators affecting employers, employees, occupations, and work environments.

### **SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Neurological Research***

SCI Model System researchers recently published the article, "Can the electrically stimulated manual muscle test differentiate upper from lower motor neuron injury in persons with acute SCI?" in *Neurological Research*. The study sought to determine if the motor response on the stimulated manual muscle test (SMMT) in muscles with a grade 0 motor score on the manual muscle test (MMT) can differentiate lower motor neuron (LMN) from upper motor neuron (UMN) injury based on the presence of spontaneous activity (SA) with needle electromyography (EMG). The study concluded the use of the SMMT as a clinical measure to differentiate LMN from UMN integrity may be limited when applied. Authors are from the following currently-funded SCI Model System centers: [University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) (Cassandra Renfro, MD), and [Northeast Ohio Regional Spinal Cord Injury System](#) (Maria Grabnar, MD; Kevin Kilgore, PhD; Anne Bryden, MA, OTR/L; Mary Joan Roach, PhD; and Greg Nemunaitis, MD), with Ashley de Padua, MD. View the abstract [here](#).

### **SCI Model System Researchers Submit Publication to *Archives of Rehabilitation Research and Clinical Translation***

SCI Model System researchers recently submitted the article, "Concurrent validity and reliability of the Transfer Assessment Instrument Questionnaire (TAI-Q) as a self-assessment measure," to *Archives of Rehabilitation Research and Clinical Translation*. 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.

### **SCI Model System Hosts Annual Advisory Board Meeting**

The [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#) (MRSCICS) at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (SRALab) hosted a virtual annual Advisory Board Meeting. The meeting highlighted SCIMS research project updates and facilitated discussion between various collaborators to identify needs of the SCI community and future research directions. Feature presentations included an update from FacingDisability regarding the completion of their new 10-part video series, "Voices of Experience: Living with Spinal Cord Injury," and results of an analysis of SRALab's LIFE Center Peer Mentor Program designed to evaluate outcomes of SCI peer mentor interactions using data collected through the National SCIMS Database. Access FacingDisability's video series [here](#), and find SCI resources at the LIFE Center [here](#).

### **SCI Model System Hosts 24th Annual MetroHealth SCI Forum**

The [Northeast Ohio Regional Spinal Cord Injury System](#) hosted the 24th Annual MetroHealth SCI Forum virtually. Two SCI Model System research coordinators, Megan Hammond and Ariel Jordan, led the planning committee of this Forum. More than 100 people registered for the event from across the country. During the all-day event, speakers covered various topics, including Keynote Speaker, Hanane Hmada, who has lived with a SCI since 2012, and a 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Additional sessions provided information for living successfully with SCI: Fitness and Nutrition, 'Ask the Medical Panel,' and Dating/Sexuality/Relationships. View the sessions [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 [mstkctc@air.org](mailto:mstkctc@air.org) to register.

## **Burn Injury (BURN)**

### **Resource Highlight: "Sexuality and Intimacy After Burn Injury" Video Series**

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC), in collaboration with Burn Model System researchers, recently published the consumer video series entitled, "Sexuality and Intimacy After Burn Injury." The video series was developed by researchers from the [North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System](#), with support from the MSKTC. The feature 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 at the North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System who explain the importance of openly discussing the multifaceted nature of sexuality and intimacy after burn injury. The videos may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. The series is available on the MSKTC website [here](#).

### **Burn Model System Researchers Publish in *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation***

Burn Model System researchers recently published the article, "Racial/ethnic disparities in longitudinal trajectories of community integration after burn injury," in ***American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation***. The study aimed to examine potential racial/ethnic disparities in community integration for the first two years following burn injury. The study found that additional rehabilitation resources should be focused on helping Black and Hispanic individuals integrate back into their communities after burn injury. Authors are from the following currently-funded Burn Model System centers: [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) (Jeffrey Schneider, MD) and [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#) (Shelley A. Wiechman, PhD, ABPP), with Bradford S. Pierce; Paul B. Perrin, PhD; Miceal Pugh, MS; Annahir N. Cariello; Richard S. Henry; and Megan Sutter, PhD. View the abstract [here](#).

#### **Burn Model System Researchers Publish in *PLOS ONE***

Researchers from the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) recently published the article, "Inhalation injury is associated with long-term employment outcomes in the burn population: Findings from a cross-sectional examination of the Burn Model System National Database," in ***PLOS ONE***. The study found that burn survivors with inhalation injury were less likely to be employed at 24-months post-injury compared to survivors who did not have inhalation injury. Understanding the long-term effects of inhalation injury is important for improving support and resources to survivors and their families. View the article [here](#).

#### **Burn Model System Offers Virtual Yoga Class**

The [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) is partnering with [Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers](#) at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, MA, to offer a free virtual yoga class for people with disabilities. This class will be offered via Zoom every Tuesday afternoon, 4:00-5:00pm ET. This movement class is rooted in the mindfulness and intentions of yoga designed for the adaptive community and people of all physical abilities. Interested individuals should sign up on the Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers website by creating a profile and searching the class offerings. Register [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 [mstkct@air.org](mailto:mstkct@air.org) to register.



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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)