

2026 ANNUAL

# SCIENTIFIC MEETING



**ASIA**  
AMERICAN SPINAL INJURY ASSOCIATION

APRIL 24 – 26  
PRECOURSES APRIL 23



2026 ANNUAL

# ★ SCIENTIFIC MEETING ★

## THANK YOU 2026 PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS!

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### SUPPORTERS AND EXHIBITORS





# *Congratulations!*

**The Miami Project Scientific Community congratulates Dr. Naomi Kleitman for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from ASIA for her contributions to the field of Spinal Cord Research. This well-deserved award is a testament to Naomi's incredible career and lasting impact on the field.**

2026 ANNUAL

# ★ SCIENTIFIC MEETING ★

## ASIA PRECOURSE ONE

• [Click Here for Abstracts](#)

Thursday, April 23, 2026 PEARL 1 & 2

Multidisciplinary Spine Tumor Management: Integrating Cutting-Edge Oncology and Rehabilitation Strategies for Optimal Patient Outcomes

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTERS
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	<b>Breakfast / Registration</b>	
8:00 AM - 8:05 AM	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	Lisa M. Ruppert, MD
8:05 AM - 10:10 AM	<b>Session 1: Oncologic Management of Spinal Tumors</b>	
8:05 AM - 8:40 AM	• Multidisciplinary Management of Malignant Spinal Cord Compression	W. Christopher Newman, MD, MPH
8:40 AM - 9:15 AM	• Role and Outcomes of Radiotherapy in the Multidisciplinary Management of Spine Tumors	Yoshiya Yamada, MD
9:15 AM - 9:50 AM	• Spinal Tumors: The Role of Systemic Therapy	Elizabeth Coffee, MD
9:50 AM - 10:10 AM	<b>Stretch Break</b>	
10:10 AM - 11:55 AM	<b>Session 2: Integrating Rehabilitation Medicine into the Oncologic Care Plan</b>	
10:10 AM - 10:45 AM	• Integrating Rehabilitation Medicine into the Continuum of Spine Tumor Care	Lisa M. Ruppert, MD
10:45 AM - 11:20 AM	• Inpatient Rehabilitation Care for Patients with Spinal Tumors: Precautions, Functional Recovery, and Symptom Management	Amy H. Ng, MD, MPH
11:20 AM - 11:55 AM	• Bridging Two Worlds: Nursing Perspectives in Rehabilitation and Cancer Care	Lisa Beck, MS, APRN
11:55 AM - 12:55 PM	<b>Lunch (on your own)</b>	
12:55 PM - 2:40 PM	<b>Session 3: Integrating Physical and Occupational Therapy into the Oncologic Care Plan</b>	
12:55 PM - 1:30 PM	• Spine Tumor Board-Case Discussions and Questions	Expert Panel (all speakers)
1:30 PM - 2:05 PM	• Beyond Trauma – Special Considerations for Tailoring Rehabilitation in Non-Traumatic Oncology-Related Spinal Cord Injuries	Katrina Pizzichetta, PT, DPT, CLT
2:05 PM - 2:40 PM	• Navigating Functional Prognosis and Clinical Decision Making in Inpatient Rehabilitation for Individuals with Cancer-Related SCI	Marissa Malady MOT, OTR/L, CLT
2:40 PM - 2:50 PM	<b>Stretch Break</b>	
2:50 PM - 4:35 PM	<b>Session 4: From Injury to Insight: Advancing Knowledge of Cancer-Related Spinal Cord Outcomes Through Collaboration and Data Integration</b>	
2:50 PM - 3:25 PM	• From Injury to Insight: Advancing Knowledge of Cancer-Related Spinal Cord Outcomes Through Collaboration and Data Integration	Ronald K. Reeves, MD
3:25 PM - 3:55 PM	• Should Cancer Be a Dealbreaker? Rethinking Exclusion in Spinal Cord Injury Trials	Isa McClure, PT, MAPT
3:55 PM - 4:30 PM	• Next Steps in Cancer-Related Spinal Cord Injury Research-Panel Discussion	Expert Panel (all speakers)
4:30 PM - 4:35 PM	• Conclusion	Lisa M. Ruppert, MD

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM



**Meet the Partners and Exhibitors**  
Time: 4:30 - 7:00 PM  
3rd Floor Foyer



### ICE-BREAKER

**Scooping Opportunities in SCI PEARL 1 & 2**  
Early Career Networking Session  
Location: Pearl 1 • Time: 5:00 - 6:00 PM  
*(all professional levels encouraged to attend)*



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# ASIA PRECOURSE TWO [Click Here for Abstracts](#) **Thursday, April 23, 2026 PEARL 3**

## Advancing Recovery through Epidemiologic, Psychosocial, and Biological Insights from the SCI Model Systems Network (2021–2026)

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTERS
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	<b>Breakfast / Registration</b>	
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	Jeanne Zanca, MPT, PhD
9:15 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>Session 1: Epidemiology, Health Systems, and Financial Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changing Demographics and Injury Profile of New Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries in the United States, 1972-2024</li> <li>Non-Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury Etiology: US SCI Model System Pilot Study Experience</li> <li>The Financial Assistance Needs of People Living with Spinal Cord Injury in the United States: Insights from 2 Mixed Methods Study</li> <li>The Relationship Between Variation in County Healthcare Resources and the Occurrence of Medical Complications After Spinal Cord Injury</li> <li>Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) Prices, Expected Rehabilitation Length of Stays, Provider Charges, Payments for Patients with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury by Case-Mix Group, 2013-2022</li> <li>Risk of Unintentional Injuries After Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury</li> </ul>	Yuying Chen, MD, PhD Ronald K. Reeves, MD Amanda Botticello, PhD, MPH Librada Callender, PhD, MPH Anne Deutsch, PhD, RN, CRRN Edelle Field-Fote, PT, PhD, FASIA
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>Break (15 minutes)</b>	
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	<b>Session 2: Psychosocial Interventions and Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention of Posttraumatic Stress: A RCT of Modified Brief Prolonged Exposure Therapy (Brief PE) During Inpatient Rehabilitation Post Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)</li> <li>Correlates of Psychological Health and Well-being Among Women with SCI</li> <li>Resilience adds Modest Predictive Value Beyond Depression for Pain Intensity One Year After Spinal Cord Injury</li> <li>Factors Associated with Opioid Use in Adults with Chronic Pain After SCI</li> <li>Sex Differences in Violence Related SCI At Baseline and Psychosocial Outcomes</li> </ul>	Librada Callender, PhD Susan Robinson-Whelen, PhD Elizabeth Felix, PhD Ricardo Battaglino, PhD Librada Callender, PhD
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	<b>Lunch (on your own)</b>	
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	<b>Session 3: Autonomic and Organ Function, and Aging</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Validation of MENTOR Tool to Describe Bowel Dysfunction In Inpatient Rehabilitation Setting</li> <li>Feasibility of Conducting the International Standards to Document Autonomic Function Following SCI during Inpatient Rehabilitation</li> <li>Potential Benefits of Transspinal Stimulation and Blood Flow-Restricted Exercise on Respiratory and Cardiovascular Function in Individuals with Tetraplegia</li> <li>Development and Validation of a Spinal Cord Injury Hospitalization Risk Index using Machine Learning</li> </ul>	Kim Anderson-Erisman, PhD, FASIA James Wilson, DO Jill Wecht, EdD Ashraf S. Gorgey, MPT, PhD Leslie Morse, DO

# ★ SCIENTIFIC MEETING ★

## ASIA PRECOURSE TWO

● [Click Here for Abstracts](#)

Thursday, April 23, 2026 PEARL 3

Advancing Recovery through Epidemiologic, Psychosocial, and Biological Insights from the SCI Model Systems Network (2021–2026)

