

University of Pittsburgh  
Model Center  
for Spinal Cord Injury

<http://www.upmc-sci.org/>



UPMC-SCI provides a continuum of care beginning with emergency response, continues with comprehensive acute medical

treatment and rehabilitation, through utilization of assistive technology services and vocational rehabilitation. UPMC-SCI also contributes to the assessment of long-term outcomes of individuals with spinal cord injury through our enrollment of participants in the National Spinal Cord Injury Database.

UPMC-research, which focuses on assistive technology and the prevention of upper limb pain related to over use, aims to improve the participation and quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injury.

An important factor of recovery and reintegration is support from people who know first hand the challenges faced after a spinal cord injury. The UPMC-SCI also supports the **SCI Peer Support Group** that meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. A variety of topics are discussed including wheelchair sports, adapting to daily life after injury, and research. Recently recognized by the National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA). The group started as a small monthly meeting four years ago and has grown to an organization with over 200 members that meets twice a month. Go to <http://www.upmc-sci.pitt.edu/sci-peer> for more details. Or contact Lee Tempest at [tempestml@upmc.edu](mailto:tempestml@upmc.edu).



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UPMC-SCI

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL  
MEDICINE  
&  
REHABILITATION

UPMC

UPMC REHABILITATION  
INSTITUTE



# University of Pittsburgh Model Center - for Spinal Cord Injury

It is estimated that 12,000 people will sustain a spinal cord injury (SCI) each year in the US. There were approximately 273,000 people living with an SCI in the US in 2013.

The Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SCIMS) Program was established in 1970 with the goal of creating comprehensive model of care for people with spinal cord injuries.

Currently, there are 14 SCIMS centers. Each center provides a multidisciplinary system of rehabilitation care, participation in a national database, collaborative and site-specific research.

In addition, the centers play a pivotal role in building the national capacity for high-quality treatment and research serving persons with SCI, their families and the communities in which they reside.

Funding is provided by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), of the US Department of Education.

## Caregiver Patient Resources

There are many excellent resources for people with SCI, their families, and the professionals who care and guide them. The following sites and information are excellent starting points for the latest news and information in the SCI community.



The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), a component of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), is the main federal agency that supports applied research, training and development to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. Accomplishing NIDRR's mission is a first step on the journey toward improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. NIDRR staff and its grantees are therefore committed to:

- Generating new knowledge and promoting its effective use in improving the ability of persons with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community, and

- Expanding society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities.

For more information about NIDRR and its programs and research visit:  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/index.html>



The Model System Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) is the online information hub for the three Model Systems funded by NIDRR located at <http://www.msktc.org/>.

The SCI section at the MSKTC website is an excellent source for information about life with a spinal injury.



### NCSISC National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center

The National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center (NCSISC) supports and directs the collection, management and analysis of the world's largest and longest spinal cord injury research database. The University of Alabama at Birmingham is home to the database and the lead center for the model systems.

Visit <https://www.ncsisc.uab.edu/> for access to publications, reports, and model system sites.



## ClinicalTrials.gov

ClinicalTrials.gov is a registry and results database of publicly and privately supported clinical studies of human participants conducted around the world. Learn more About Clinical Studies and About This Site, including relevant History, Policies, and Laws.

<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>