Headlines from the MSKTC
Connecting consumers to research-based information in Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Burn Injury

The MSKTC provides:

**Consumer Information** that offers guidance on treatment, social issues, and daily living after SCI, TBI, and burn injuries.

**Systematic Reviews** that compile, evaluate, and summarize published research evidence related to a specific medical or health topic.

**Databases** of research articles posted by the SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems.

**Upcoming Conferences:**
- **March 20, 2018** Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill
- **April 10-13, 2018** 50th American Burn Association Annual meeting

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**Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)**

**SCI Model System Researcher Honored with ACRM John Stanley Coulter Award**
Mark S. Nash, PhD, FACSM, co-director of the [South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System (SF-SCIMS)](https://www.sf-scims.org), Professor of Neurological Surgery and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and a principal investigator for the Miami Project, has been selected by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Board of Governors to receive the 2018 ACRM John Stanley Coulter Award. This annual award recognizes a professional whose lifetime achievements have contributed significantly to the field of rehabilitation and is one of ACRM’s highest awards. Learn more [here](https).

**SCI Model System Researchers Present at PREPARE Series**
Nancy Brackett, PhD and Charles Lynne, MD recently presented, “Male Fertility after SCI” to participants in the [South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System (SF-SCIMS)](https://www.sf-scims.org)’s PREPARE (Post-Rehab Education Program And Resource Exchange) series. PREPARE is a weekly forum for education and peer-support interaction to provide open discussion for those in the South Florida SCI community. It was created to promote a smooth transition to life after SCI and to reinforce education previously received during inpatient rehabilitation, especially for those with shorter lengths-of-stay. It is a joint effort between the South Florida SCI Model System, Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital, and the SCI Support Group of Miami.

**SCI Model System Center Creates Video Series on the Experiences of People with SCI**
Allen Heinemann, PhD and David Chen, MD, co-project directors of the [Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System (MRSCICS)](https://www.med.upenn.edu/mrscics) partnered with facingdisability.com to create a series of videos that explores the experiences of people living with SCI. The 10-part video series is titled, “Voices of Experiences—Living With Spinal Cord Injury.” Each video explores a different topic, ranging from first days in the hospital to greatest fears and other important topics such as sexual relationships. These videos can be used by hospitals and clinicians nationwide as a tool to educate and provide answers to some of the most commonly asked questions by individuals with new injuries. The videos feature people with SCI who share firsthand knowledge on what to expect in the days after injury. This series features a diverse group of speakers from many backgrounds, ages, genders, and injury levels. Two of the ten
videos are available now via YouTube. Eight more videos will be released throughout the upcoming year. Access the videos here.

**SCI Model System Researchers Collaborate to Publish in *Nature Neuroscience***

Model system researchers and clinicians from Ohio Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System (ORSCIMS), along with colleagues from Charite and Harvard University, published an article in *Nature Neuroscience*. The article is entitled, “Spinal Cord Injury-Induced Immunodeficiency is Mediated by a Sympathetic-Neuroendocrine Adrenal Reflex.” The study identifies previously unknown mechanisms through which SCI can lead to a suppression of the immune system. Specifically, the article suggests that dysfunction of the adrenal glands plays a role in immunosuppression. Findings indicate strategies that could help prevent infections in individuals with SCI. Novel non-antibiotic strategies to better treat infections are highly warranted given the underlying immune-suppressive state of acute SCI patients and the mounting prevalence of antibiotic resistances. Access the abstract here.

**SCI Model System Researcher Presents on Health Equity at AAP 2018 Meeting**

Chloe Slocum, MD, co-investigator for the Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (SNERSIC), presented at the Association of Academic Physiatrists meeting in Atlanta, GA on February 16, 2018. Her presentation, “Physiatry and Health Equity: From Training to Practice and Policy,” described the health equity and key domains in which health disparities exist for people with disabilities. Dr. Slocum also discussed how to develop strategies to incorporate health equity for people with disabilities into teaching and learning activities for medical students, residents, fellows, or allied health professionals. She also discussed the role of health equity in merit-based incentive payment models and implications for academic physiatrists.

**SCI Model System Researcher Presents Urology Grand Rounds**

David Rosenblum, MD, director of Clinical Care for the Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (SNERSIC), presented Urology Grand Rounds for Yale School of Medicine at Yale New Haven Hospital on February 14, 2018. His presentation was entitled “Spinal Cord Rehabilitation – Urological Implications.”

**SCI Model System Researcher Presents International Lecture on Sports in SCI**

Cheri Blauwet, MD, co-director of Dissemination and Knowledge Translation for the Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (SNERSIC), visited the Peter Harrison Center for Disability Sport at the University of Loughborough, UK in early February. Dr. Blauwet provided a series of lectures focused on the impact of sport on persons with disabilities, including SCI.

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**Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

**TBI Model System Centers and MSKTC Researchers to Participate at the 2018 Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill**

TBI Model System centers and MSKTC researchers will attend the 2018 Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) Brain Injury Awareness Day, to be held March 20, 2018 at the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. This annual event attracts individuals...
with TBI and their family members, policymakers, advocates, researchers, and other stakeholders. The MSKTC will exhibit and disseminate the work of the TBI Model Systems.

**Resource Highlight: "Relationships after TBI" Hot Topic Module**
The “Relationships after TBI” Hot Topic Module provides a suite of resources to help individuals with TBI and their partners navigate relationships. Access the Hot Topic Module [here](#).

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**Burn Injury (BURN)**

**Burn Model System Center Produces Peer Support Video**

The Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System (BHBI MS), in collaboration with the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors and the MSKTC, produced an informational video that introduces the idea of peer support to burn survivors, their families, and friends. View the video [here](#).

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The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) supports the Model Systems program in meeting the needs of individuals with spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and burn injury. The MSKTC is funded by the Department of Education, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), operated by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in collaboration with George Mason University (GMU) and WETA under grant number 90DP0082.

Learn more about the MSKTC at [www.MSKTC.org](http://www.MSKTC.org)