



SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM

FY24
Appropriation
\$40M

Advance the treatment and management of spinal cord injury and ameliorate its consequences relevant to injured Service Members, Veterans, and other individuals with SCI

FY24 FUNDING MECHANISMS

In FY24, the SCIRP will employ four funding mechanisms to solicit impactful research across the research and development spectrum with the potential to improve the health and well-being of Service Members, Veterans, and other individuals with spinal cord injury. Applications to the FY24 SCIRP funding mechanisms must address at least one of the FY24 Focus Areas.



Pre-Application Due: 20 May 2024

Full Application Due: 30 August 2024

The Early-Career Partnership Option is available for all mechanisms.

This option is structured to accommodate two Principal Investigators who will work together towards a single research project. Each partner will be named as PI for separate awards. At least one of the PIs must be an early-career investigator with at least three years research experience, independent or non-independent, beyond a terminal degree but no more than seven years within their first faculty appointment, or equivalent independent research position.



Investigator-Initiated Research Award

- Intended to support studies that have the potential to make an important contribution to SCI research, patient care, and/or quality of life
- Does not allow clinical trials



Translational Research Award

- Intended to support translational research that will accelerate the movement of promising ideas in SCI research into clinical applications
- Allows clinical trials to be a small part of the proposed research



Clinical Translation Research Award

- Intended to support high-impact and/or emerging clinical research that may not be ready for a full-scale clinical trial and for which feasibility/pilot/optimization studies are necessary
- Supports clinical research and clinical trials; disallows animal research



Clinical Trial Award

- Supports the rapid implementation of clinical trials with the potential to have a significant impact on the treatment or management of SCI
- Only supports clinical trials



International organizations are eligible to apply to all award mechanisms.



Employing Community Collaborations

The Spinal Cord Injury Research Program believes that capturing and integrating the unique perspectives of people living with SCI, through collaborative research approaches, will enable better and more impactful research outcomes. Research teams are therefore required to establish and utilize effective and equitable collaborations and partnerships with community members to maximize the translational and impact potential of the proposed research. Collaborative research approaches may include Lived Experience Consultants, partnership with community-based organizations, or establishment of Community Advisory Boards, which will provide advice and consultation throughout the planning and implementation of research projects.

❖ Community Partner(s) are named at the time of pre-application submission.

❖ A Collaborative Research Plan is submitted with the full application.

❖ IIRA applications are exempt from this requirement.

Anticipated FY24 Focus Areas

SCIRP uses Focus Areas to target research funding to the highest program priority needs.



Preserving and protecting spinal cord tissue at time of injury for improved neurologic outcomes



Identifying and validating biomarkers for diagnosis, prognosis, and for evaluation of treatment efficacies



Developing, testing, and validating promising interventions to address bowel, genitourinary, neuropathic pain, cardiopulmonary, or autonomic dysfunction in people with SCI



Investigating psychosocial issues relevant to people with SCI, their Families, and/or their care-partners across the life span



Rehabilitation and regeneration –maximizing the function of the residual neural circuitry, including harnessing neuroplasticity and recovery to improve function after SCI

Spinal Cord Injury is a whole body problem requiring healthcare solutions addressing the entire continuum of care.



Disease-Related Basic

Funded FY22 Investigator-Initiated Research Awards

- An Effective Strategy to Promote Axon Regeneration and Functional Recovery After Spinal Cord Injury, *Dr. Shuxin Li, Temple University*
- Applying Enhanced Electroceutical Treatments and Identifying Electrical Biomarkers for SCI, *Dr. Darren Svirskis, University of Auckland*



Translational

Funded FY22 Translational Research Awards

- Early Detrusor Chemodenervation to Preserve Bladder Compliance and Longevity After Spinal Cord Injury, *Dr. Zin Khaing, University of Washington*
- Mechanisms and Utility of Multisensory Body Representation in SCI and SCI-Related Neuropathic Pain, *Dr. Eva Widerstrom-Noga, University of Miami, Coral Gables*



Clinical Phase 0



Clinical Phase 1, 2

SCIRP funds across the research and development spectrum

Funded FY22 Clinical Trial Awards

- Critical Time Window for Rehabilitation After Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury: Early vs Late Locomotor Training, *Dr. Milapjit Sandhu, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab*
- Nerve Transfers in High Tetraplegia to Improve Patient Function and Quality of Life, *Dr. Wilson Ray, Washington University in St Louis*

For more information, visit: cdmrp.health.mil/funding/scirp