

## Headlines From the Center

*Connecting consumers to research-based treatments and practices in  
Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Burn Injury*

[MSKTC.org](http://MSKTC.org)

**March 2012, Issue 3**

### **TBI Model Systems Study Published in the New England Journal of Medicine**

A NIDRR-funded TBI Model Systems Collaborative Grant study was published recently in the New England Journal of Medicine. Drs. Joseph Giacino (JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute) and John Whyte (Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute) led the placebo-controlled trial. The study showed that daily doses of a Parkinson's drug significantly improved function in patients who were thought to be beyond the reach of treatment. If the study results can be replicated, promise exists for an effective standardized treatment for injuries that are currently considered untreatable.

[Click here](#) for the study in the New England Journal of Medicine.

[Click here](#) for New York Times coverage of this study.

### **TBI Model Systems Represented at the 2012 Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day**

The National Data and Statistical Center for the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems, together with the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center, participated in the annual Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) Awareness Day. The event was held March 21 on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, and convened individuals with TBI, policymakers, advocates, researchers, and other stakeholders. Information about TBI Model Systems was distributed to participants during the awareness fair. Moreover, Dr. Jordan Grafman of the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, a TBI Model Systems grantee, served as a panelist during the congressional briefing; he discussed the TBI research that Kessler is currently conducting and proposed innovative solutions using mobile devices to support TBI survivors after they exit rehabilitation.

[Click here](#) for additional information about the CBITF Awareness Day.

### **Burn Model Systems Grantees to Participate in the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Burn Association**

Burn Model Systems (BMS) researchers will participate in the American Burn Association's 44th Annual Meeting from April 24–27 in Seattle, Washington. The American Burn Association is dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by burn injury through patient care, education, research, and advocacy. BMS members will present on topics including wound care, reconstruction, rehabilitation, pain management, nutrition, public health, and psychosociology.

[Click here](#) for a list of presentations involving BMS members.

[Click here](#) for details and registration regarding the meeting.

## **New Burn Model Systems Fact Sheet Offers Insight on Social Challenges Facing Burn Survivors**

A recently released fact sheet from the Burn Injury Model Systems addresses the challenges that some burn survivors experience as they transition from the hospital back into the community. *Social Interaction after Burn Injury* discusses these obstacles and suggests strategies for addressing them.

Click [here](#) to view *Social Interaction After Burn Injury* (PDF).

Click [here](#) for more information about Burn Model Systems.

## **SCI Model Systems Grantees Pilot the Ekso, a Robotic Exoskeleton**

The [Kessler Foundation Research Center](#), a SCI Model Systems grantee, is piloting the Ekso, a wearable, robotic, and battery-powered exoskeleton that helps wheelchair users with lower-extremity weakness stand and walk. The [Shepherd Center](#), another SCI Model Systems grantee, plans to pilot the Ekso in the near future.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Ekso.

## **SCI Model Systems Fact Sheet Offers Insight on Spasticity and Spinal Cord Injury**

Approximately 65%–78% of the SCI population has some amount of spasticity, which is the uncontrolled tightening or contracting of muscles. *Spasticity and Spinal Cord Injury* focuses on spasticity and discusses its causes and management.

Click [here](#) to view *Spasticity and Spinal Cord Injury* (PDF).

Click [here](#) for more information about SCI Model Systems.