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTERS
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	<b>Session 4: Community Participation and Physical Activity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact of Time and Negative Health Events on Longitudinal Physical Independence and Social Participation Among Individuals with Chronic SCI</li> <li>Community Transportation Resources, Social Network Characteristics, and Self-Reported Loneliness Among Newly Injured Individuals with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury</li> <li>Association of Meeting Physical Activity Guidelines with Psychosocial and Health Outcomes in Individuals with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury</li> <li>Wheelchair Skills Training in Clinical Practice: A Survey of Confidence, Performance, and Utilization</li> </ul>	Philip Requejo, PhD  Chloe Slocum, MD, MPH  Kimberley R. Monden, PhD  Lauren Malacarne, DPT
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	<b>Refreshment Break (15 minutes)</b>	
3:30 PM - 4:45 PM	<b>Session 5: Recovery of Neurological Function and Mobility Functional Recovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myotome Conversion from Zero as a Primary Outcome of Neurorecovery</li> <li>SCI And Patient-Specific Factors Predicting Functional and Neurological Recovery Among People with Tetraplegia</li> <li>Upper Extremity Measures in SCI: Baseline Validity and Prediction of Functional Independence</li> <li>Beyond Walking vs. Wheeling: One-Year Mobility Outcomes After Spinal Cord Injury Using the SCI-FI/AT Findings from the Model Systems Database</li> <li>Neurological Changes During Inpatient Rehabilitation in Persons with Non-traumatic Spinal Cord Injury</li> </ul>	Suzanne Groah, MD, MSPH, FASIA Ana Valeria Aguirre-Gomez, MD  Candace Tefertiller, PT, DPT, PhD, NCS  Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, ATP  Kazuko Shem, MD
4:45 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>Discussion/Summation</b>	Leslie Morse, DO

*The contents of this educational program were developed under several grants from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this program do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, ACL, HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.*

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM



**Meet the Partners and Exhibitors**  
 Time: 4:30 - 7:00 PM  
 3rd Floor Foyer



**ICE-BREAKER**

Scooping Opportunities in SCI PEARL 1 & 2

Early Career Networking Session  
 Location: Pearl 1 • Time: 5:00 - 6:00 PM

(all professional levels encouraged to attend)



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# Thank you **Clinic Institutional Members**



# 2026 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

**Friday, April 24**

**SALON H / L / K**

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	<b>BREAKFAST WITH PARTNER &amp; EXHIBITORS</b> SALON I & J	
8:00 AM - 8:15 AM	<b>Welcome + Opening Remarks</b> Mark Nash, PhD, FACS, FASIA	
8:15 AM - 8:30 AM	<b>FELLOW OF ASIA (FASIA) AWARD</b> Jim Hamer, BA Laura Krisa, PhD	John A. Horton, III, MD Lisa Marie Ruppert, MD
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	<b>LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD</b> Naomi Kleitman, PhD, FASIA	Presented by: Daniel P. Lammertse, MD
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>SELL LECTURE</b> <b>Remodeling of Sympathetic Circuitry and Dysautonomia After Spinal Cord Injury: Mechanisms and Clinical Implications</b> Phillip Popovich, PhD  ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	Stretch Break • Transfer to Next Session	
10:10 AM - 11:10 AM	<b>PARTNER / EXHIBITOR RECOGNITION</b>	
11:10 AM - 11:20 AM	Stretch Break • Transfer to Next Session	

	<b>SALON H / L / K</b>	<b>PEARL 3</b>	<b>PEARL 1 &amp; 2</b>
11:20 AM - 12:20 PM	<b>COURSE 1</b> Accurate Neurological Classifications Using Only One Third of the Exam: How to Perform the PE-ISNCSCI Version 2 ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>COURSE 2</b> Clinical Neuropathic Pain Phenotypes and Biomarkers After Spinal Cord Injury ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>COURSE 3</b> An Update on the Diagnosis, Management, and Research Directions for Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy (DCM) ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>

12:20PM - 1:30PM	<b>LUNCH SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM</b> SALON I & J Clinical Translation of ARC-EX: Bringing Innovation into Daily Practice at Craig Hospital	Sponsored by <b>ONWARD MEDICAL</b>
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1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	<b>GENERAL SESSION 1</b> Building Better Metrics: From Sensory Exams and Trunk Control to Quality of Life and More ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>GENERAL SESSION 2</b> Pain, Pain, Go Away: Insight into Pediatric SCI and Pain ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>GENERAL SESSION 3</b> Go With the Flow: Innovations in Respiratory and Urological Care ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>
2:30 AM - 2:40 PM	Stretch Break • Transfer to Next Session		

2:40 PM - 3:40 PM	<b>COURSE 4</b> ASIA 2026 Data Science Challenge: Advancing SCI Recovery Prediction Through Community-Driven Innovation ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>COURSE 5</b> Core Practice Principles: Assessing and Treating Trunk Impairments Post-SCI ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>COURSE 6</b> SCOPE - Making Sense of Discomplete Spinal Cord Injury ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>
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3:40 PM - 4:40 PM	<b>POSTER SESSION ONE</b> SALON G - M ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstracts</a>		
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3:40 PM - 4:40 PM **REFRESHMENT BREAK WITH PARTNERS & EXHIBITORS** SALON I & J

4:40 PM - 5:40 PM	<b>COURSE 7</b> Towards the use of Historical and Synthetic Control Data to Increase Efficiency in Clinical Trials ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>COURSE 8</b> From Lab to Clinic: Harnessing Non-Invasive Spinal Stimulation to Recover Motor and Autonomic Control post-SCI ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>COURSE 9</b> PLEX Voices: Projects to Model a Future for Successful Partnerships in Research ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>
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**Saturday, April 25**

**SALON H / L / K**

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

**BREAKFAST WITH PARTNER & EXHIBITORS SALON I & J**

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

**AWARD-ELIGIBLE ORAL PRESENTATIONS (TOP 6)** ● [Click Here for Abstracts](#)

- ★ Food Avoidance Behaviors, Associations, and Reasons Identified by Individuals Living with Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders Sherri L. LaVela, PhD, MPH, MBA
- ★ Functional Electrical Stimulation-Assisted Coughing Improves Peak Cough Flow in Individuals with Subacute SCI Kelly Pantason, PT, DPT
- ★ Training Time of Day Influences the Extent of Improvements From ARC-EX Therapy Combined with Rehabilitation: Potential Implications of Daily Adenosine Fluctuations Randy D. Trumbower, PT, PhD
- ★ Accelerating UTI Diagnosis and Treatment: Real-Time Phenotypic AST based on Pooled Metabolic Activity in Spinal Cord Injury/Disease Ana Valeria Aguirre Guemez, MD
- ★ Enhancing Upper Extremity Motor Recovery in Persons with Chronic Tetraplegia: A Multi-Site Efficacy Randomized Controlled Trial of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation Combined with Rehabilitation Ela B. Plow, PhD, PT, FASNRS
- ★ Unmet Attendant Care needs and Lapses in Attendant Care among those with Disability Related Non-Survivability due to Spinal Cord Injury Jon Laursen Roesler, MS

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

**ANTHONY F. DIMARCO LECTURE AWARD**

**Restoring Respiratory Motor Function After Spinal Cord Injury**

● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

Carlos B. Mantilla, MD, PhD

Chair, Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, Mayo Clinic

10:30 AM - 10:40 AM

Stretch Break/Transfer to Next Session

**SALON H / L / K**

**PEARL 3**

**PEARL 1 & 2**

10:40 AM - 11:40 AM

**COURSE 10**

Integrating Clinical and Instrumented Measures to Guide Rehabilitation of Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury

● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

**COURSE 11**

Employment After Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder: Advantages, Challenges, and Opportunities

● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

**COURSE 12**

Biosamples and Biobanking in Spinal Cord Injury: Current Practices, Challenges, and Future Directions

● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

11:40 AM - 1:00 PM

**LUNCH SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM SALON I & J**

**Signals of Recovery: Trends Emerging from the First RCT of Transcutaneous Spinal Stimulation**

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1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**GENERAL SESSION 4**

Perspectives and Priorities for Rehabilitation and Recovery After SCI

● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

**GENERAL SESSION 5**

Reimagining Independence: Patient-Centered Advances in SCI Assessment, Tech, and Therapy

● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

**GENERAL SESSION 6**

Eat, Stim, Burn: The Ups and Downs of Energy Balance

● [Click Here for Abstract](#)



2026 ANNUAL

# ★ SCIENTIFIC MEETING ★

<b>Saturday, April 25</b>	<b>SALON H / L / K</b>	<b>PEARL 3</b>	<b>PEARL 1 &amp; 2</b>
2:00 PM - 2:10 PM	Stretch Break/Transfer to Next Session		
2:10 PM - 3:10 PM	<b>COURSE 13</b> Clinical Decision-Support in Spinal Cord Injury: Opportunities and Limits ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>COURSE 14</b> Interactive Wheelchair Skills Lab ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>COURSE 15</b> Game Changers: Adaptive Recreation as a Pathway to Better Outcomes After Spinal Cord Injury ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>
3:10 PM - 4:10 PM	<b>POSTER SESSION TWO</b> ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstracts</a>		
3:10 PM - 4:10 PM	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK WITH PARTNERS &amp; EXHIBITORS</b> ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstracts</a>		
4:10 PM - 5:10 PM	<b>COURSE 16</b> Neuropathic Pain After Spinal Cord Injury: Challenges, Lessons, and New Directions ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>COURSE 17</b> Smart Trials in SCI: Integrating AI, Real-World Data, and Personalized Endpoints ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>	<b>GENERAL SESSION 7</b> Rehabilitation Remix: From Stories to Statistics ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstract</a>
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	<b>PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION</b> Hosted by <b>Mark Nash, PhD, FACSM, FASIA</b> ● <a href="#">Click Here for Abstracts</a>		
<b>CONF. ROOMS 20 &amp; 21 AT THE SAN ANTONIO MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER</b>			



**CONF. ROOMS 20 & 21 AT THE SAN ANTONIO MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER**

**Sunday, April 26**

**SALON H / L / K**

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Membership Breakfast

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**Awards Session**

Neilsen Foundation Allied Health Professional Research Award of ASIA  
 Anthony F. DiMarco MD Award | Apple Award | Vogel Award | Mulcahey Award | TRoHNS Award  
 Top 3 Oral Talk Awards | Top 3 Poster Awards | Early Career Awards

**SALON H / L / K**

**PEARL 3**

**PEARL 1 & 2**

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

**GENERAL SESSION 8**

Restoring Function After Spinal Cord Injury:  
 Emerging Clinical Trial Data from Motor  
 Function to Mental Health  
 ● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

**GENERAL SESSION 9**

The Rhythm of the Heart: 'Stewarting'  
 the Beat of SCI Cardiovascular Health  
 ● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

**GENERAL SESSION 10**

I Can see Clearly Now: From Cells to  
 Bright Images, and Big Data  
 ● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

10:00 AM - 10:10 AM

Stretch Break/Transfer to Next Session

10:10 AM - 11:10 AM

**COURSE 18**

Spinal Cord Stimulation in AD: Help,  
 Harm, or Something in Between?  
 ● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

**GENERAL SESSION 11**

Rewiring the Cord: Neuromodulation's  
 Potential for Restoring Vital Functions  
 After SCI  
 ● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

**COURSE 19**

Turning Evidence into Action:  
 Implementation Strategies for Motor  
 Restoration and Spasticity, Bone Health,  
 and Rehabilitation Engagement  
 ● [Click Here for Abstract](#)

Conclusion of Annual Scientific Meeting

11:10 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch on Own



# ★ SCIENTIFIC MEETING ★

## COURSES Friday | April 24, 2026

COURSE	COURSE CHAIR/MODERATOR	PRESENTERS
<b>COURSE 1</b> Accurate Neurological Classifications Using Only One Third of the Exam: How to Perform the E-ISNCSCI Version 2	Stephen Burns, MD	Stephen Burns, MD Brittany Snider, DO Mary Schmidt-Read, PT, DPT, MS, FASIA
<b>COURSE 2</b> Clinical Neuropathic Pain Phenotypes and Biomarkers After Spinal Cord Injury	Eva Widerstrom-Noga, DDS, PhD	Eva Widerstrom-Noga, DDS, PhD Elizabeth Felix, PhD John Kramer, PhD
<b>COURSE 3</b> An Update on the Diagnosis, Management, and Research Directions for Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy (DCM)	Julio C. Furlan, MD, LLB, MBA, PhD, MSc, FRCPC, FAAN, FASIA	Julio C. Furlan, MD, LLB, MBA, PhD, MSc, FRCPC, FAAN, FASIA James D. Guest, MD, PhD, FAANS, FASIA Sukhvinder Kalsi-Ryan, BScPT, MSc, PhD
<b>COURSE 4</b> ASIA 2026 Data Science Challenge: Advancing SCI Recovery Prediction Through Community-Driven Innovation	Ronald James Cotton, MD, PhD	Abel Torres Espin, PhD Rüdiger Rupp, PhD, Dr-Ing Partha Sarathi Purkayastha, MSc Sujata Sinha, PhD
<b>COURSE 5</b> Core Practice Principles: Assessing and Treating Trunk Impairments Post-SCI	Anne E. Palermo, PT, DPT, PhD	Anne E. Palermo, PT, DPT, PhD Gina Brunetti, PT, DPT, NCS Claire Boswell-Ruys, BSc, BAppSci Physiotherapy, PhD Maya Hatch, PhD
<b>COURSE 6</b> SCOPE - Making Sense of Discomplete Spinal Cord Injury	James Guest MD, PhD	Keith Tansey, MD, PHD, FASIA Michelle Hubli, PhD
<b>COURSE 7</b> Towards the use of Historical and Synthetic Control Data to Increase	Abel Torres Espin, PhD	Abel Torres Espin, PhD Catherine Jutzeler, PhD Tracy J. Mayne, PhD
<b>COURSE 8</b> From Lab to Clinic: Harnessing Non-Invasive Spinal Stimulation to Recover Motor and Autonomic Control post-SCI	Goutam Singh, PT, PhD	Goutam Singh, PT, PhD Kathryn Caroline Hickey Lucas, DPT, PhD Pawan Sharma, PT, PhD Einat Engel-Haber, MD
<b>COURSE 9</b> PLEX Voices: Projects to Model a Future for Successful Partnerships in Research	Matthew Rodreck	Jennifer Dulin, PhD Noam Y. Harel, MD, PhD Tommy Sutor, PhD



