

October 2014 MSKTC Headlines

Engaging Policymakers: A Self-Paced Course

Do you or your staff have an interest in sharing your research with policymakers? Would you like to learn more about how to engage policymakers and which knowledge translation tools are effective? Have you wondered about the difference between a Policy Factsheet and a Policy Brief and how you might use either tool? If so, consider signing up for the *Engaging Policymakers* online, self-paced course now offered by the [MSKTC](#). Simply contact us at msktc@air.org for a user name and password and a link to the course. This opportunity is available to all your Model Systems grantee staff and colleagues. Please contact us with any questions.

Model Systems Researchers Present at 2014 ACRM Conference

A host of SCI and TBI researchers recently presented at the 91st Annual ACRM Conference in Toronto, Canada on October 7-11. View the conference program to find presentations, and click [here](#) to view presentation highlights.

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

Resource Highlight: *Pain and Spinal Cord Injury Factsheet*

Have you read the factsheet, *Pain and Spinal Cord Injury*? Most people with spinal cord injuries (SCI) will experience pain. To learn more about options for pain management, access the factsheet [here](#).

Model System Researcher to Present at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience

[Dr. T. George Hornby, PhD](#), clinical research scientist for the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System \(MRSCICS\)](#), will present at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. The meeting will take place in Washington, DC from November 15-19. Dr. Hornby will deliver the presentation, *Immediate and sustained effects of high-intensity locomotor practice on gait performance in individuals with incomplete spinal cord injury*. Dr. Hornby will also display and discuss two poster presentations at the annual meeting: *Decreased spinal inhibition during muscle lengthening in humans with incomplete spinal cord injury may contribute to increased central activation during eccentric contractions* and *Spinal cord motor tract integrity, muscle architectural alterations, and volitional motor control following motor incomplete spinal cord injury*.

Model Systems Partner to Present Webcast and Live Chat: November 13th Interdisciplinary Primary Care for People with SCI

[The New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center \(NERSCIC\)](#) and the [Spaulding-Harvard Spinal Cord Injury System \(SH-SCIS\)](#) will present the next Knowledge-in-Motion webcast on

Thursday, November 13th, from 6:30-8:00 PM EST. This webcast and live chat will feature Steve Williams, MD, co-investigator, [Kentucky Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System](#), University of Louisville School of Medicine; and Michael Stillman, MD, University of Louisville School of Medicine. During the webcast, speakers will discuss the advantages of an interdisciplinary primary care/spinal cord medicine clinic for maintaining optimum health. They will also address current disparities in primary care in the US for people with SCI, and how they can advocate for appropriate interdisciplinary health care. [Register online](#) or call 1-866-607-1804 (toll free).

NSCISC Develops a Quick Search Tool

The [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center](#) has created a new quick search tool to find the [Leading Causes of Spinal Cord Injury](#). Searches can be sorted by type of report (full or condensed), multiple timeframes, race/ethnicity, and gender. The total numbers found on each table are for causes of injury reported by all [spinal cord injury model systems](#) dating back to 1973. The new quick search tool is one of two offered by the [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center](#). The [Life Expectancy](#) quick search tool was introduced earlier this year. These online tools and other resources are free and available [here](#).

SCI Model System Participates in Boston's SCI Awareness Day

Key members of the SCI community, including the [New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center Model System \(NERSCIC\)](#), rehabilitation facilities, consumer organizations, researchers, legislators, policy makers, and advocates, gathered at the State House in Boston, MA on September 17th for spinal cord injury research. Massachusetts Walks Again, the state's representative agency of Quest for the Cure, hosted the event. In 2004, Massachusetts passed the SCI Research for a Cure Trust Fund, which generates approximately \$100,000 per year from fees of reinstated motor vehicle licenses. Managed by the Department of Public Health, the fund provides grants that allow research supporting quality of life issues, prevention, and cure of spinal cord injuries to continue in Massachusetts.

SCI Model System Researcher Interviews on WMBC-TV

Jeanne Zanca, PhD, co-investigator for the Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System (NNJSCIS), appeared on WMBC-TV on October 2. Dr. Zanca was interviewed at the NNJSCIS consumer conference: *Rising to the Challenge: Creating Employment Opportunity and Maximizing Success*. At the conference, more than 100 attendees learned from the experts about returning to work, creating new opportunities, understanding research findings and accessing resources and services. Learn more [here](#).

SCI Model System Releases *Pushin' On!*

The [University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(UAB-SCIMS\)](#) released *Pushin' On*, a newsletter is published to provide persons with SCI and their families with information of interest. The newsletter is offered 2 times per year and sent electronically to subscribers to the [UAB-SCIMS Email List](#). View the digital newsletter [here](#).

NERSCIC and Spaulding-Harvard SCI Model Systems Offer a Free Webcast and Live Chat

The [New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center Model System \(NERSCIC\)](#) offers a free Webcast and live chat titled *Interdisciplinary Primary Care for People with SCI* on Thursday, November 13, from 6:30–8 p.m. EST. This Webcast and live chat will discuss how consumers can gain an understanding of the advantages of an interdisciplinary Primary Care/Spinal Cord Medicine clinic for maintaining optimum health. Learn about the current disparities in primary care in the US for people living with SCI. Learn how people can advocate for appropriate interdisciplinary health care for themselves or for others affected by SCI. For more information visit the [website](#) and [register online](#) or call 1-866-607-1804 (toll free).

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

Resource Highlight: *Depression after Traumatic Brain Injury*

Do you know someone who has depression after sustaining a traumatic brain injury? Refer them to our *Depression after TBI* factsheet. Access the factsheets [here](#).

Model System Researcher Attends a White House Forum

[Simon Driver, PhD](#), director of research at the [North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System \(NT-TBIMS\)](#) represented Baylor Scott & White as he joined other researchers from across the country to discuss improved health for American's with disabilities. The subject is a perfect fit for Dr. Driver, who has studied this topic for more than a decade with more than 35 published articles as a result. As an invited member to the White House Research Forum on Improved Health and Fitness for Americans with Disabilities, Dr. Driver participated in a series of paneled presentations, where he and other researchers discussed knowledge gaps and research opportunities. Learn more about the summit and research forum [here](#).

=====Burn=====

Resource Highlight: *Itchy Skin after Burn Injury Factsheet*

Have you read the factsheet, *Itchy Skin after Burn Injury*? Almost everyone recovering from major burns has problems with itching; learn more about this phase of healing and treatments that are available. Access the factsheet [here](#).

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.

Upcoming Events

Nov 14-16	27th Annual Southern Region Burn Conference
Nov 15-19	Society for Neuroscience
Jan 11, 2015	Brain Injury Summit
Apr 21-24	ABA 47th Annual Meeting