

## January 2015 MSKTC Headlines

### MSKTC Offers Free Tool to Engage Policymakers!

*Engaging Policymakers* is a free learning tool to help your research team inform policy. Join us for a ½ hour online presentation to learn how this tool can help extend the reach of your research to the policy arena. Session 1 will be held on Monday, February 2, 2015 from 12:30 to 1:00 pm ET. Session 2 (repeat session) will be held on Friday, February 6, 2015 from 3:00 to 3:30 pm ET. Simply contact us at [msktc@air.org](mailto:msktc@air.org) for a user name, password, and a link to access the presentation.

### Spaulding Rehabilitation Networks SCI, TBI, and Burn Coordinate Injury Prevention Fair

Some of the most effective interventions within healthcare occur before an injury or illness ever arises. Understanding common, avoidable fire hazards can prevent a family from losing their home and experiencing severe burns. Wearing a bike helmet properly can reduce TBI. If a few small steps are taken – if a person is educated to avoid or prevent injuries and illnesses – resulting maladies can decrease dramatically. Spaulding Rehabilitation Network's three Model Systems grantees (SCI, TBI, and Burn), coordinated an Injury Prevention Fair to engage and educate the local community on everyday prevention methods. To track and encourage participation, attendees were given a passport to fill with stickers from each booth visited, and could enter a raffle if they turned in their information. [Read more here.](#)

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

### Resource Highlight: Safe Transfer Technique Factsheet

Have you read the factsheet, *Safe Transfer Technique*? Learning the correct way to transfer when using a wheelchair will help maintain arm functioning and reduce the risk of pain. Learn more [here.](#)

### Model System Researcher Named National Academy of Inventors Fellow

[Rory A. Cooper, Ph.D.](#), co-director of the [University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury \(UPMC-SCI\)](#), was named a [Fellow by the National Academy of Inventors \(NAI\)](#). NAI fellow status is given to academic inventors who have demonstrated a highly prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development, and the welfare of society. Those named on December 16, 2014 bring the total number of NAI Fellows to 414, representing more than 150 prestigious research universities and governmental and non-profit research institutions. Learn more [here.](#)

### Model Systems Researcher to Serve as Co- Director of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals

[Rory Cooper, Ph.D.](#), UPMC-SCI co-director, founding director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories, and Distinguished Professor of Rehabilitation Science and Technology

joins Jon Pearlman, Ph.D., assistant professor and associate director of engineering at HERL, to lead the International Society of Wheelchair professionals. Of the nearly 70 million people worldwide who require wheelchairs for mobility and function, most lack access to appropriate wheelchairs, services and providers. Now, a handful of University of Pittsburgh scientists are working with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under a two-year, \$2.3 million sub-award to develop the new International Society of Wheelchair Professionals. This global network will ensure a level of standardization, certification and oversight to teach and professionalize wheelchair services. It will also build affiliations to put better equipment in the right hands. Starting in January, the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals will be launched and administered by faculty members from the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Learn more [here](#).

### **Model System Researcher Awarded a Grant from Paralyzed Veterans of America**

Jessica Pedersen, MBA, OTR/L, ATP/SMS, researcher of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System \(MRSCICS\)](#), was awarded a two-year grant from the Paralyzed Veterans of America entitled: *Airline Travel: Assistive Technology for Non-Ambulatory Passengers*. Pederson and her fellow primary investigators, Peter Axelson, MSME, and Patrick Semick, will focus on three aspects of airline travel for people who are non-ambulatory. These three aspects are: using a boarding chair or lift system to get down the aisle of a plane and into the airline seat, sitting on a standard economy airline seat for the duration of greater than a two-hour flight, and transporting and protecting the wheelchair that is stowed in the belly of the aircraft.

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

### **Resource Highlight: Alcohol Use after Traumatic Brain Injury factsheet**

Alcohol use and TBI are closely related. Up to two-thirds of people with TBI have a history of alcohol abuse or risky drinking. Learn more about alcohol use and TBI by accessing the factsheet [here](#).

