

The Latest Research on SCI

The Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (SCI Ontario) Postdoctoral Fellowship was created in 2003. Since that time, SCI Ontario has funded over one million dollars in research, which provides funding for postdoctoral fellows and their training.

These postdoctoral fellows were trained by the Neural Engineering and Therapeutics Team (SCI research program at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute), led by Dr. Milos R. Popovic, who is also the Chair of the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute Chair in Spinal Cord Injury Research.

The fellows' research programs focus on a variety of aspects of spinal cord injury, some of which include:

- Fitness and exercise guidelines for adults with spinal cord injury, as well as the reduction of risk factors of lifestyle-related disease in SCI population
- Electrophysiology and electric stimulation
- Neuroprostheses for standing, sitting and locomotion
- Pain and pain management in SCI population

Recently a company has been created called MyndTec. It is based on the research SCI Ontario has supported over the past 14 years.

MyndTec develops and commercializes innovative medical devices and therapies designed to improve function, maximize independence, and enhance quality of life. MyndTec's first product, MyndMove™ applies advanced principles of Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) to promote the recovery of voluntary hand and arm function following stroke or spinal cord injury to make lasting gains in the recovery of natural, voluntary movement. MyndMove is the first complete system to provide FES therapy for the full arm with the ability to execute reaching, grasping and fine motor control of the hand, for example pinching.*

For more information, please visit: <http://www.myndtec.com/>

*Source: MyndTec website

Research Showcase

Every year the Spinal Cord Connections Centre hosts a Research Showcase to demonstrate and answer questions regarding current research that is taking place involving persons with spinal cord injuries.

This year's presentation on October 8th focused on three studies:

- AusCAN study - risk assessment for sitting acquired pressure ulcers
 - This study looks at determining why some people are more prone to pressure sores than others and identifying common risks.
- CHOICES (Cardiovascular Health Outcomes: Improvement Created by Exercise and education in SCI) project

- Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of mortality in SCI population. This study is trying to determine which type of exercise improves cardiovascular health for people with spinal cord injuries.
- NRN (Neural Recovery Network) study
 - This study is looking at the use of loco-motor training to promote neurological recovery and optimize walking ability in patients with sub-acute motor incomplete SCI.

These were presented by Lindsie Blencowe, Maggie Szeto and Chris Alappat, respectively. All three projects are taking place through Toronto Rehab Institute and other partners.

Follow this link to learn more by watching the Research Showcase webcast:

https://sciontario.adobeconnect.com/_a1123264708/p88dxjri3zz/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal

For other resources, check out the Knowledge Enterprise Learning Centre on SCI Ontario's website:

<http://www.sciontario.org/service/learning-people-sci>