SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM (SCIRP)

CDMRP
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

FY23 Appropriation $40M

The SCIRP aims to advance the treatment and management of spinal cord injury (SCI) and ameliorate its consequences relevant to injured Service Members.

FY23 Funding Mechanisms

In fiscal year 2023 (FY23), 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 FY23 SCIRP funding mechanisms must address at least one of the FY23 Focus Areas.

Pre-Application Due: 24 May 2023 ***Full Application Due: 7 September 2023***

The Early-Career Partnering Principal Investigator Option (ECPPIO) is available for all mechanisms. This option is structured to accommodate two Principal Investigators (PIs) 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.

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* • *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 (SCIRP) 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.

FY23 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
- 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.

Funded FY21 Investigator-Initiated Research Awards

- **Improving Bladder Compliance and Function After Spinal Cord Injury by Targeting Aberrant Matrix Metalloproteinase-Dependent Remodeling of the Bladder Wall,** *Dr. Linda Noble, University of Texas at Austin*
- **Home-Based Immersive Virtual Reality and Spinal Simulation for Upper Limb Rehabilitation in Tetraplegia,** *Dr. Carrie Peterson, Virginia Commonwealth University*

Funded FY21 Translational Research Awards

- **Noninvasive Spinal Cord Stimulation for Recovery of Autonomic Function After Spinal Cord Injury: Moving from Mechanisms to Clinical Practice,** *Dr. Andrei Krassioukov, University of British Columbia*
- **Preclinical Investigations of a Novel Antimicrobial Urinary Catheter for Improving Genitourinary Dysfunction,** *Dr. David Vachon, Iasis Molecular Sciences*

Funded FY21 Clinical Trial Awards

- **Genital Nerve Stimulation to Modulate Anorectal Reflex Activity in Neurogenic Bowl Dysfunction in Individuals Living with Spinal Cord Injury,** *Drs. Kimberly Anderson and Robert Hoey, Case Western Reserve University*
- **Genetic Biomarkers of Intermittent Hypoxia-Induced Respiratory Motor Plasticity in Chronic SCI,** *Dr. Emily Fox, University of Florida*

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