### **Model Systems Work Published Online in the *Journal of Neurotrauma***

Researchers from the [Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center \(TBINDSC\)](#), [Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#), and [Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana \(RHI\) Traumatic Brain Injury Model System](#) collaborated on *Life Expectancy following Inpatient Rehabilitation for Traumatic Brain Injury in the United States* published in the *Journal of Neurotrauma*. This study characterizes life expectancy after TBI. Access the abstract [here](#).

### **TBI Model System Holds Live Event Titled *Defying the Odds***

Available treatments and successful outcomes often seem limited and hopeless to many faced with traumatic brain injury (TBI). However families often find hope and success in Spaulding

Rehabilitation Network's innovative care. Framed by the power of family, story-telling, and the promise of innovative treatment, Spaulding's Model Systems TBI grantees drew over 180 individuals for *Defying the Odds*, a reflective celebration of courage, perseverance, and healing. The program transcended the initial medical explanation with professional guitarist Jason Crigler's revolutionary recovery story following a brain hemorrhage. The Crigler family explained how familial advocacy and exceptional treatment helped prevent realization of the initial prognosis— death or persistent vegetative state. Additional patient stories, an explanation of Boston Acquired Brain Injury Support Group, and a performance by Jason Crigler bolstered the event. [Read more here.](#)

=====Burn=====

### **Resource Highlight: Wound Care and Scar Management after Burn Injury Factsheet**

Are you or someone you know having trouble with scarring and wounds after their initial burn injury has healed? If so, read our factsheet Wound Care and Scar Management after Burn Injury. Access the resource [here](#).

### **Model Systems Work Published Online in the *Journal of Burn Care and Research***

Research findings from the [Northwest Regional Burn Model System \(NWRBMS\)](#) were recently published in the January/February 2015 issue of the *Journal of Burn Care and Research*. This study, *An Expanded Delivery Model for Outpatient Burn Rehabilitation* examined outcomes following an intervention providing supplemental services to existing burn care and rehabilitative outpatient services. The lead investigator and author, [Shelley Wiechman, Ph.D.](#), is the Attending Psychologist at the University of Washington Medicine Regional Burn Center in Seattle and is also a co-investigator on the NWRBMS grant. This manuscript was awarded the American Burn Association 2014 Clinical Research Award. Access the abstract [here](#).

### **Model Systems Work Published in Two Publications**

Researchers from the [Boston Harvard Burn Injury Model System \(BH- BIMS\)](#) recently published the manuscript *Psychological Sequelae of the Station Nightclub Fire: Comparing Survivors with and without Physical Injuries Using a Mixed-Methods Analysis* in *PLoS One*. This publication examines the emotional trauma and psychological outcomes experienced by survivors of a large fire. Access the abstract [here](#). *Recovery trajectories after burn injury in young adults: does burn size matter?* was published in the *Journal of Burn Care Research*. This article examines the association of burn size with the trajectories of long-term functional outcomes. Access the abstract [here](#). Additionally, BHBIMS researchers are primary authors on 8 abstracts accepted for the upcoming American Burn Association Conference in April. Presentation topics include: patient report outcome measures, scoring model for prediction of heterotopic ossification, risk factors for contractures, and qEEG in burn patients with chronic pruritus.

## **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](mailto:msktc@air.org).

## **Upcoming Events**

Feb 14-18	<a href="#">37th Annual John A. Boswick Maui Symposium</a>
Mar 18	<a href="#">Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill</a>
Mar 12-14	<a href="#">13th Annual Pacific Northwest Brain Injury Conference</a>
Apr 15-17	<a href="#">39th Annual Williamsburg TBI Conference</a>
Apr 21-24	<a href="#">ABA 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting</a>
Apr 30-May 1	<a href="#">37th Annual NARRTC Conference</a>
May 4-5	<a href="#">27th Annual Wisconsin Conference on Brain Injury</a>
May 14-16	<a href="#">ISCoS and ASIA Joint Scientific Meeting</a>