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## Headlines from the MSKTC

Connecting consumers to research-based information in  
Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Burn Injury

October 2018  
Issue 82

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:

November 3-7, 2018  
[Society for Neuroscience  
48th Annual Meeting](#)

November 5, 7, and 9,  
2018  
[2018 Online KT  
Conference](#)

November 8-11, 2018  
[Southern Region BURN  
Conference](#)

### Model Systems Databases Open for Public Access

NIDILRR funds three longitudinal databases in [SCI](#), [TBI](#), and [Burn](#). Researchers at each of the NIDILRR-funded Model Systems contribute data to these databases, collected from individuals who have received treatment at their centers. Researchers, policy makers, and anyone seeking information can access de-identified data. Learn more [here](#).

### National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Celebrates 40th Anniversary

The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) held its 40th anniversary celebration on October 18 in Washington, DC. The event featured rehabilitation research professionals, including NIDILRR grantees and directors. The MSKTC displayed a poster to share the work of SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems researchers. Learn more [here](#).

### October Marks National Disability Employment Awareness Month!

October is National Disability Employment Awareness month. Access MSKTC resources on employment and returning to work, including the hot topic module, "Employment after Burn Injury" [here](#) and the factsheet, "Employment after SCI" [here](#).

### Model Systems Researchers Present at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) Annual Conference

A host of Model Systems researchers presented at the [American Congress of Rehabilitation's \(ACRM\)](#) annual conference, held September 30-October 3 in Dallas, TX. Click [here](#) for an updated list of Model Systems researchers that have submitted their presentation information to the MSKTC.

## Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

### SCI Model System Researcher Presents at NIDILRR's 40th Anniversary Celebration

Michael L. Boninger, M.D., of the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#), spoke at NIDILRR's 40th Anniversary Celebration on October 18 in Washington, DC. The title of his talk was *The Real Impact of NIDILRR*.

### SCI Model System Researcher Presents at the International Spinal Research Trust Meeting and Publishes in *Journal of Neurotrauma*

Randy Trumbower, PT, Ph.D., researcher at the [Spaulding New England Regional SCI Model Center](#) and director of [INSPIRE Lab at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital](#), was invited to speak at the International Spinal Research Trust meeting held in London, England. He presented, "Enhancing acute intermittent hypoxia-induced motor recovery in persons with SCI: a balancing act." Spinal Research is the United Kingdom's leading charity funding medical research around the world to develop effective treatments for paralysis caused by spinal cord injury. Dr. Trumbower also published "[Stimulating the Injured Spinal Cord: Plenty to Grasp](#)" in *Journal of Neurotrauma*. The article discusses a preliminary study of a non-invasive treatment that may augment spared spinal connections to restore voluntary hand function in persons with chronic, incomplete SCI. All participants showed improvement

in bilateral hand grip strength and expressed improvement in daily living activities and quality of life. Dr. Trumbower expressed the need for larger follow-up trials to gather evidence in support of a novel treatment, transcutaneous stimulation to cervical segments combined with a series of voluntary isometric hand grip tasks.

#### **SCI Model System Researcher Publishes in *Human Neural Stem Cells***

Ross Zafonte, D.O., program director at the [Spaulding New England Regional SCI Model Center](#), co-authored the article, "[Updates on Human Neural Stem Cells: From Generation, Maintenance, and Differentiation to Applications in Spinal Cord Injury Research](#)," which was published in *Human Neural Stem Cells* as part of the "Results and Problems in Cell Differentiation" book series. The article systematically summarized a set of protocols and unique procedures that have been developed in the laboratories of Professor Teng and his collaborators. They have and discuss the capability to perform reliable derivation, effective expansion, and long-term maintenance of uncommitted hNSCs and hiPSCs and their targeted phenotypic differentiations. The article further emphasizes the multimodal methodologies that were pioneered and established in the authors' laboratories for characterizing functional multipotency of stem cells and its value in basic science as well as translational biomedical studies.

**SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Archives of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation***  
Ross Zafonte, D.O.; David Rosenblum, M.D.; and Alan Jette, PT Ph.D., of the [Spaulding New England Regional SCI Model Center](#), co-authored and published the article, "[Sensitivity of the SCI-FI/AT in Individuals With Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury](#)," in *Archives of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation*. This study, conducted throughout nine SCI Model Systems, examined the ability of the Spinal Cord Injury-Functional Index/Assistive Technology (SCI-FI/AT) measure to detect change in persons with spinal cord injury. The SCI-FI/AT CAT item banks detected an increase in function from discharge to 12 months after SCI and highlights the importance of multidimensional functional measures.

#### **SCI Model System Researchers Publish in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation***

Bethlyn V. Houlihan, MSW, MPH, researcher at [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#), co-authored the article, "Wheelchair Breakdowns Are Associated With Pain, Pressure Injuries, Rehospitalization, and Self-Perceived Health in Full-Time Wheelchair Users With Spinal Cord Injury," with researchers from the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#) and the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#). Published in the October issue of *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, the article uses data from the Equity and Quality of Assistive Technology study that was conducted across multiple SCI Model Systems during the last grant cycle. View the article [here](#).

#### **SCI Model System Center to Present Knowledge in Motion Lecture and Webcast**

The [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#) will present the webcast, "Shaping the Spinal Cord Injury Research Landscape: How Consumers Can Make a Difference" at the 2018 Knowledge in Motion Lecture and Webcast Program, which will be held from 6:30-8pm ET on November 8. The webcast will feature Chloe Slocum, M.D., MPH, co-investigator at [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center](#). Dr. Slocum will explore historical perspectives in SCI research and review channels and methods by which consumers can continue to play an active role in dialogues around current and future SCI research and contemporary findings on barriers and facilitators for clinical trial participation for persons with SCI. Registration is free and required for the webcast. Click [here](#) or call (617) 952-6173 to register.

#### **SCI Model System Recruiting Wheelchair Users for Control Trial**

[The University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#) is recruiting wheelchair users for a research study to determine the effectiveness of a remote wheelchair transfer training program. The study will be conducted entirely in an online environment. To speak to a study coordinatory, call 412-648-4196 or email [eak20@pitt.edu](mailto:eak20@pitt.edu). Click [here](#) to learn more.

## **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

#### **TBI Model System Launches Primary Care Provider Education Resource Network for Traumatic Brain Injury**

[The University of Alabama at Birmingham Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) has launched the Primary Care Provider Education Resource Network for Traumatic Brain Injury. This website is offered as a free, auxiliary resource for the primary care of patients with TBI. Current topics include Anger and Irritability, Depression, Return to Driving, Sleep Disturbance, Substance Use, Wheelchair & Seating and ADA Compliance Guidelines

resources. Additional topics are to be added. The website also features 800-UAB-MIST, a 24-hour hotline for physicians to consult with a UAB specialist if needed. Learn more [here](#).

#### **Resource Highlight: “Self Awareness and Depression”**

Do you know someone who sustained a traumatic brain injury? Refer them to our “Self Awareness and Depression” quick review, which explores how self-awareness and depression are related to memory, quality of life, and satisfaction in individuals with TBI. Access the quick review [here](#).

## **Burn Injury (BURN)**

### **Burn Model System Center Hosts Annual Burn Survivor Walk for Advocacy and Awareness**

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) hosted the Burn Survivors of New England Annual Walk for Advocacy and Awareness on September 29th. Hundreds of burn survivors, friends, supporters, and volunteers joined together to support and raise money for burn survivors to attend Phoenix World Burn Congress. Learn more [here](#).

### **Burn Model System Center Researchers Publish Article in *Burns***

Researchers from the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) recently published the manuscript, “Reliability and Validity of the LIBRE Profile” in the journal, *Burns*. This article examines the psychometric properties of the LIBRE Profile. The study provided evidence that the LIBRE Profile is both reliable and valid. The LIBRE Profile is one of the first burn-specific instruments to measure social participation. View the article [here](#).

### **MSKTC Recruiting for Information Study in Burn**

The MSKTC is conducting a study involving interviews with individuals with a burn injury and caregivers of individuals with a burn injury. Interviews will help the MSKTC understand health information needs and research study engagement among participants. Click [here](#) for more information about the study and eligibility criteria.



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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)