Engaging Policymakers: A Self-Paced Course

Do you or your staff have an interest in sharing your research with policymakers? Would you like to learn more about how to engage policymakers and which knowledge translation tools are effective? Have you wondered about the difference between a Policy Factsheet and a Policy Brief and how you might use either tool? If so, consider signing up for the Engaging Policymakers online, self-paced course now offered by the MSKTC. Simply contact us at msktc@air.org for a user name and password and a link to the course. This opportunity is available to all your Model Systems grantee staff and colleagues. Please contact us with any questions.

Resource Highlight: Gait Training and Spinal Cord Injury Factsheet

Have you read the factsheet, Gait Training and Spinal Cord Injury? Some people with spinal cord injury (SCI) require practice walking with assistive devices, braces and other types of support as needed. Learn more about gait training options by accessing the factsheet here.

SCI Model Systems Release Fall 2014 Newsletters

The Southern California Spinal Cord Injury Model System (SCSCIMS) recently released the Fall 2014 issue of the newsletter SCI on Rancho. This newsletter brings the latest insights and information about projects on robotic technologies, photography as therapy, and brain-computer interfaces. The issue is available in English and Spanish.

The University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UM SCIMS) recently introduced the Fall 2014 issue of the newsletter SCI Access. This newsletter brings the latest insights and information about coping with emotions after spinal cord injury, dating, and relationships.

SCI Model System Researcher Serves as Keynote Speaker

J. Scott Richards, Ph.D., ABPP, co-director of the University of Alabama Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UAB-SCIMS), was an invited keynote speaker for the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission Annual Conference held on Sept 26, 2014 in Benton, AR. He spoke on two presentations titled: Life after spinal cord injury: wheelin' and dealin', and Providing care: challenges and opportunities.
Model System Researchers Present at the International Continence Society Annual Meeting

Model system researchers from the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UM SCIMS), recently presented at the International Continence Society Annual Meeting held on October 20-24, 2014, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Researchers presented on Urologic Surveillance and Medical Complications after Spinal Cord Injury and The Severity of Bowel Dysfunction in Patients with Neurogenic Bladder. For more information on these presentations, access the conference program.

SCI Model Systems Work Published in Two Publications

Researchers from the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UM SCIMS) recently published the article Longitudinal Analysis of Hospitalization after Spinal Cord Injury: Variation Based on Race and Ethnicity in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. This article examines the longitudinal effects of race/ethnicity on hospitalization among adults with spinal cord injury (SCI) in the 10-year period after initial injury. Access the abstract here. The article, The intersection of disability and healthcare disparities: a conceptual framework, was published in Disability and Rehabilitation. This article provides a conceptual framework for understanding healthcare disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities. Access the abstract here.

Model Systems Researchers Awarded the 2014 DeVivo Mentored Research Award

Hannah Mercier, MS, OTR/L, researcher at the New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center Model System (NERSCIC) and doctoral candidate in Rehabilitation Sciences through MGH Institute of Health Professions, is one of this year’s recipients of the DeVivo Mentored Research Award. Mercier was granted this one-year $3,000 research award for her study titled Effects of Rehospitalization among Adults with Spinal Cord Injury on Quality of Life, Independence, and Participation, by using the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SCIMS) database. In addition, Jordan Garman, DO, physical medicine and rehabilitation resident physician at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UAB-SCIMS) was awarded for his project Factors Contributing to Transition of Bladder Management Method Following Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury.

SCI Consumer Conference in the News

A consumer conference held by the Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System (NNJSCIS) was featured on WMBC-TV. The story includes an interview with co-investigator Jeanne Zanca, PhD, and highlights from the conference where more than 100 individuals with SCI and others learned about returning to work, creating new opportunities, understanding research findings, and accessing resources and services.
Model System Researcher Presents at Two International Conferences

Allen Heinemann, Ph.D., co-principal investigator for the Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System, attended the 21st Annual International Society of Quality of Life Research in Berlin, Germany on October 17, 2014. At the conference Dr. Heinemann presented two papers titled *Using the ICF’s Environmental Factors Framework to Develop an Item Bank Measuring Built and Natural Environmental Features Affecting Persons with Disabilities*; and *Do Environmental Factor Measures Identify Distinct or Common Elements?* Dr. Heinemann also presented at the Regional Center of Knowledge Translation in Rehabilitation, Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital, in Oslo, Norway on October 21, 2014. His topic was *Outcome measurement in the USA: FIM, CARE tool and PROMIS*. The next day, October 22, 2014, he spoke at the Rehabilitation Conference of the Southeastern Norway Regional Health Authority, in Lillestrøm, Norway, on the topic of outcome measures in rehabilitation.

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

Resource Highlight: *Couples Relationships after Traumatic Brain Injury*

Do you know someone in a relationship who has recently sustained a traumatic brain injury? Refer them to the *Couples’ Relationships after TBI* factsheet. Access the factsheets [here](#).

MSKTC Releases a New Factsheet: *Vision Problems after Traumatic Brain Injury*

The MSKTC has developed a new factsheet, *Vision Problems After Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)*, authored by Janet M. Powell, Ph.D., OTR/L; Alan Weintraub, M.D.; Laura Dreer, Ph.D.; and Tom Novack, Ph.D. The factsheet describes how a brain injury can affect vision, and presents common devices and strategies to manage vision problems after TBI. The factsheet is available on the MSKTC website, and may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution.

========Burn========

Resource Highlight: *Psychological Distress after Burn Injury* Factsheet

Have you read the factsheet, *Psychological Distress after Burn Injury*? Almost everyone recovering from major burns have psychological distress; learn more about health behaviors, activities, and treatments that are available. Access the factsheet [here](#).
MSKTC Seeks Parents of Children with Burn Injury

The MSKTC seeks parents of children with burn injury to test two factsheets: Going Back to School after a Major Burn Injury and Help Your Child Recover and Build Your Child's Resilience after a Burn Injury. Participants will be interviewed for their input on these factsheets and receive a $25 gift card. For more information or to schedule an interview, call 202-403-5600 or email msktc@air.org.

Upcoming Events

Jan 11, 2015  Brain Injury Summit
Feb 14-18  37th Annual John A. Boswick Maui Symposium
Apr 15-17  39th Annual Williamsburg Conference
Apr 21-24  ABA 47th Annual Meeting
May 14-16  ISCoS and ASIA Joint Scientific Meeting