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SPINAL CORD INJURY MODEL SYSTEMS RESEARCH RECOGNIZED IN OCTOBER ISSUE OF
ARCHIVES OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

WASHINGTON, DC—The *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (Archives)* dedicated its entire October 2016 edition to Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SCIMS) research by publishing 27 SCIMS articles. These articles focus on community integration, health services research, assistive technology for mobility, and other topics of importance to those living with spinal cord injury (SCI).

Over the past 5 years, researchers from 14 SCIMS have collaborated to collect data and conduct innovative research on outcomes for people who live with SCI. This collaborative effort, which has a 46-year legacy, is made possible with support from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The October 2016 *Archives* special edition serves as an important vehicle for sharing SCI outcomes research with the medical community and individuals who live with SCI.

“The *Archives* special edition demonstrates the importance of NIDILRR’s investment in research to enhance the understanding of SCI treatment and outcomes throughout the field,” said Allen Heinemann, PhD, co-principal investigator of the Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System (MRSCICS) and SCIMS chair. “Professionals and consumers alike can draw on this edition to get a better understanding of the latest NIDILRR-funded SCIMS research to inform treatment.” In addition to the articles that appear in the October 2016 special edition of *Archives*, SCIMS researchers have contributed to more than 800 articles on SCI outcomes. A database of citations for these articles is available [here](#).

The October 2016 edition of *Archives* marks the end of NIDILRR’s 2011–2016 funding cycle of SCIMS centers. “Collaborating with colleagues from other SCIMS centers has allowed us all to enhance our research and broaden our reach in the field,” said Michael L. Boninger, MD, principal investigator of the University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury and SCIMS co-chair. The University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury has been part of the SCIMS network for 16 years.

Each of the 14 SCIMS contributes data to the SCIMS National Database, which has been maintained and updated over the past 33 years by the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center (NSCISC) at The University of Alabama at Birmingham. “Researchers across the field turn to the SCIMS National Database for insight on the impact of SCI on social experiences, community integration, daily living, employment, and other factors,” said NSCISC Director

Yuying Chen, MD, PhD. “We encourage broad access to enhance the knowledge base of SCI outcomes.”

NIDILRR’s approach to SCIMS research emphasizes knowledge translation (KT) to maximize the use, relevance, and quality of research that it funds. Using a KT framework, SCIMS collaborate with the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) to translate technical research findings into plain language, and repackage findings into user-friendly products. “Our KT approach involves engaging consumers throughout the research process,” said Lesley Hudson, MA, who has been part of the SCIMS for 34 years and served as KT chair during the 2011–2016 funding cycle. “Individuals with SCI inform all of our work, from expressing research needs to testing our products to providing feedback on how they use our research.”

Access the October 2016 *Archives* edition [here](#).

Learn more about the SCIMS, and access resources developed by SCIMS and the MSKTC [here](#).

About the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center

The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) is a national center that supports the Model Systems programs in meeting the information needs of individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and burn injury by summarizing research, identifying health information needs, and developing and disseminating information resources. The MSKTC is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). Model Systems are funded by NIDILRR to conduct innovative and high-quality research, provide patient care, and offer services to improve the health and overall quality of life of individuals with SCI, TBI, and burn injury. For more information, visit www.MSKTC.org.