

August 2017 MSKTC Headlines

SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems Researchers Collaborate on Two Recently Published Journal Articles

Cheri Blauwet, MD, of the [Spaulding-Harvard Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), Ross Zafonte, DO, of the [Spaulding-Harvard Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#) and [Spaulding-Harvard Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#), and Jeffrey Schneider, MD, of the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#), along with Julie Silver, MD and other Spaulding-Harvard researchers recently published two articles highlighting gender disparities in leadership awards and lectureships within the field of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. The first article, “Female Physicians Are Underrepresented in Recognition Awards from the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation” was published in the *PM&R* journal, and can be accessed [here](#). A second article, “Women Physicians Are Underrepresented in Recognition Awards From the Association of Academic Physiatrists” was published in the *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation* and can be accessed [here](#).

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

MSKTC and SCI Model System Researchers Participate in the 21st SCI Forum

Mary Jo Roach, PhD, Meagan Hammond, M.Ed.s, Greg Nemunaitis, MD, and Amber Sours, MPH of the [Northeast Ohio Regional Spinal Cord Injury System](#), along with Cindy Cai, PhD and Cynthia Overton, PhD, of the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center participated in the 21st Spinal Cord Injury Forum. The event was held at the MetroHealth System in Cleveland, Ohio on August 25, 2017. Mary Jo Roach, Megan Hammond, and Amber Sours, were on the planning committee of the event, which attracted individuals with SCI and their families along with healthcare workers. Dr. Nemunaitis led a session called "Ask the Doc," where participants were invited to pose questions about spinal cord injury. Drs. Cai and Overton followed Dr. Nemunaitis' talk with a presentation on SCI resources offered through the MSKTC. They also disseminated resources during the exhibit fair of the event.

SCI Model System Center Develops Exercise App for People with SCI

[Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center \(SRSCIC\)](#), in collaboration with MobileSmith, has developed a mobile app called “SCI-Ex” to promote fitness for people with SCI. The app provides video demonstrations with detailed descriptions of proper equipment use, accurate transfer methods, and adaptive exercise techniques. “SCI-Ex” features exercises for people with an SCI between C-3 and T-12. Exercises are available in four categories: strength training, cardiovascular, flexibility/balance, and neuromuscular. The app allows users to choose exercises appropriate for their injury level, set and track fitness goals, and save information on their exercise routine. The app is available as a free download in the Apple iTunes and Google Play stores (search "Shepherd Center"). It was developed with funding from the Craig H. Nielsen Foundation and Shepherd Center Foundation.

SCI Model System Researcher Presents at 2017 International Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Conference

Allen Heinemann, PhD, of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System \(MRSCIC\)](#), presented a paper at the 2017 International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine

conference, held on May 3 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The paper is titled, “Implementing SCI-QOL into Clinical Practice to Enhance Patient Engagement.” The presentation covered the topic of implementing science methods to assess the effectiveness of knowledge translation strategies to evaluate, select, and integrate the SCI-QOL measurement system into clinical decision-making during inpatient rehabilitation. Learn more [here](#).

SCI Model System Researcher Presents Workshop at International RehabWeek Event

Arun Jayaraman, PhD, of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System \(MRSCIC\)](#), was a speaker at the 2017 Rehab Week, held July 17-21 in London, UK. The workshop was titled, “Towards a Next Generation of Wearable Robotic Devices for Human-Oriented Assistance and Therapy.” The workshop aimed to gather more knowledge on robotic wearable devices and discover alternative practices to help improve patient motor performance. Dr. Jayaraman, along with other experts in the field, talked about the research and clinical interest in these devices as well the psychology of human robotic interaction. This workshop, along with others like it, are starting to have an impact on the movement of integrating robotic device into mainstream care. Learn more [here](#).

SCI Model System Researcher Presents at 35th Annual National Neurotrauma Symposium

Gregory Bigford, PhD, of the [South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(SF-SCIMS\)](#) recently presented at the 35th Annual National Neurotrauma Symposium, held July 9-12 in Snowbird, UT. The presentation highlighted preclinical research findings on the success of an innovative therapeutic approach to treating SCI using a proprietary antibody, SRK-015. Mark S. Nash, PhD, also of the [South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(SF-SCIMS\)](#) and lead investigator of the study, has noted that the research helps address the critical issue of maintaining muscle mass below the level of injury. The antibody, created by Scholar Rock, a biotechnology company, targets myostatin precursors, leading to decreased muscle atrophy, improved muscle function, and reduced infiltration of fat into muscle. The project is a collaboration between The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and Scholar Rock.

