

September 2014 MSKTC Headlines

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

September has been designated by Congress as National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month. Please visit the [MSKTC website](#) for resources on [spinal cord injury \(SCI\)](#).

Resource Highlight: *Employment and Spinal Cord Injury* Factsheet

Have you read the factsheet, *Employment and Spinal Cord Injury*? Most people with spinal cord injuries (SCI) want to work. To learn more about the resources and services available, access the factsheet [here](#).

SCI Model System Post New Forum Video

The [Northwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury System \(NWRSCIS\)](#) recently posted the video [The Use of Medical Marijuana to Manage Symptom Burden in Spinal Cord Injury](#) as part of its [SCI Forum Video series](#). The video features [Gregory T. Carter, MD, MS](#), discussing the history of medical cannabis in the U.S., the physiological effects of cannabis, and the current scientific evidence regarding the safety and effectiveness of cannabis as a treatment for neuropathic pain when used under a physician's supervision. Visit the NWRSCIS website to view more than 45 online videos on a variety of SCI topics.

SCI Model System Published Report in *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*

The [Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System Center \(NNJSCIS\)](#) recently published a report, [Racial and ethnic disparities in functioning at discharge and follow-up among patients with motor complete spinal cord injury](#) in the [Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation](#). Using data from the [National Spinal Cord Injury Database](#), the authors found small but significant differences in self-care and mobility at discharge between ethnic groups, and no difference at 1-year follow up.

SCI Model System Researcher Presents at International Spinal Cord Society Meeting

[Dr. Allen Heinemann, Ph.D.](#), co-director of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System \(MRSCICS\)](#) gave a presentation at the [53rd International Spinal Cord Society \(ISCoS\) Annual Scientific Meeting](#) held September 2nd -4th in MECC, Maastricht, The Netherlands. The presentation was titled *Development and evaluation of environmental factor instruments for use following spinal cord injury*. Additionally, Dr. Heinemann presented the poster *Patient-centered care in individuals with spinal cord injury/ disorders*, detailing an ongoing collaborative project being undertaken by research scientists from The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

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

Resource Highlight: *Emotional Problems after Traumatic Brain Injury*

Do you know someone who has emotional problems after sustaining a traumatic brain injury? Refer them to our *Emotional Problems after TBI* factsheet. Access the four factsheets [here](#).

=====Burn=====

Resource Highlight: *Body Image after Burn Injury Factsheet*

Have you read the factsheet, *Body Image after Burn Injury*? Major burn injuries can change how the body looks and functions and lead to body image distress, learn more about the phases of healing and the supports 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.

Burn Model System Work Featured in Two Publications

Researchers from the Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System (BH-BIMS) have co-authored two recent publications on the topics of pediatric pruritis and long-term outcomes of the Station Nightclub Fire that occurred in Rhode Island in 2003. [Chronic Pain Following Physical and Emotional Trauma: The Station Nightclub Fire](#) evaluates factors associated with chronic pain in survivors of a large fire, including those with and without burn injury. [Pruritis in Pediatric Burn Survivors](#), coauthored by all [four burn model systems](#), describes the prevalence and risk factors associated with pruritus in the pediatric population. Pruritus is a frequent complication that lasts for at least 2 years after injury in a majority of pediatric burn survivors.

Upcoming Events

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| September | National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month |
| Oct 6-8 | Midwestern Region Burn Conference |
| Oct 7-11 | ACRM 91st Annual Conference |
| Oct 12-16 | International Society for Burn Injuries 2014 Congress |
| Oct 22-25 | Phoenix Society's Annual World Burn Congress |