

October 2015 MSKTC Headlines

Model System Researchers to Present at the 92nd Annual American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Conference

Model Systems researchers will participate in the 92nd Annual American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Conference in Dallas, TX, October 25-30, 2015. The [MSKTC](#) will also exhibit at the conference. Stop by booth 202 to meet with MSKTC staff and learn more about our work. A list of other Model Systems researchers participating in the conference is available [here](#) and additional information can be found in the [conference program](#).

Model System Researchers Present at the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 2015 Annual Assembly

[Leslie Morse, DO](#), program director of the [Spaulding-Harvard Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(SH-SCI\)](#), and [Jeffrey Schneider, MD](#), program director of the [Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System \(BH-BIMS\)](#) presented a course at the [American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 2015 Annual Assembly](#). The course was titled, *State of the Science: Improving understanding of the mechanism, diagnosis and treatment for heterotopic ossification*. Dr. Morse presented a review of current clinical trials to prevent and treat heterotopic ossification. Dr. Schneider's talk examined heterotopic ossification and the case for developing a risk scoring system. Currently, Dr. Schneider is developing a heterotopic ossification risk scoring system utilizing data collected from the Burn Model Systems national longitudinal database that may be used in the future to select patients for prophylaxis treatment at time of admission.

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

SCI Model System Participates in American Spinal Cord Injury Conference

Investigators from the [Northern New Jersey SCI System \(NNJSCIS\)](#) participated in the annual conference, *SCI and All that Jazz*, hosted by the Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals (ASCIP) held in New Orleans on September 6-9, 2015. Drs. Trevor Dyson-Hudson and Steven Kirshblum, co-project directors of the NNJSCIS taught intensive review sessions on rehabilitation, pain management, neurological assessment and musculoskeletal care. With model system co-investigators Drs. Denise Fyffe, Jeanne Zanca and Amanda Botticello, they also presented research findings on pneumonia prevention, caregiver training, nutrition status and transfers, and whole body vibration. Dr. Kirshblum was honored as outgoing president of ASCIP and Dr. Dyson-Hudson was elected to the ASCIP board. NNJSCIS is a collaborative project of Kessler Foundation and Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation.

Work of a Model System Researcher Published in Multiple Publications

[Yu-Ying Chen, MD, PhD](#), researcher at the [University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(UAB-SCIMS\)](#) was published in three different journals: *Journal of Urology*, *Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation*, and *Spinal Cord*. View the citations and abstracts [here](#).

Model Systems Partner Together on a Multi-Center Study

[Mark S. Nash, Ph.D.](#), co-principal investigator of the [South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System \(SFSCIMS\)](#) and [Susan Charlifue, Ph.D.](#), co-project director of the [Rocky Mountain Regional Spinal Cord Injury System \(RMRSIS\)](#) will partner on a \$2.55M disability rehabilitation research project that was recently awarded by NIDILRR. The studies involving researchers at the SFSCIMS at the University of Miami Miller School Of Medicine and the RMRSIS at Craig Hospital will focus on comprehensive lifestyle intervention for caregivers of persons with SCI and their dyadic partners. The overarching goals of the five-year controlled multi-center study will focus on whether dyadic partners both with and without SCI benefit from the proposed intervention. This will be explored through improved cardiometabolic health and enhanced/preserved function to determine whether co-participation of a caregiver partner cross-benefits the care receiver and if benefits of the intervention will be long-lasting.

Model System Researcher Co-Authors a Paper Published in *Clinics*

[Denise Tate, Ph.D., ABPP, FACRM](#), principal investigator and co-director of the [University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems \(UM-SCIMS\)](#) was an author on a recent paper in *Clinics* entitled, *Driving evaluation methods for able-bodied persons and individuals with lower extremity disabilities: a review of assessment modalities*. This article compares the current assessments of driving performance for those with lower extremity impairments with the assessments used for able-bodied persons. Very few articles were found concerning lower extremity disabilities, confirming the need for further studies that can provide evidence and guidance for such assessments in the future. View the issue of *Clinics* [here](#).

Model System Researchers Co-Author Paper Published in the Journal of Urology

Anne Cameron and Gianna Rodriguez, investigators on the [University of Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems \(UM-SCIMS\)](#) coauthored the paper, *The Severity of Bowel Dysfunction in Patients with Neurogenic Bladder*, published in the Journal of Urology. This paper found that bowel dysfunction is very common among patients with neurogenic bladder, highlighting the importance of addressing both bowel and bladder dysfunction. View the abstract [here](#).

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

TBI Model System Hosts a Consumer Conference

The [Northern New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury System \(NNJT BIS\)](#) hosted a consumer conference for individuals with TBI and their families entitled *Taking Care of Yourself After Brain Injury* on September 24, 2015. More than 100 attendees participated in the conference, moderated by Dr. Jeanne Lengensfelder of Kessler Foundation. This event featured keynote

speaker Constance Palmer, who discussed coping with loss, and an interactive meditation presentation by Bill Gallagher. A panel of individuals with TBI discussed their experiences with volunteering, and Dr. Ernest Ehrhardt explained how brain health can be promoted by various nutritional supplements. The day concluded with a moving presentation by Catherine Brubaker, who shared her story of survival and road to recovery after TBI. This included a ride across the United States in 2014 on a recumbent tricycle to raise brain injury awareness. Podcasts were recorded for all speakers and can be found on Kessler Foundation's Sound Cloud channel [here](#).

=====Burn=====

Resource Highlight: *Employment after Burn Injury* Factsheet

Returning to work after a burn injury can be an important phase of recovery that helps one return to a routine. Do you know someone who is considering returning back to work after burn injury? If so, please refer them to the factsheet, *Employment after Burn Injury*. Access the resource [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Oct 25-30	92nd Annual American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) Conference
Nov 20-22	28th Annual Southern Region Burn Conference
Apr 6-9, 2016	NABIS 13th Annual Conference on Brain Injury
May 3-6, 2016	48th ABA Annual Meeting
May 5-6, 2016	40th Annual Brain Injury Rehabilitation Conference
May 11-12 , 2016	6th Annual Traumatic Brain Injury Conference
July 13-14, 2016	2016 TBI Summit
Aug 28- Sept 1, 2016	International Society for Burn Injuries 18th Congress