

May 2017 MSKTC Headlines

=====Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) =====

SCI Model System Researchers Host Monthly Community Wheelchair Skills Classes

Researchers and clinicians at the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury \(UPMCSCI\)](#) are hosting free monthly wheelchair skills classes for the community. During these clinics, therapists work with wheelchair users on their personal goals. Goals can range from propelling their wheelchair more efficiently to advanced skills like wheelies and navigating skills. These clinics are a result of an SCI Model System collaborative project (Collaboration on Mobility Training - COMIT) between the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury \(UPMCSCI\)](#), [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System \(MRSCICS\)](#), [Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System \(NNJSCIS\)](#), [South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(SFSCIMS\)](#), and Dalhousie University that demonstrated the effectiveness of group wheelchair skills training. Learn more [here](#).

Resource Highlight: “Autonomic Dysreflexia” Factsheet

People with SCI may experience autonomic dysreflexia (sometimes referred to as autonomic hyperreflexia). It is a potentially life-threatening medical condition that may occur when there is a pain or discomfort below the level of injury. Visit the MSKTC factsheet to learn more about the medical condition and treatment options. Access the factsheet [here](#).

====Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) ===

TBI Model System Researcher Participates in Radio Interview

Tessa Hart, PhD, principal investigator of [Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System \(MTBIMS\)](#), was recently interviewed on CBS Philly Radio about the new PCORI-funded pragmatic clinical trial that will involve six TBIMS sites, including Moss TBIMS. This trial, led by researchers at the [University of Washington Traumatic Brain Injury Model System \(UWTBIMS\)](#), examines the efficacy of an enhanced discharge planning and follow-up process for improving function and quality of life for people with moderate/severe TBI and their caregivers. Learn more [here](#).

TBI Model System Center to Host Injury Prevention Initiative

The [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System \(NTX-TBIMS\)](#) will host a ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention initiative and ThinkFirst fall prevention classes this summer. The goal of the initiative is to help reduce the incidence of TBI to older Americans in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Danielle Carlton, M.S., an outreach coordinator supported by the NTX-

TBIMS, promoted the initiative at the Older Americans Month Health Fair, held May 11 in Dallas, TX. The annual health fair serves approximately 1,300 older adults each year, providing health screenings, health information, guest speakers, education and awareness campaigns, as well as promotions from various community organizations. Learn more about the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation initiatives [here](#).

Resource Highlight: “Sexuality After Traumatic Brain Injury” Factsheet and Slideshow
Changes in sexual functioning are common after TBI. The MSKTC has resources that address this issue. Access the "Sexuality After Traumatic Brain Injury" factsheet [here](#) and the slideshow [here](#).

=====Burn=====

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

Jeffrey Schneider, MD, Colleen Ryan, MD, and Laura Simko, BS, researchers of the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#), recently published an article in the *Journal of Burn Care & Research*, “Challenges to the Standardization of Burn Data Collection: A Call for Common Data Elements for Burn Care.” This study reviewed the data dictionaries of six U.S. burn databases to ascertain the extent of common data. The article highlights the need to develop common data elements and standardize coding to enhance the interoperability of burn databases. Access the abstract [here](#).

Resource Highlight: “Psychological Distress after Burn Injury” Factsheet

Psychological distress occurs in most survivors of severe burn injuries. The MSKTC factsheet, “Psychological Distress after Burn Injury,” provides information about the causes, effects, and treatment options. Access the factsheet [here](#).

Upcoming Events

July 24-27, 2017

[Annual Conference on Independent Living \(NCIL\)](#)

September 3-6, 2017

[ASCIP Conference](#)

October 23-28, 2017

[2017 ACRM Annual Conference](#)