

Breaking Boundaries: Collaborative Approaches to Enhance SCI Care Across Latin America and the Caribbean

Course ID 214

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TITLE: Breaking Boundaries: Collaborative Approaches to Enhance SCI Care Across Latin America and the Caribbean **NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS PROPOSED:** 4 **Summary:** A thorough and interdisciplinary plan of action, including medical, rehabilitative, psychological and social therapies, is necessary for the care of spinal cord injury individuals. However, meeting the standards of care for SCI patients can vary greatly in different parts of the world. Whereas wealthy nations usually have well-established rehabilitation programs and access to cutting-edge medical techniques, SCI care can be challenging with limitations and barriers in low to middle income countries. Constraints to care include the lack of physiatrists, shortages in subspecialties, financial limitations, inadequate infrastructure, inaccessible environments, limited training opportunities, difficulties in gaining exposure and experience, as well as challenges in accessing necessary resources. In this proposal, we explore these barriers and challenges that Latin American and Caribbean countries have experienced and the strategies and innovative ways that they have been able to apply to provide equal care with lesser resources. We will specifically delve into the clinical and research programming in Mexico, Argentina and Spain and the collaborations between the US and the LAC communities. We especially focus on their efforts to narrow the disparities in accessibility, delivery, and quality of care, and promote knowledge-sharing and capacity building initiatives. **Key discussion points:** Challenges and solutions: Address the universal issues with SCI rehabilitation, such as resource accessibility, care standardized procedures, and inequities in the delivery of treatment. Give examples of creative ideas and techniques that have been used to solve these problems. **Multidisciplinary collaboration:** Showcase examples of multidisciplinary teams effectiveness and cooperation in patient-centered care. Specifically discuss clinical and research strategies in Mexico and collaborations with the United States, and highlight the work of the ASIA Latin Americas committee. **Cultural awareness:** Analyze the socioeconomic and cultural elements that affect SCI rehabilitation in LAC countries as well as the impact of the cultural differences on medical treatment choices, patient-family interpersonal relationships, and community reintegration. **Funding Sources:** N/A **Draft Agenda:** :00 – 0:05 Introduction - historical perspective and practice of SCI in LAC countries - Dr. Niña Carmela Tamayo :05 – 0:20 Overview of barriers, limitations and solutions of LAC - Dr. Melina Longoni :20 – 0:35 Field experience in Mexico - Dr. Jimena Quinzaños :35 – 0:50 SCI Research, comparison between USA and Mexico resources - Dr. Ana Valeria Aguirre Guemez :50 – 0:60 Questions and Answers

Learning Objective 1 Understand barriers and challenges in access and delivery of spinal cord injury care in Latin American and Caribbean countries specifically through clinicians from Mexico, Argentina, and Spain.

Learning Objective 2 Discuss innovative strategies that LAC countries have applied to adhere to international SCI care standards despite the scarcity of essential technical resources, medications, and rehabilitation services.

Learning Objective 3 Explore the importance of the LAC approach to SCI care to promote creativity, innovation, and resourcefulness in healthcare workers interested in international rehabilitation and global health with a specific focus in spinal cord injury.