



SCI Research

Paralysis is the result of some sort of disconnection between the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord) and the body. Sometimes scientists know why this happens, as in the case of trauma, for example, wherein nerve cells are knocked out by directly by some outside force. In many other cases, including diseases such as multiple sclerosis or transverse myelitis, the breakdown of the nervous system comes from within, and this makes for a very complex mystery.

Biomedical research hopes to unravel the mysteries of nervous system disease and trauma and to return as much function as possible to people who have lost it. This is, of course, easier said than done.

A generation ago, the notion of "cure" for spinal cord injury or other paralyzing conditions wasn't part of the vocabulary. The central nervous system was simply not viewed as fixable. Few scientists invested their careers in what was considered a dead end area of research. But over the years, things have changed.

The field of restorative neuroscience is bubbling with energy and expectation. There are more scientists working on brain and spinal cord dysfunction now than at any time in history. Even the most conservative researchers no longer believe that the damaged or diseased nervous system cannot be treated.

The clues are mounting. Clinical trials for innovative treatments and therapies will steadily increase in coming years.

Our knowledge of the brain and spinal cord is far beyond what it was just a few years ago, but it's still limited. Many discoveries are still needed to assure that treatments are effective and safe.

While there is much work to do, it is important to know that there is reason for hope.

Websites

http://www.christopherreeve.org/site/c.ddJFKRNoFiG/b.4435067/k.A03D/International_Consortium_on_Spinal_Cord_Injury.htm

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's Research Consortium

<http://www.christopherreeve.org/site/c.ddJFKRNoFiG/b.4343879/k.D323/Research.htm>

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's Research News

<http://www.spinalcord.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=22508>

University of Alabama at Birmingham's Fact Sheet on Research in Spinal Cord Injury

http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/sci/detail_sci.htm

NINDS SCI: Hope Through Research

www.icord.org/scire

Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Evidence (SCIRE)

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/may2004/ninds-23.htm>

NIH News: Combination Therapy Dramatically Improves Function After SCI in Rats

<http://csro.com/>

Canadian and American Spinal Research Organization

905-508-4000

info@csro.org

The CSRO is dedicated to the improvement of the physical quality of life for persons with a spinal cord injury and those with related neurological deficits, through targeted medical and scientific research.

http://www.pva.org/site/PageServer?pagename=research_resfdn

Paralyzed Veterans of America Research Foundation

202-416-7652

202-416-7622 TTY

The PVA Research Foundation supports innovative research and fellowships that improve the lives of those with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D).

<http://www.ncddr.org/>

National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR)

<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html>

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)'s Research Programs

NIDRR funds 3 Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers

<http://keck.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University W.M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience and the SCI Project

604 Allison Road, D-251
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854 USA
732-445-2061

SCIPProject@biology.rutgers.edu

The mission of the W. M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience is the development of effective treatment for acute and chronic spinal cord injuries and to move these discoveries from laboratory to human lives as rapidly as possible.

www.miamiproject.miami.edu

Miami Project to Cure Paralysis

The Miami Project is the world's largest comprehensive spinal cord injury (SCI) research center; dedicated to finding more effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for paralysis.

<http://www.reeve.uci.edu>

Reeve Irvine Research Center

The mission of the Reeve-Irvine Research Center is to find new treatments for spinal cord injury through the collaborative research and educational efforts of prominent scientists and clinicians both at the University of California, Irvine and around the world.

<http://www.herlpitt.org/research.htm>

Human Engineering Research Laboratories, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Research Center

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WHEELCHAIR RESEARCH?

The Human Engineering Research Laboratories is recruiting individuals interested in participating in research studies for the **WHEELCHAIR USERS REGISTRY**. If you would like to be notified of Wheelchair related Research Studies for which you may be eligible to participate, contact The Human Engineering Research Laboratories and join the Wheelchair Users Registry. This is an informational resource and notification of a study does not obligate you to participate. You do not need to be located in nor are you required to travel to Pittsburgh in order to participate in research studies. If you are at least 18 years of age, and use a wheelchair or scooter, please contact **Rosi, Annmarie**, or **Amy**, for more information.

www.herlpitt.org

VA PGH Healthcare System

7180 Highland Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-365-4850

boylesa@herlpitt.org

<http://www.wingsforlife.com/?LNG=en&zid=84&id=84&m=>

Wings for Life: Making Spinal Paralysis Curable

A non-profit organization in Austria that funds SCI research.

http://www.alleninstitute.org/content/Press/Spinal_Cord_Atlas_Press_Release_07-17-08.pdf

Allen Institute for Brain Science

Press release on world's first genome-wide atlas of the mouse spinal cord.

Journals

Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine: Official Journal of the American Paraplegia Society

<http://www.apssci.org/the-journal-of-spinal-cord-medicine.html>

http://www.ascipro.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13&Itemid=19

Quarterly

Spinal Cord: The Official Journal of the International Spinal Cord Society

www.nature.com/sc

Monthly

Spinal Cord Injury Update (newsletter)

<http://sci.washington.edu/>

Quarterly from the University of Washington School of Medicine

Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation

[http://thomasland.metapress.com/\(qyxhtr55kcfkfh45s4g5np45\)/app/home/journal.asp?referrer=parent&backto=linkingpublicationresults,1:300382,1;](http://thomasland.metapress.com/(qyxhtr55kcfkfh45s4g5np45)/app/home/journal.asp?referrer=parent&backto=linkingpublicationresults,1:300382,1;)

Quarterly

The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please see www.paralysis.org and click the Lending Library tab.

Books

- **Spinal Cord Injury: Progress, Promise, and Priorities.** Washington, DC: National Academies Press/Institute of Medicine, 2005.
- Vikhanski, Luba. **In Search of the Lost Cord: Solving the Mystery of Spinal Cord Regeneration.** Washington, DC: Joseph Henry Press, 2001.

Videos

- **Clinical Kinesiology Applied to Persons With Quadriplegia Part I: Maximizing Movement Potential.** Washington DC: Paralyzed Veterans of America, 2001. 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Clinical Kinesiology Applied to Persons With Quadriplegia Part II: Enhancing Function.** Washington DC: Paralyzed Veterans of America, 2001. 53 minutes
- **From the Bench to the Body: Translational Research & Spinal Cord Injury Avoiding Potential Pitfalls.** Miami, FL: University of Miami School of Medicine, 2003. 4 volume set (1 hour 30 minutes each)
Covers the issues involved in moving SCI research from the lab to human trials.
- **Spinal Impact.** Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2000. 51 minutes.
Explores the promising scientific breakthroughs in treatment including nerve regeneration and electrical stimulation devices.
- **Spinal Injuries: Recovery of Function.** Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1995. 24 minutes
- **The Toughest Break.** Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2000.
Narrated by Christopher Reeve. Reenacts a spinal cord injury from accident to rehab. Interviews some scientists on progress in the field.

The information contained in this message is presented for the purpose of educating and informing you about paralysis and its effects. Nothing contained in this message should be construed nor is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment. It should not be used in place of the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider. Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician or other qualified health care provider promptly. Always consult with your physician or other qualified health care provider before embarking on a new treatment, diet or fitness program. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this message.