

January 2013 MSKTC Headlines

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

Northwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury System Features a New SCI Forum

The [Northwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury System \(NRSCIS\)](#) has a new SCI forum presentation, *It Happened to Both of Us: Conversations with Couples*. The presentation features a panel of couples who were together before injury and are still together, talking about their experiences and how they stay connected to maintain a healthy relationship. The video can be found on the [NRSCIS Web site](#).

SCI Model Systems Research Featured in Current Issue of the Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine

The current issue of the [Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine](#) is devoted to the results of the SCIREhab Study, a large National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research–funded collaborative effort of the SCI Model Systems. Led by the [Rocky Mountain Regional Spinal Injury System](#) at Craig Hospital, the project involved more than 1,000 clinicians from the [Shepherd Center, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Carolinas Rehabilitation, Mount Sinai Rehabilitation](#), and [National Rehabilitation Hospital](#). The researchers document details of the rehabilitation process for 1,376 people with SCI receiving initial inpatient rehabilitation. They also recorded specific interventions following each of more than 280,000 treatment sessions and a broad range of outcomes at discharge and 1 year postinjury. Ten articles describe the Practice-Based Evidence research methodology used and present the relationships found between the interventions of each discipline and later outcomes after controlling for patient and injury differences.

U-M SCIMS and USP Researchers Collaborate on SCI Research and Education

The [University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(U-M SCIMS\)](#) recently collaborated with faculty at the [School of Medicine at the University of Sao Paulo \(USP\)](#), the largest and most advanced institution of medical research in Brazil. [Dr. Denise Tate](#), Co-Director of the [U-M SCIMS](#), and Dr. Julia Greve, Director of the Movement Studies Laboratory, Medical Director of SCI Care at the Clinical Hospital/USP in Sao Paulo SCI led the collaborative research. Their collaboration emphasizes the importance of standard datasets to guide clinical treatment and research in SCI. Testing these datasets adds to studies currently being conducted at the U-M SCIMS, which focus on examining the influence of bowel and bladder management on complications and quality of life after SCI. Comparing data cross-culturally is another benefit of this international collaboration. In an effort to increase the use of these datasets, Dr. Tate presented on the importance of collecting uniform data on SCI care to professionals at the [Lucy Montoro Rehabilitation Hospital](#), a state-of-the-art facility in the city of Sao Paulo.

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

Williamsburg TBI Rehabilitation Conference Registration Is Now Open

The [Virginia Commonwealth University Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) cordially invites you to [register](#) for the 37th Annual Williamsburg TBI Rehabilitation Conference, “Rehabilitation of the Adult and Child with Brain Injury: Practical Solutions to Real-World Problems.” A group of internationally and nationally renowned faculty has been assembled. Keynote presentations will focus on the law, policy, and practice; interdisciplinary approaches to community-based treatment; and neuropsychiatric management. Breakout sessions will focus on executive function disorders, cognitive support technologies, neuropsychology, aging, community-based neurobehavioral programming, survivor and caregiver perspectives, and sports concussion. The conference will feature peer-reviewed oral presentations by leaders in the field as well as indepth, hands-on training with two exceptional, day-long preconference workshops from which participants can choose, one on behavior management and the other on empirically based family intervention. For more information on the conference agenda, please visit the conference [Web site](#).

====Burn====

Model Systems Researcher Featured in Article Published in Harvard Medicine

The [MSKTC](#) congratulates Dr. Jeffrey Schneider from the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#) on being featured in the Harvard Medicine article “Surface Tension: New Techniques, Technologies Offer Balm for the Wounds of Those Burned.” This article highlights Dr. Schneider’s research using robotic and video-gaming technology in burn rehabilitation. In addition, the article discusses the power of portrait paintings of burn survivors. Access the article [here](#).

Burn Model Systems Present Research on Itching After a Burn Injury

A new article from the [Burn Injury Model Systems](#) titled “Pruritus in Adult Burn Survivors: Postburn Prevalence and Risk Factors Associated With Increased Intensity” appears in the January/February 2013 issue of the [Journal of Burn Care & Research](#). The article examines the prevalence of itching (pruritus) and related risk factors following a burn injury in survivors up to 10 years after their date of injury. The impact of postburn itching on leisure, work, and sleep are discussed. See the [abstract](#) for more information.

Model Systems Researchers Invited To Speak at the American Burn Association Partnership Conference

[Dr. Peter Esselman](#) from the [Northwest Regional Burn Model System](#) will speak on “Quality of Life after a Burn Injury” at the upcoming [2013 American Burn Association Partnership Conference](#) on February 12, 2013, in Washington, DC. He will be joined by [Dr. Jeffrey Schneider](#) from the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System](#). Together, Drs. Esselman and

Schneider will lead a round table discussion concerning quality-of-life issues for burn survivors. See the [conference brochure](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events

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| Feb. 12 | American Burn Association Partnership Conference (2013) |
| Feb. 21–24 | 15th Annual Rehabilitation Psychology Conference (2013) |
| Feb. 28–March 2 | Santa Clara Valley Brain Injury Conference (2013) |
| March 9 | Annual Brain Injury Association of Virginia Conference: Opening Doors: Communities, Partnerships, Opportunities (2013) |
| March 13 | Brain Injury Awareness Day (2013) |
| May 2–3 | Williamsburg Brain Injury Rehabilitation Conference: Rehabilitation of the Adult and Child with Traumatic Brain Injury (2013) |