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**MSKTC.org**  
SCI • TBI • BURN

Model Systems  
Knowledge Translation  
Center

## Headlines from the MSKTC

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

April 2022  
Issue 124

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:

**May 18-20, 2022**  
[American Spinal Injury Association Conference](#)

**May 20, 2022**  
[National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research Bi-Annual Rehabilitation Speaker Series](#)

**July 25-28, 2022**  
[National Council on Independent Living Annual Conference](#)

**August 28-September 1, 2022**  
[International Society for](#)

## Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

### April 2022 Issue of *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* Dedicated to SCI Model Systems Research

The *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (Archives)* dedicated its entire [April 2022 issue](#) to recent findings from the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SCIMS), with 25 articles highlighting SCIMS research. This set of articles, which is a sample of SCIMS research from 2016 to 2021, focuses on health and function, health services, assistive technology for mobility, and other topics of importance to those living with spinal cord injury (SCI). This special issue follows prior special *Archives* issues published in 1999, 2004, 2011, and 2016; a book published in 1995; and a national SCIMS consensus conference and proceedings in 1990. This issue shows the depth and breadth of work conducted by SCIMS investigators and reflects their 52-year history of excellence providing comprehensive care systems for persons with SCI and conducting research to improve long-term outcomes for individuals with SCI. These innovative research efforts are possible with support from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Please use this [communication toolkit](#) with sample social media messages and a newsletter story to help raise awareness of this exciting milestone.

### SCI Researcher to Present at NCMRR Speaker Series

Lynn Worobey, PhD, from the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#), will be a featured speaker at the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR) bi-annual Rehabilitation Research Speaker Series on May 20, 2022. This event provides an opportunity for selected NCMRR and National Institutes of Health (NIH) rehabilitation grantees to share their research with colleagues from rehabilitation-related and other fields. Dr. Worobey will be sharing her research on enhancing independence and participation of individuals with SCI who use assistive technology as well as minimizing secondary injury. Read more about the speaker series [here](#).

### SCIMS Research Featured on NPR

Research findings from a National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) SCI Model Systems Collaborative Research Module, led by the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury](#), were featured in two recent National Public Radio (NPR) stories discussing wheelchair repairs. Participating Model System centers in this work included the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System](#), [Mount Sinai Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), [Northeast Ohio Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), and [South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#). Findings from the work show more than 50% of wheelchairs break down in a six-month period, with rates as high as 88%, and average wait times for repairs can take more than six months. These repairs are associated with increased consequences, including missing work or school and higher risk of hospitalization or pressure injury development. Find the story on wheelchair repairs [here](#) and the story on wheelchair breakdowns [here](#).

**MSKTC Publishes Respiratory Health and SCI Infocomic**

[Burn Injuries](#)**September 7-10, 2022**[Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals Annual Meeting](#)**September 15-18, 2022**[International Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#)**September 21-24, 2022**[North American Brain Injury Society Annual Conference on Brain Injury](#)**November 6-11, 2022**[American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Annual Conference](#)

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) recently published the infocomic entitled, "Respiratory Health and Spinal Cord Injury." This comic explains the ways to actively improve respiratory health after SCI, such as avoiding smoking or vaping, avoiding mucus buildup in the lungs, drinking plenty of water, and getting a flu shot every year. Respiratory issues may also develop other health problems, like pneumonia, bronchitis, and obstructive sleep apnea, which are also discussed in the infocomic. Read the infocomic [here](#).

## Burn Injury (BURN)

### **Burn Researchers Publish in the *Journal of Burn Care and Research***

Karen Kowalske, MD, from the [North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System](#) and Radha Holavanahalli, PhD, from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), recently published the article entitled, "Evaluation of Kinesiophobia in Survivors of Major Burn Injury" in the *Journal of Burn Care and Research*. The article discusses a study that explored the association of the demographics and injury characteristics of burn survivors with kinesiophobia, which is the fear of movement. The study highlights the importance of continued, long-term follow-up for burn survivors, and appropriate educational and treatment interventions to address any underlying, existing, new, or emerging medical issues that may contribute to kinesiophobia. Read the abstract [here](#).

### **MSKTC Publishes Itchy Skin After Burn Injury Infocomic**

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) recently published the infocomic entitled, "Itchy Skin After Burn Injury." Itchy skin is very common when healing from burn injury and this infocomic shares ways to manage it. This infocomic explains the importance of keeping fingernails short, using unscented laundry detergent, massaging skin with lotion, and participating in activities to distract from burn injury. Read the infocomic [here](#).

### **MSKTC Recruiting Individuals with Burn Injury and their Family Members for Burn Infocomic Testing**

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) is recruiting individuals with burn injury and their family members to provide feedback on a new infocomic about exercise after burn injury. To be eligible, participants must be at least 18 years old. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes. Participants will receive a \$25 gift card for their time. Call 202-403-5600 or email [mstkct@air.org](mailto:mstkct@air.org) to register.

## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

### **TBI Model System Partners with Hope After Brain Injury for Annual Conference**

The [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) recently partnered with Hope After Brain Injury to deliver their annual conference, "Thriving After Brain Injury: Help for the Journey." This virtual conference included presentations on mindfulness, thriving in social situations, art therapy, coping skills, peer mentoring, and music therapy. The presentations are all archived, freely available, and include several roundtable discussions led by TBI survivor, author, advocate, and Advisory Board Chair, Patti Foster. Speakers shared their knowledge and experiences to help the community thrive after brain injury. Read about the conference [here](#).

### **TBI Model System Releases Podcast on Reclaiming One's Self After TBI**

The [Northern New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury System](#) recently released the podcast entitled, "Reclaiming Yourself After Brain Injury: Hope for a 'New, New' Self." The podcast features Tara Buggie, a brain injury survivor and advocate, who shares her story and her view on reclaiming one's self after a TBI. Ms. Buggie discusses what "self" means and the impact that a TBI can have on this concept. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

### **MSKTC Publishes Quick Review on Recovery of Consciousness**

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) recently published the quick review entitled, "Recovery of Consciousness and Functional Outcome in Moderate and Severe Traumatic Brain Injury," which seeks to measure recovery of consciousness in individuals with disorders of consciousness (DOC) caused by acute TBI. Analyzing data from

TBI patients who were discharged from acute hospitalization and admitted to inpatient rehabilitation from 1989 to 2019, the study found that most who became comatose after moderate to severe TBI recovered consciousness in the short term. The results of the study can help practitioners carefully consider decisions about whether to withdraw or withhold treatments for individuals with a DOC. Read the quick review [here](#).

### **MSKTC Recruiting Individuals with Severe TBI and their Family Members for TBI Factsheet Testing**

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#) (MSKTC) is recruiting individuals with severe TBI and their family members who experienced disorders of consciousness to test a new factsheet entitled, "A Family Caregiver Guide to Selecting Rehabilitation Programs for Persons with Disorders of Consciousness (DOC)." To be eligible, participants must be at least 18 years old. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes. Participants will receive a \$25 gift card for their time. Call 202-403-5600 or email [msktc@air.org](mailto:msktc@air.org) to register.



Share this newsletter on social media

Connect with us by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter. We have three injury areas:

**SCI**



**TBI**



**Burn**



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)