# COURSES **Saturday | April 25, 2026**

COURSE	COURSE CHAIR/MODERATOR	PRESENTERS
<b>COURSE 10</b> Integrating Clinical and Instrumented Measures to Guide Rehabilitation of Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury	Monica A. Perez, PT, PhD	Rüdiger Rupp, PhD, Dr-Ing Christopher West, PhD Monica A. Perez, PT, PhD
<b>COURSE 11</b> Employment After Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder: Advantages, Challenges, and Opportunities	Cristina Sadowsky, MD, FASIA	Cristina Sadowsky, MD, FASIA Trevor Dyson-Hudson, MD Kelley Simoneaux, JD
<b>COURSE 12</b> Biosamples and Biobanking in Spinal Cord Injury: Current Practices, Challenges, and Future Directions	Norbert Weidner, MD	Norbert Weidner, MD Brian Kwon, MD, PhD, FASIA Andrew Park, MD Adam Ferguson, MS, PhD Rüdiger Rupp, PhD
<b>COURSE 13</b> Clinical Decision-Support in Spinal Cord Injury: Opportunities and Limits	Olga Taran, PhD	Olga Taran, PhD Dennis Bourbeau, PhD Abel Torres Espin, PhD
<b>COURSE 14</b> Interactive Wheelchair Skills Lab	Allison Kessler, MD	Allison Kessler, MD, MSc Anna Gonzales-Hindelang, PT, DPT, NCS Erin Prentice, MHS, OTR/L, CLT Marissa Malady, OTR/L, CLT
<b>COURSE 15</b> Game Changers: Adaptive Recreation as a Pathway to Better Outcomes After Spinal Cord Injury	R. Lucas Burns, PT, DPT, PhD	Michael Furtado, PT, DPT, EdD Jordan Birdsong, PT, DPT Catherine Murray, OTR, MOT, MBA
<b>COURSE 16</b> Neuropathic Pain After Spinal Cord Injury: Challenges, Lessons, and New Directions	Nikos Kyritsis, PhD	Nikolaos Kyritsis, PhD John Kramer, PhD Anastasia Keller, PhD Michelle Hook, PhD
<b>COURSE 17</b> Smart Trials in SCI: Integrating AI, Real-World Data, and Personalized Endpoints	Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS, FRSC, FCAHS	Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS, FRSC, FCAHS James David Guest, MD, PhD, FAANS, FASIA Brian K. Kwon, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FASIA Mohammed Ali Alvi, MBBS, MS Karlo M. Pedro, MD

# COURSES **Sunday | April 26, 2026**

COURSE	COURSE CHAIR/MODERATOR	PRESENTERS
<b>COURSE 18</b> Spinal Cord Stimulation in AD: Help, Harm, or Something in Between?	Einat Engel-Haber, MD	Andrei Krassioukov, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FASIA Rahul Sachdeva, PhD Soshi Samejima, DPT, PhD
<b>COURSE 19</b> Turning Evidence into Action: Implementation Strategies for Motor Restoration and Spasticity, Bone Health, and Rehabilitation Engagement	Edelle Field-Fote, PT, PhD, FASIA	Edelle Field-Fote, PT, PhD, FASIA Leslie Morse, DO Allen Heinemann, PhD, ABPP, FACRM



2026 ANNUAL

# SCIENTIFIC MEETING

## GENERAL SESSIONS

**Award-Eligible Oral Presentations** **SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2026** / 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Moderator: Edelle Field-Fote, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FASIA • Co-Moderator: Bing Chen, PhD, MD, MEd

AWARD-ELIGIBLE ORAL PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTERS
Food Avoidance Behaviors, Associations, and Reasons Identified by Individuals Living with Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders	Sherri L. LaVela, PhD, MPH, MBA
Functional Electrical Stimulation-Assisted Coughing Improves Peak Cough Flow in Individuals with Subacute SCI	Kelly Pantason, PT, DPT
Training Time of Day Influences the Extent of Improvements From ARC-EX Therapy Combined with Rehabilitation: Potential Implications of Daily Adenosine Fluctuations	Randy D. Trumbower, PT, PhD
Accelerating UTI Diagnosis and Treatment: Real-Time Phenotypic AST based on Pooled Metabolic Activity in Spinal Cord Injury/Disease	Ana Valeria Aguirre Guemez, MD
Enhancing Upper Extremity Motor Recovery in Persons with Chronic Tetraplegia: A Multi-Site Efficacy Randomized Controlled Trial of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation Combined with Rehabilitation	Ela B. Plow, PhD, PT, FASNR
Unmet Attendant Care Needs and Lapses in Attendant Care Among Those with Disability Related Non-Survivability Due to Spinal Cord Injury	Jon Laursen Roesler, MS

**FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2026** *All Program times are in Central Standard Time (CST)*

ORAL PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTERS
<b>GENERAL SESSION 1: Building Better Metrics: From Sensory Exams and Trunk Control to Quality of Life and More</b> 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM / Moderator: Trevor Dyson-Hudson, MD • Co-Moderator: Bria Mellick, MS	
Instrumented Trunk Control Assessment Using Smartphones in Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury: Psychometric Properties and Barriers to its Application	Aldo Rafael Montes Ugalde, MD
Measurement Properties of SCI-QoL Participation Short Forms	Allen Heinemann, PhD, FACRM, ABPP
Longitudinal Finite Mixture Models for Mining Complex Temporal Recovery Patterns in Patients with Traumatic and Non-traumatic Spinal Cord Injury	Karlo M. Pedro, MD
Identifying Better Proxies of Adiposity in Spinal Cord Injury	Mark Rozenzwaig, BS
Augmented Reality with See Through Visualization for Standardized ASIA AIS Sensory Examination: Development and Proof of Concept	Mark D. Cassidy, MD
Validation of The Autonomic Dysfunction After Spinal Cord Injury Questionnaire for Hypotension	Meagan N. Smith, BSc (Hons)

# GENERAL SESSIONS

**FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2026** *All Program times are in Central Standard Time (CST)*

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

## PRESENTERS

### GENERAL SESSION 2: Pain, Pain Go Away: Insight into Pediatric SCI and Pain

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM / Moderator: **Cristina L. Sadowsky, MD** • Co-Moderator: **Raza Malik, MSc, PhD**

Surgical Procedures After Pediatric Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury in the United States: A National Inpatient Study	Matthew Redmond, HBSc
Heart Rate Variability Biofeedback Training Improves Pain Interference with Mood in Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury and Chronic Pain: Preliminary Findings from a Randomized Controlled Trial	Lisa Lighthall Haubert, MPT, DPT, KEMG
Exercise-Related Pain Relief for People with SCI Related Neuropathic Pain	Meredith Pinkerton, BS, MS
Pediatric Spinal Cord Morphometry: Comprehensive Growth References and Data-Driven Grouping Rules	Laura Krisa, PhD
Diet Quality is Negatively Associated with Neuropathic Pain Severity Among People with Chronic Spinal Cord Injury	Alicia M. Sneij, PhD, RDN, MS
Pediatric Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury in Ontario, Canada: Incidence and Cohort Characterization	James A.G. Crispo, MSc, PhD

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

## PRESENTERS

### GENERAL SESSION 3: Go With the Flow: Innovations in Respiratory and Urological Care

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM / Moderator: **Ashraf S. Gorgey, MPT, PhD** • Co-Moderator: **Annie Palermo, PT, DPT, PhD**

Individual Participant Effects of Acute Intermittent Hypoxia on Peak Cough Flow; A Secondary Analysis	Tommy W. Sutor, PhD
Investigating the Feasibility, Validity and Economic Impact of a Home-Based Screening Sleep Test in the Detection of Sleep Apnea in Individuals Living with Spinal Cord Injury	Julio C. Furlan, MD, LLB, MBA, MSc, PhD, FRCPC, FAAN, FASIA
Quality-of-Life Impact of Ventilator Weaning After Diaphragm Pacing and Phrenic Nerve Reconstruction in Cervical Tetraplegia with Loss of Phrenic Nerve Integrity	Matthew R. Kaufman, MD, FACS
<b>2023 CRAIG H. NEILSEN RESEARCH AWARD</b> – The Use of Functional Electrical Stimulation in Conjunction with Respiratory Muscle Training to Improve Unaided Cough in Individuals with Acute Spinal Cord Injury	Stephane Philippe-Ratway, MS, CCC-SLP
Results of Diaphragm Pacing in Elderly Mechanically Ventilated Spinal Cord Injured Patients: Ageing has a Significant Effect on Diaphragm Function	MaryJo Elmo, ACNP
Urine Resazurin Reduction Ratio Is Associated with Urine Biomarkers and Likelihood of Urinary Tract Infection in Individuals with Neurogenic Bladder	Abigail Fox, BA