Articles by SCI Model System Researcher Recently Published in Three Journals

Cheri Blauwet, MD, of the [Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center \(SNERSCIC\)](#), recently published three journal articles on the topic of SCI and sports. The first article, “Implications of Altered Autonomic Control on Sports Performance in Athletes with Spinal Cord Injury,” was published in the April edition of *Autonomic Neuroscience*. It can be accessed [here](#). The second article, “Heads Up on Concussion in Para Sport” was published in the July edition of *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, and can be accessed [here](#). Finally, “Prescribing Exercise to Individuals with Disabilities: What Are the Concerns?” was published in the July edition of *Current Sports Medicine Reports*. Access the abstract [here](#).

Model System Center Seeks Participants for Spasticity and SCI Survey

[Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center \(SRSCIC\)](#) is seeking participants for a research project designed to assess the degree to which spasticity affects daily life and functioning in persons with SCI. Researchers will characterize the various problematic manifestations of spasticity (e.g., spasms when at rest, spasms evoked by movement, clonus, stiffness, sleep disturbance, discomfort, pain), beneficial effects of spasticity (e.g., assistance with transfers,

standing, positioning, walking, etc.) and preferred management strategies (e.g., physical therapeutics, oral pharmaceuticals, intrathecal baclofen, nerve blockades, etc.). Participate in the research survey [here](#).

National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center Seeks Applicants for Research Award

The DeVivo Mentored Research Award, sponsored and administered by the [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center \(NSCISC\)](#), is now open for applications. This 1-year research award provides \$3,000 for trainees who are interested in conducting a research project using data from the Spinal Cord Injury Model System (SCIMS) Database. Applicants and mentors do not need to be affiliated with a NIDILRR project but must show substantial knowledge and understanding of the database. The application deadline is September 15, 2017. Learn more [here](#).

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

TBI Model System Researchers Honored with Awards from the Brain Injury Association of America

Alan Weintraub, MD, of the [Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System \(RMRBIS\)](#) has been selected by the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) to receive the 2017 Sheldon Berrol Clinical Service Award. The award is presented to an individual who, through a long service career, has made outstanding contributions to improving the quality of care, professional training, and/or education in the field of brain injury. Tessa Hart, PhD, of the [Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System \(MTBIMS\)](#), has been honored with the 2017 William Fields Caveness Award. The award recognizes an individual who, through research on both a national and international level, has made outstanding contributions to bettering the lives of persons with brain injury.

MSKTC Releases New Factsheet on Severe Traumatic Brain Injury

The MSKTC has released a new factsheet, “Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: What to Expect in the Trauma Center, Hospital, and Beyond.” It was written by Amy M. Rosenbaum, PhD; Alan Weintraub, MD; Ron Seel, PhD; John Whyte, MD, PhD; and Risa Nakase-Richardson, PhD. The factsheet describes how a severe TBI affects the injured person and how family members and caregivers can support their loved one on his or her road to recovery. The factsheet may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. It is available on the MSKTC website in English and Spanish [here](#).

====Burn====

MSKTC Releases New Factsheet on PTSD after Burn Injury

The MSKTC has released a new factsheet, “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after Burn Injury.” It was written by Shelley Wiechman, PhD. The factsheet explains PTSD after burn injury and common symptoms that may occur. It may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. The factsheet is available on the MSKTC website in English and Spanish [here](#).

MSKTC Releases Updated Factsheet on Body Image after Burn Injury

The MSKTC has updated the “Understanding and Improving Body Image after Burn Injury” factsheet. The original factsheet was written by John Lawrence, PhD; James Fauerbach, PhD; and Shawn Mason, PhD. It was updated by Nadia Quijije, MD; Shelley Wiechman, PhD; Mona Krueger; and Claudia Baker, BA. The factsheet explains issues of importance for burn survivors concerning body image and presents practical strategies for use in social situations. It may be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. The factsheet is available on the MSKTC website in English and Spanish [here](#).

Upcoming Events

August 29-31, 2017

September 3-6, 2017

October 12-15, 2017

October 23-28, 2017

January 7-10, 2018

[PVA Summit](#)

[ASCIP Conference](#)

[AAPM&R 2017 Annual Assembly](#)

[2017 ACRM Annual Conference](#)

[Brain Injury Summit](#)