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

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

Free Online Self-Management Program Available for People with SCI
The Spaulding New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (SNERSCIC), in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Healthy Living Center of Excellence, is pleased to offer for the first time a free six-week online course on self-management. The course is tailored to people with SCI and those who experience mobility limitations due to diabetes. The program includes two live virtual group sessions and begins in mid-April. To enroll, please contact Kimberley Warsett at 617-624-5540 or at Kimberley.Warsett@state.ma.us.

Model System Center to Host Webinar on Adaptive Exercise
The Spaulding New England Regional SCI Center (SNERSCIC) will host a webinar by the National Center on Health, Physical Activity, and Disability (NCHPAD) on adaptive exercise for people with mobility limitations. The webinar will be held May 2, 2018, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST. If you are someone with SCI or another mobility limitation and interested in being or staying physically active, this webinar is for you! You can view the webinar at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, at 300 1st Ave, Charlestown, MA, or online. The webinar is sponsored by the Health and Disability Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Register here. For more information or accommodations, contact Roberta Steele at 617-624-5960 or roberta.steele@state.ma.us. The deadline for accommodations requests is April 15, 2018.

SCI Model System Researchers Publish Article in American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Dr. J. Andrew Taylor, PhD, co-project director for the Spaulding New England SCI Center (SNERSCIC), recently co-authored the article, “Relationship of Spinal Cord Injury Level and Duration to Peak Aerobic Capacity with Arms-Only and Hybrid FES-Rowing,” which will be
April 10-13, 2018
50th American Burn Association Annual meeting

April 19-22, 2018
AOTA Annual Conference

May 2-4, 2018
Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA)

May 3-4, 2018
42nd Brain Injury Rehabilitation Conference

June 11-13, 2018
Interagency Conference on TBI

published in *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. Access the article abstract [here](#).

**SCI Model System Researcher Presents on Psychological Health Promotion Intervention at Texas Psychological Association 2017 Annual Convention**

Susan Robinson-Whelen, PhD, of Texas Model Spinal Cord Injury System at TIRR, presented at the Texas Psychological Association Annual Convention in Houston, TX on November 16, 2017. The presentation, entitled “Promoting Psychological Health Using the Online Virtual World of Second Life,” described the results of a feasibility study of a psychological health promotion intervention for women with SCI. Dr. Robinson-Whelen also addressed partnering with community advisors to modify an existing self-esteem enhancement intervention and developing a model for promoting psychological health. In addition, she summarized the qualitative and quantitative results of the feasibility study and described plans for a full-scale, randomized, controlled trial of the intervention.

**SCI Model System Researchers Publish Article in Spinal Cord**

Researchers from the Texas Model Spinal Cord Injury System at TIRR, the Department of Health and Human Performance of the University of Houston, and Baylor College of Medicine recently published an article demonstrating methods used to measure and classify obesity in individuals with SCI. The manuscript, “Methods for Classifying Obesity in Spinal Cord Injury: A Review,” is published in the journal, *Spinal Cord*. View the article [here](#).

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**Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

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

TBI Model System and MSKTC Researchers exhibited at the 2018 Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) Awareness Day. The event was held March 20 at the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. It attracted individuals with TBI and their family members, policymakers, advocates, researchers, and other stakeholders.

**TBI Model System Researchers Publish Special Issue of Brain Injury Professional**

TBI Model System researchers collaborated with Veterans Affairs Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center researchers to publish a special issue of *Brain Injury Professional*. The issue, “Sleep Disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury,” is focused on chronic sleep disorders that many people with TBI experience. The special issue is available [here](#).
TBI Model System Researchers Mark Brain Injury Awareness Month on Twitter

North Texas TBI Model System (NTTBI MS) researcher Kathleen Bell, MD and Amy Mathews, MD marked Brain Injury Awareness Month this March by tweeting #TBI30in30. The tweets featured important and relevant papers about concussion and TBI for thirty days. Many of the papers quoted were written by TBI Model System researchers including John Whyte, MD, PhD, Keith Cicerone, PhD and Jeanne Hoffman, PhD among others. View the series here.

The MSKTC Wants to Hear Your Story!
The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) is looking to hear from people with TBI and their supporters to learn how they use MSKTC factsheets, videos, slideshows, and other resources. The MSKTC will select one person from the following categories to share his or her story on the MSKTC website, social media platforms, and podcasts:

1. A person with a traumatic brain injury
2. A family member or friend of someone with a traumatic brain injury
3. A professional who works with someone with a traumatic brain injury

Click here to learn more!

Burn Injury (BURN)

Resource Highlight: “Scar Management” Factsheet
Burn survivors may become frustrated that they still have issues with scarring after their initial burn injury has healed. Access the MSKTC factsheet, “Scar Management,” to learn tips about treatments of scars after burn injury.

Burn Model System Researchers to Participate in the American Burn Association (ABA) Meeting
A host of Burn Model System researchers will present papers and deliver lectures to advance the field of burn injury at the American Burn Association’s 50th Annual Meeting held April 10-13, 2018 in Chicago, IL. The list of participants who have submitted conference presentations to the MSKTC can be found here. Researchers from the Burn Model System and the MSKTC will exhibit at booth #810; please stop by and say hello. Additional information about the upcoming conference can be found here.
Connect with us by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter. We have three injury areas:

- **SCI**
- **TBI**
- **Burn**

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 Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) and is operated by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) in collaboration with George Mason University (GMU) and BrainLine at WETA under grant number 90DP0082.

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