2026 ANNUAL

# SCIENTIFIC MEETING

## GENERAL SESSIONS

**SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2026** *All Program times are in Central Standard Time (CST)*

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### PRESENTERS

#### GENERAL SESSION 4: Perspectives and Priorities for Rehabilitation and Recovery After SCI

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM / Moderator: Sunil Sabharwal, MD • Co-Moderator: Abigail Fox, BA

Community Perspectives On Transcutaneous Stimulation Research In The Home After Spinal Cord Injury	Bria Mellick, MS
Gaps in Recovery Priorities After Spinal Cord Injury: Perspectives of Individuals with Lived Experience and Healthcare Professionals In Japan	Soshi Samejima, DPT, PhD
Early Inpatient Approach to Sexuality in Patients with Spinal Cord Injury: Frequency, Interventions, and Perceived Barriers by Neurorehabilitation Professionals	Carla Dellarosa, PT
Effects of Older Age and Biological Sex on Axonal Survival within the Spinal Cord White Matter following Acute Cervical Spinal Cord Injury	Julio C. Furlan, MD, LLB, MBA, PhD, MSc, FRCPC, FAAN, FASIA
Research Education To Promote Clinician Participation in Rehabilitation Studies of SCI	Elliot Barden, MOT, OTR/L Obumneme Emeka Okoro, MD
Design and Delivery Preference for Physical Activity Intervention in People with Spinal Cord Injury: A Pilot Discrete Choice Experiment	Yumi Kim, PhD

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### PRESENTERS

#### GENERAL SESSION 5: Reimagining Independence: Patient-Centered Advances in SCI Assessment, Tech, and Therapy

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM / Moderator: Elizabeth Roy Felix, PhD • Co-Moderator: Tommy Sutor, MS, PhD

Patient-Centered Perspectives on Pharmaceutical Interventions for Acute Cervical Spinal Cord Injury: Community Engagement Findings to Inform Clinical Trial Design	Ian Burkhart, BS
Addressing Barriers to Gynecological Care in Women with Spinal Cord Injury: A Physiatry-Led Approach	Claire Shackleton, PhD
Predicting Walking Recovery After Mid-Severity Spinal Cord Injury	Dannae Arnold, PT, DPT, ATP
AI-Guided Robot-Assisted Feeding	Eric Schearer, PhD
Upper Limb Lower Motor Neuron Assessment in Cervical SCI: An Implementation Study	Anne M. Bryden PhD, OTR/L



# GENERAL SESSIONS

**SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2026** *All Program times are in Central Standard Time (CST)*

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS PRESENTERS

### GENERAL SESSION 6: Eat, Stim, Burn: The Ups and Downs of Energy Balance

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM / Moderator: Andrew Park, MD • Co-Moderator: Jacob A. Goldsmith, MS, PhD

Lower Cord Lesions have Higher C-Reactive Protein Levels than Higher Cord Lesions: A Surprising Finding	Christopher M. Ciriigliaro, PhD
Energy Surplus After Spinal Cord Injury	Ashraf S. Gorgey, MPT, PhD
Prevalence and Consequences of Overeating Among Individuals with Chronic Spinal Cord Injuries/Disorders	Gary J. Farkas, PhD, MSCTI
Functional Electrical Stimulation Exercise Induces Metabolic and Motor Adaptations Independent of Stimulation Intensity In Spinal Cord Injury	Jesse Brenman, BS, PhD Candidate
Effects of Transcutaneous Auricular Vagus Nerve Stimulation on Postprandial Glycemia in Individuals with Chronic Spinal Cord Injury: Preliminary Findings	Gary J. Farkas, PhD, MSCTI
Lesion Level-Dependent Systemic Muscle Wasting After Spinal Cord Injury is Mediated by Glucocorticoid Signaling in Mice	Jan Schwab, MD PhD

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS PRESENTERS

### GENERAL SESSION 7: Rehabilitation Remix: from Stories to Statistics

4:10 PM - 5:10 PM / Moderator: Jennifer Coker, PhD • Co-Moderator: Alex Benedetto, PhD Student

Discovering SCI Social Media Impact: Stories Behind the Statistics – Two Case Studies	Stephanie Lollino, BA
Elevated Arterial Stiffness in Persons with Spinal Cord Injury is Not Associated with Systemic Markers of Inflammation	Michelle Trbovich, MD
Key Considerations for Disability Data Collection and Accommodations: A Pilot Study to Advance Access to Primary Care for People with Spinal Cord Injuries	Carol Haywood, PhD, OTR/L
The Determinant Neurologic Level for Ambulation in Patients with Spinal Cord Injury: A Retrospective Odds Ratio Study	Yang-Chin Su, MD
Empowering Nurses with Dashboards for Individual Clinician Enhancement (DICE): A Pilot Study in a Neurorehabilitation Hospital	Jennifer Coker, PhD, MPH, FASIA



2026 ANNUAL

# SCIENTIFIC MEETING

## GENERAL SESSIONS

**SUNDAY APRIL 26, 2026** *All Program times are in Central Standard Time (CST)*

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### PRESENTERS

#### **GENERAL SESSION 8: Restoring Function After Spinal Cord Injury: Emerging Clinical Trial Data from Motor Function to Mental Health**

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM / Moderator: Linda Jones, PT, PhD • Co-Moderator: Claire Shackleton, PhD**

Efficacy of Intrathecal Administration of Recombinant Human Hepatocyte Growth Factor for Acute Cervical Spinal Cord Injury with AIS A at 72 h post-injury: Phase III Study	Kazuya Kitamura, MD, PhD
Longitudinal Associations Between Quantity and Quality of Exercise Participation and Mental Health of Persons with Spinal Cord Injury Living with Chronic Pain: A Secondary Analysis from the EPIC-SCI Randomized Controlled Trial	Matteo Ponzano, PhD
Virtual Reality-Based Kayak Training for Functional Independence and Trunk Control in Spinal Cord Injury: A Randomized Clinical Trial	Aldo Rafael Montes Ugalde, MD
Predicting Discharge Independence in Cervical SCI: Associations Between Upper Extremity Outcome Measures and CARETool Scores	Candace Tefertiller, PT, DPT, PhD
Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation to Promote Walking Recovery in Subacute Spinal Cord Injury	Candace Tefertiller, PT, DPT, PhD
Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation In The Home: Safety, Feasibility, And Caregiver Training Strategies	Lia Brunn, OTR/L, OTD

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### PRESENTERS

#### **GENERAL SESSION 9: The Rhythm of the Heart: 'Stewarting' the Beat of SCI Cardiovascular Health**

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM / Moderator: Gary Farkas, PhD, MSCTI • Co-Moderator: Christopher M. Ciriigliaro, PhD, CBDT**

