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Rehabilitation Journal Dedicates Latest Issue to Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems Research

Crystal City, VA—The *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (Archives)* dedicated its entire [April 2022 issue](#) to recent findings from the [Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems \(SCIMS\)](#). The journal published 25 SCIMS articles, covering a sample of SCIMS research from 2016-2021. Research topics focus on health and function, health services, assistive technology for mobility, and other topics of importance to those living with spinal cord injury (SCI).

SCIMS are supported by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For 52 years, SCIMS centers have conducted research to improve long-term outcomes for individuals with SCI and provided comprehensive care systems for persons with SCI. Researchers from the 14 SCIMS centers conduct research both collaboratively and through site-specific independent studies. The *Archives* distilled their innovative research efforts from 2016-2021 to address the emerging needs of people with SCI in their latest issue. This special issue serves as an important vehicle for sharing SCI research with the medical community and individuals who live with SCI.

“The *Archives* special issue demonstrates the continuing value of NIDILRR’s investment in improving the lives of persons with SCI through disability and rehabilitation research,” said Allen Heinemann, PhD, principal investigator of the Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System (MRSCIS) and Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Archives*. “The SCI community can use the latest NIDILRR-funded SCIMS research in this issue to help improve the care and quality of life for people with SCI.”

In addition to the articles that appear in the April 2022 special issue of *Archives*, SCIMS researchers have contributed to more than 900 articles on SCI outcomes. [Abstracts for these articles](#) are available online. Each SCIMS center also contributes to the [National SCIMS Database](#), the world largest longitudinal database in SCI.

“The National SCI Model Systems Database is a national and international treasure that has generated dozens of articles that document the long-term outcomes of people living with SCI,” said Yuying Chen, MD, PhD, NSCISC director. “We encourage researchers and the public to access our database to better understand SCI outcomes.”

NIDILRR employs knowledge translation by engaging stakeholders throughout the research process to maximize the use, relevance, and quality of research that it funds. SCIMS collaborate with the NIDILRR-funded [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center \(MSKTC\)](#) to translate SCIMS research findings into plain language in user-friendly formats.

“Our knowledge translation approach involves engaging consumers throughout the research and development process,” said Xinsheng “Cindy” Cai, PhD, director of the MSKTC. “Individuals with SCI and

their families take part in the MSKTC research activities, help create and test MSKTC resources, and share these free research-based resources with those who will benefit from them the most.”

SCIMS and *Archives* have collaborated for over three decades to disseminate SCIMS research via *Archives* special issues in 1999, 2004, 2011, 2016, and now 2022. *Archives* is published by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM).

"ACRM is very grateful for its long collaboration with SCIMS and MSKTC," said Jon Lindberg, ACRM CEO. "Over the course of many years, SCIMS and MSKTC researchers have presented at ACRM conferences, published in ACRM journals, and been a vibrant part of our membership community. We hope the readers of *Archives* all around the world find great value in this special issue of SCIMS research and use it as a reference for years to come."

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About the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) is a national Center that supports the Model Systems programs in meeting the information needs of individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and burn injury by summarizing research, identifying health information needs, and developing and disseminating information resources. The MSKTC is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). Model Systems are funded by NIDILRR to conduct innovative and high-quality research, provide patient care, and offer services to improve the health and overall quality of life of individuals with [SCI](#), [TBI](#), and [burn injury](#).

About the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*

The [American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine](#) (ACRM) serves a global community of researchers and clinicians who deliver evidence-based rehabilitation interventions to people with disabling conditions, such as traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, neurodegenerative disease, cancer, chronic pain and limb loss. ACRM is committed to disseminating research and educating providers, while supporting advocacy efforts to ensure adequate public funding of research endeavors. ACRM comes back together in person this November at our [Annual Conference](#).

ACRM publishes its official journal the [Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation](#), which shares original, peer-reviewed research and clinical reports on important trends and developments in physical medicine and rehabilitation and related fields. This international journal brings researchers and clinicians authoritative information on the therapeutic utilization of physical, behavioral, and pharmaceutical agents in providing comprehensive care for individuals with chronic illness and disabilities. Started in 1920, *Archives* is a monthly publication. Its papers are cited more often than any other rehabilitation journal.