Parameter Mapping for Restoration of Seated Blood Pressure during Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation in Hypotensive People with Spinal Cord Injury	Tommy W. Sutor, PhD
Effects of Sleep-Related Breathing Disorders on Electrocardiographic Recordings in Individuals Living with Cervical or High-Thoracic Spinal Cord Injury	Julio C. Furlan, MD, LLB, MBA, MSc, PhD, FRCPC, FAAN, FASIA
Effects of a Single Bout of High-Intensity-Interval Exercise on Cardiovascular Function in Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury	Wenjie Ji, PhD
Role of Vascular Endothelial Dysfunction in Spinal Cord Injury Related Cardiovascular Disease Risk	Andrew Park, MD
Association between Blood Pressure Instability and Health-Related Quality of Life in SCI	Jill M. Wecht, EdD
Cardiovascular Risk in SCI is Best Explained by Adiposity, Not Injury Characteristics	Simran R. Prakash, BS

# GENERAL SESSIONS

**SUNDAY APRIL 26, 2026** *All Program times are in Central Standard Time (CST)*

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

## PRESENTERS

### GENERAL SESSION 10: I Can see Clearly Now: From Cells to Bright Images, and Big Data

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM / Moderator: Angela R. Filous, PhD • Co-Moderator: David McMillan, PhD

Patient-Derived iPSCs-glial-enriched Progenitor for Spinal Cord Injury Recovery	María del Mar Sánchez Martín, PhD
Engineering Lipid Nanoparticles for Intravenous Administration to Treat Acute Spinal Cord Injury	Daniel Hellenbrand, PhD
Micro-Structural MRI Is a Biomarker Which Predicts Baseline Heterogeneity & Outcomes After Acute Cervical Spinal Cord Injury – Insights from the RISCIS Imaging Sub-Study	Mohammed Ali Alvi, MD, MS
Imaging Biomarkers Derived Using an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Pipeline Enhance Prognostication of Patients Undergoing Surgery for Nontraumatic Spinal Cord Injury due to Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy	Mohammed Ali Alvi, MD, MS
Challenging Completeness: Data-Driven Insights into Recovery Patterns in Complete Spinal Cord Injury	Olga Taran, PhD
The Same Side Matters: Ipsilateral Corticomotor Pathways Contribute to Upper Limb Function in Cervical Spinal Cord Injury	Jia Liu, PhD

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

## PRESENTERS

### GENERAL SESSION 11: Rewiring the Cord: Neuromodulation's Potential for Restoring Vital Functions After SCI

10:10 AM - 11:10 AM / Moderator: Laura Krisa, PhD • Co-Moderator: Ramanamurthy Mylavarapu, PhD

Epidural Spinal Cord Stimulation Manages Low Blood Pressure After Spinal Cord Injury: Updates from the HemON Studies	Nicolas Hankov, Msc
Brain-controlled Transcutaneous Spinal Stimulation Restores Stepping Function by Potentiating Corticospinal Connectivity After Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury	Matija Milosevic, PhD
Neuromodulation-Enhanced Rehabilitation of Upper Extremities Motor Function and Trunk Control Through Cervical Epidural Stimulation in Patients with Chronic Cervical Spinal Cord Injury	Rodrigo Vilches-Aranguren, MD
Optimizing Cervical Transcutaneous Spinal Stimulation Parameters to Improve Hand Function in Children with Spinal Cord Injury	Goutam Singh, PT, PhD
Brain-controlled Epidural Spinal Cord Stimulation Modulates Descending Motor Control After Spinal Cord Injury	Zachary Boogaart, BS
Restoring Respiratory Function with Epidural Spinal Stimulation in Motor-Complete Cervical Spinal Cord Injury	Alejandra Valdivia Padilla, PhD Student

# ★ SCIENTIFIC MEETING ★

## AWARD-ELIGIBLE POSTERS

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 | 3:40 PM - 4:40 PM AND SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 3:10 PM - 4:10 PM

**1** Implementation of Functional Electrical Stimulation Assisted Coughing in a Group Setting During Inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation

**Brenna Murphy, PT, DPT, NCS**

**2** Pilot Study: Influenza Vaccine Responsiveness in People with Chronic Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

**Ona Bloom, PhD**

**3** Safety and Tolerability of Intravesical Lactobacillus Rhamnosus GG For Urinary Tract Infection on Neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction

**Christopher Riegner, MPH**

**4** Intra-subject Limb Comparisons of Motor and Neurophysiological Outcomes Using Examples from the European Multicentre Study About Spinal Cord Injury: Implications for Clinical Trials in Spinal Cord Injury

**Kyle Missen, PhD**

**5** Effects of Sacral Nerve Stimulation on Lower Urinary Tract Function

**Raegan Gouker, BS**

**6** The PedsADAPSS Parent Report: Validation of a Measure of Caregiver Appraisals in Pediatric Spinal Cord Injury

**Shubhra Mukherjee, MD, FRCPC**

**7** Testosterone+Finasteride Improves Knee Extensor Cross-Sectional Area, Muscle Strength, and Central Activation Ratio After Spinal Cord Injury: A Randomized Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Pilot Study

**Dana Otzel, PhD, MS, ATC, LAT**

**8** Adenosine Related Factors Correlate with Respiratory Motor Plasticity Following Acute Intermittent Hypercapnic Hypoxia

**Hannah Snyder, MS, ACSM-EP**

**9** Immediate Autonomic And Vascular Effects of Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation During Autonomic Dysreflexia Triggered by Pelvic Organ Stimuli in Motor-Complete Spinal Cord Injury

**Raza Malik, MSc, PhD**

**10** Effects of Non-Invasive Spinal Cord Stimulation on Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction In Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury: Results from the Below the Belt Trial

**Erika Escamilla, MD**

## POSTER SESSIONS

### Access/Advocacy

**11** Accessibility in Healthcare Settings for People with Spinal Cord Injuries from the Perspective of Healthcare Professionals in Latin America

**Melina Longoni, MD**

**12** Healthcare Access and Employment Among People Living with Spinal Cord Injury and Disease (SCI/D) Related Paralysis in Urban vs. Rural U.S. Populations

**Julia Myers, BS**

**13** Knowledge of Physical Education Professionals about Sport for People with Spinal Cord Injuries

**Melina Longoni, MD**

**14** Developing a Spinal Cord Injury Charity Care Clinic in an Academic Setting

**Selina Morgan, PT, DPT, NCS, PhDc**

**15** Analyzing Gaps in Assistive Technology for People with High Tetraplegia Through Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: A Qualitative Study

**Tyler Petrie, BS**

**16** Nutritional Awareness and Knowledge of Healthcare Providers in Spinal Cord Injury Management Across Latin America

**Melina Longoni, MD**

### Basic Science

**17** Tamoxifen Promotes Gut Microbiome-Mediated Anti-Inflammatory Responses After Spinal Cord Injury in Male and Female Rats

**Luis H. Pagán Rivera, MSc**

**18** Improving Diabetic and Hypertension Care of Veterans with SCI Multi-Year Impact of Focusing on Patient-Oriented Evidence that Matters (POEMs)

**Loay Mohammed, MD**

**19** Demographic and Clinical Factors Associated with Employment Outcomes in Patients with Spinal Cord Injury: A Cross-Sectional Study at the Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación, Mexico

**Aldo Rafael Montes Ugalde, MD**

**20** Late Breaking Abstract Update: A VA Clinician-Driven Effort to Empower Veterans with SCI/D in Managing their Spasticity through a Wearable Robot

**Mubeen Ansari, PhD**

# POSTER SESSIONS

## Cardiac/Metabolic

**21** Neuronal Pathways for Improving Heart Health with Electrical Stimulation

**Alex Wang, BSc**

**22** Validity of Toe Blood Pressure Compared with Arm Blood Pressure in Healthy Adults

**Ellen Merete Hagen, MD, PhD, FRCP**

**23** Effects of Two Aerobic Exercise Programs on Autonomic Cardiac Function, Cardiovascular Health, and Functional Outcomes in Spinal Cord Injury: A Randomized Clinical Trial

**Marlene Alejandra Rodríguez Barragán, MD, MSc**

**24** Knowledge of and Adherence to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans by Individuals with SCI/D

**Sherri L. LaVela, PhD, MPH, MBA**

**25** Baseline Anthropometric and Nutrition Intake Data from a Telenutrition Trial for People with Chronic Spinal Cord Injury

**Kazuko Shem, MD**

## Case Reports/Studies

**26** Parkinson's Disease After Chronic Spinal Cord Injury: A Rare Overlapping Neurologic Case

**Tony Ong, BS**

**27** The Neurological Price of Aesthetic Surgery: A Rare Case Following Abdominoplasty

**Naciye Bilgin Badur, MD, PhD**

**28** A Case of Myelopathy Secondary to Intrathecal Cytarabine Without Methotrexate

**Hans Anderson, MD, PhD**

**29** White Cord Syndrome Resulting in Incomplete Tetraplegia After Elective C3–C6 Laminoplasty: A Case Report

**George Cooper, MD**

**30** Acquired Neurogenic Thoracic Outlet Syndrome in Spina Bifida: A Case Report

**Claire Turgeon, MD**

**31** Motor, Urinary and Bowel Function Improvement in Acute and Subacute Spinal Cord Injury followed by an Intensive Neurorehabilitation Program Enhanced with Mesenchymal Stem Cells Therapy

**Rodrigo Vilches-Aranguren, MD**

**32** Clinical Characteristics of Spinal Cord Injury Patients: Evidence from a Rehabilitation Hospital in Jamaica

**Melina Longoni, MD**

**33** Epidural Electrical Stimulation Improves Pulmonary Function and Aerobic Capacity Following Spinal Cord Injury

**Jenny Zhang, PhD**

**34** Thoracolumbar Spinal Epidermoid Cyst in a Patient With Spina Bifida Occulta, Diagnostic Imaging Challenges and Review

**Madeleine Berg, MD**

## Comorbidities

**35** Prevalence, Location, and Other Data regarding Lower Extremity Fractures during Clinical Application of the ReWalk Exoskeleton 2013-2025

**Keith Tansey, MD, PhD, FASNR, FASIA**

**36** Mental Health Outcomes Over Time of Young Adults With Violence Related Pediatric Spinal Cord Injury

**Aubry L. Wood, MA**

## Modeling and Imaging

**37** Modeling Shared Historical Data for Synthetic Control Borrowing to Enhance Replicability In Experimental Spinal Cord Injury

**Simran Saggi, MPH**

**38** Computational Modeling of Deep Brain Stimulation to Map Brainstem Circuits Governing Locomotion in Pigs

**Brian Noga, PhD**

## Neuromodulation

**39** Enhanced Corticospinal Respiratory Plasticity Following Acute Intermittent Hypercapnic Hypoxia in Spinal Cord Injury

**Kate Cavka PT, DPT, NCSD**

**40** Comparison of Electrical Rectal Stimulation and Digital Rectal Stimulation for Neurogenic Bowel Management in SCI/D Patient Using a Take-home Electrical Device

**Kashav Mani Guatam, MD, MBBS**

*continued on next page*



# ★ SCIENTIFIC MEETING ★

## POSTER SESSIONS

### Neuromodulation (continued)

**41** Spinal Cord Epidural Stimulation as a Treatment for Orthostatic Hypotension in Spinal Cord Injury, the Neuromodulation of Autonomic Pathways: A Case Report

**Rodrigo Vilches-Aranguren, MD**

**42** Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation is Safe and Feasible In Complex Pediatric Spinal Cord Injury: A Retrospective Chart Review

**Lia Brunn, OTR/L, OTD**

**43** Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation Is Safe, Feasible, and Promising for Improved Walking in Pediatric Spinal Cord Injury

**Lia Brunn OTR/L, OTD**

### Other

**44** Addressing Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use and Polypharmacy in SCI Practice

**Sunil Sabharwal, MD**

**45** Pumped Up or Let Down? A Tale of Two Mattresses and the Quest for Optimal Pressure Relief

**Elizabeth Twist, MD**

**46** Cervical Spinal Epidural Abscess: A Systematic Review

**Mark Ehioghae, MD**

**47** Neuromechanical Characterizations of Plantar Flexor and Dorsiflexor Muscles in Chronic Cervical Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury

**Mathew Debenham, PhD**

**48** Lived Experiences After Motor Complete Spinal Cord Injury (C4–C7): Insights from a Qualitative Study

**Kimberly Pfleeger, PhD**

**49** Transfer Independence After Spinal Cord Injury is not Universally Important

**Rachel E. Cowan, PhD**

**50** Restoring Mealtime Independence for Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury

**Mubeen Ansari, PhD**

**51** Combined Effects of Activity-Based Therapy and Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation on Sub-Acute Spinal Cord Injury Individuals For Upper Limb Rehabilitation: A Pilot Study

**Sujata Sinha, PhD**

### Outcomes

**52** Client-Centered Functional Gains in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation: A 25-Year Retrospective Analysis Using the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure

**Jennifer Bashar, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIST**

**53** Disambiguating Motor Recovery After Acute Traumatic Cervical SCI: Myotome Conversions reveal Recovery Signals Masked by AIS and TMS

**Ana Valeria Aguirre Guemez, MD**

### Pain

**54** Pain in Acute and Subacute Spinal Cord Injury: Characteristics and Interference within the Context of a Randomized Controlled Trial Assessing the Feasibility of Restricting Gabapentin Administration

**Yoontae Jung, MD**

**55** Revision to the Spinal Cord Injury Pain Instrument (SCIPI): Improving Clarity for Enhanced Diagnostic Accuracy

**Thomas Bryce, MD**

**56** Presence, Characteristics, and Evolution of SCI-Related Neuropathic Pain During Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation

**Isha Asim, SCI Clinical Research Coordinator**

### Respiratory

**57** A Systematic Review on Sleep-Related Breathing Disorders in Para-Athletes with Spinal Cord Injury Compared with Non-Disabled Athletes

**Julio C. Furlan, MD, LLB, MBA, PhD, MSc, FRCPC, FAAN, FASIA**

**58** Acute Spinal Cord Injury-Acquired Pneumonia Induces Sustained Lung Injury

**Angela Filous, PhD**

### Urology

**59** Smart Catheter System for Point-of-Care Urinary Monitoring

**Erika Solano, MSc, Doctoral Candidate**

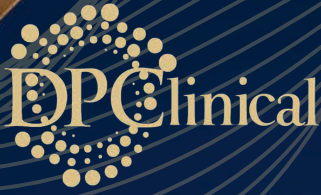
**60** The Relation between Maximal Cystometric Pressure and Long Term Change in Kidney Function in Spinal Cord Injury Patients

**Bengt Skoog, MD, PHD**

**61** Gender-Specific Insights into Intermittent Self-Catheterization among Spinal Cord Injury Patients: Understanding Quality of Life and Decision-Making through the Continence Care Registry

**Jessica Simmons, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CWON, DNC**





# 2026 FASIA AWARD RECIPIENT

# *Congratulations!*

The DP Clinical Team & broader Spinal Cord Injury Community celebrate Jim Hamer for nearly 30 years of focused commitment through dedication and valued leadership!

Jim has led and supported groundbreaking SCI clinical trials across biotech, pharmaceutical, and medical device sponsors.

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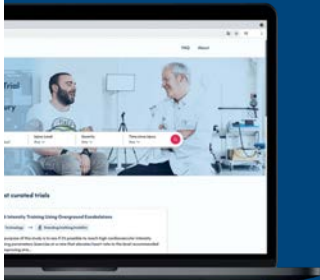
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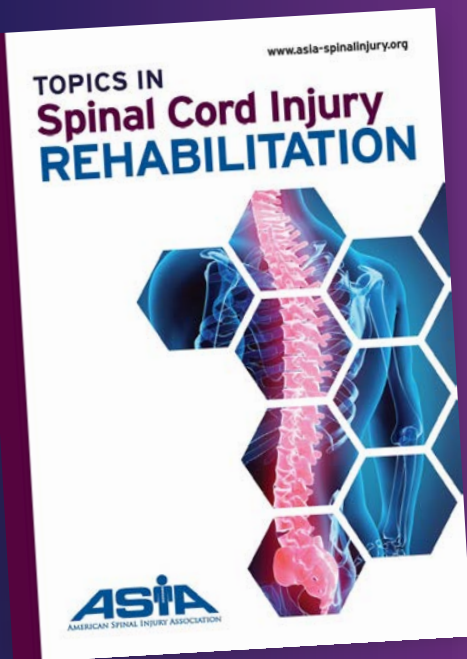
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# ISNR 2026

## CONFERENCE PACKAGE

### PROGRAM DATES

**Sunday, July 19 -**  
(Dinner & Keynote Seminar)

**Thursday, July 23**  
(Morning Departure)



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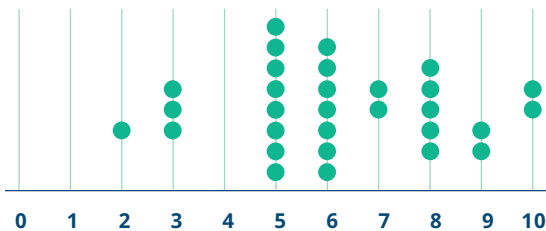
The ARC<sup>EX</sup> System is intended to deliver programmed transcutaneous electrical spinal cord stimulation in conjunction with functional task practice in the clinic and with take-home exercises in the home to improve hand sensation and strength in individuals between 18 and 75 years old that present with a chronic, non-progressive neurological deficit resulting from an incomplete spinal cord injury (C2-C8 inclusive). The ARC<sup>EX</sup> System is intended to be operated in medical centers by Rehabilitation Professionals and at home by Patients and Persons Providing Assistance to the Patient as needed.

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# Therapy that Fits Your Life.

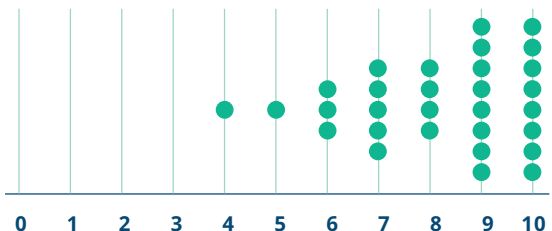
**87%** of patients were satisfied with their experience using ExaStim.



**26 of 30 patients** ranked their experience with ExaStim as 5 or greater.

*\*preliminary data from ASPIRE Home Study.*

**96%** of patients reported feeling confident in using the ExaStim Stimulation System in their home.



**29 of 30 patients** ranked their confidence in using ExaStim at home as 5 or greater.

*\*preliminary data from ASPIRE Home Study*

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ANV-EXA-0226-0001 v1

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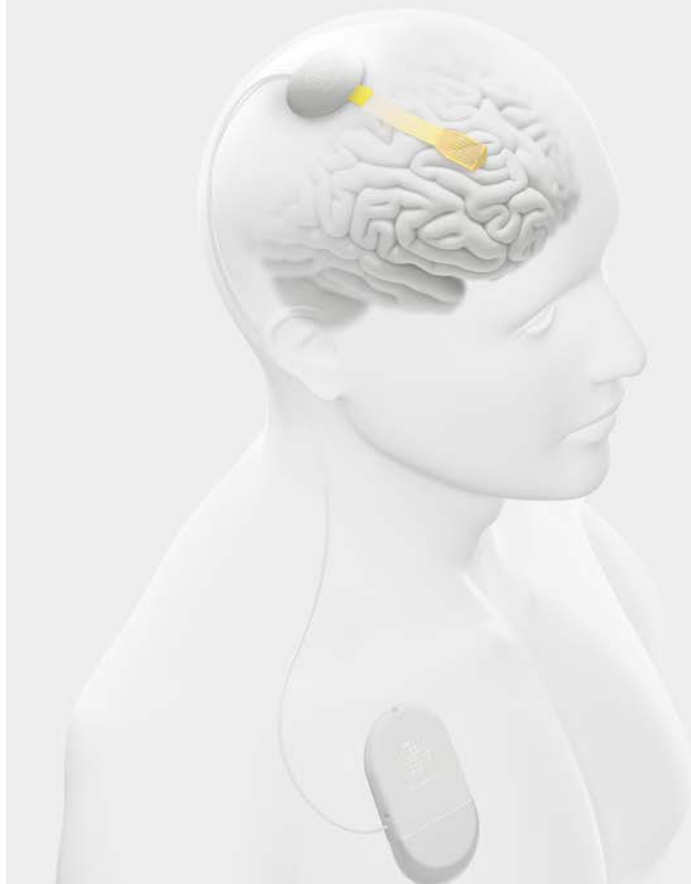


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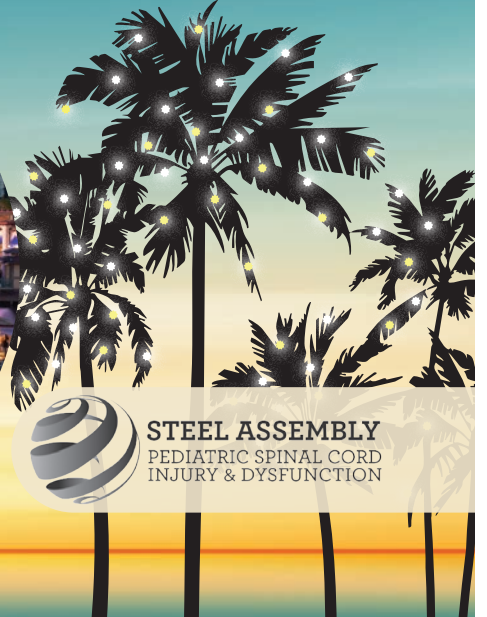
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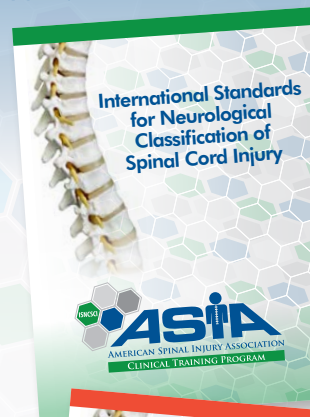
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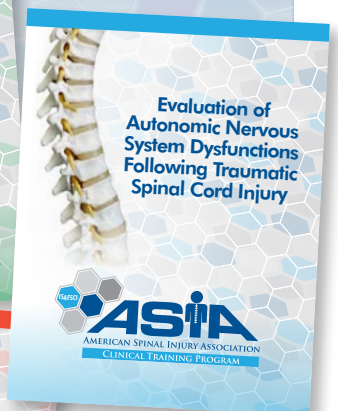
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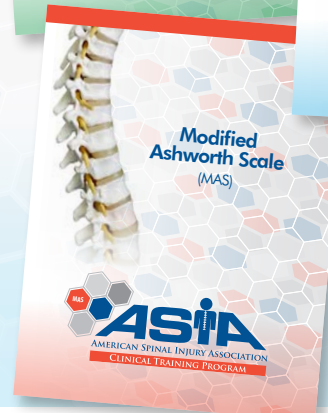
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