WHO WE ARE

The Rick Hansen Institute is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization committed to accelerating the translation of discoveries and best practices into improved treatments for people with spinal cord injuries. Our vision is a world without paralysis after spinal cord injury.

THE WORK THAT SUPPORTS OUR VISION

Our efforts focus on accelerating the identification of cures for spinal cord injury. We aim to translate research results into medical and technological interventions that lead to improved health outcomes, and optimized SCI care across Canada. Our work focuses on reducing healthcare costs and improving quality of life for individuals with acute and chronic SCI. In order to accelerate our progress, our activities are focused in four main program areas:

• Cure
• Care
• Consumer Engagement
• Commercialization

OUR MILESTONES

By taking an integrated program approach and with ongoing consultation with our stakeholders and partners, we are working hard to achieve three ambitious milestones so that one day a world without paralysis after spinal cord injury will no longer be our vision, it will be our collective reality.

Over the next 25 years, we envision...

5-YEAR MILESTONE (2018)

International collaboration on two promising neuro-restorative therapies. 50% of Canadians sustaining a traumatic SCI will receive optimized and standardized care in SCI Centres that are part of RHI’s network.

10-YEAR MILESTONE (2023)

International collaboration on five promising neuro-restorative therapies. 75% of Canadians sustaining a traumatic SCI will receive optimized and standardized care in SCI Centres that are part of RHI’s network.

25-YEAR MILESTONE (2038)

All Canadians have access to neuro-restorative therapies and all Canadians sustaining a traumatic SCI will receive optimized and standardized care in SCI centres across Canada.

To learn more about the Rick Hansen Institute and our work, please visit us at rickhanseninstitute.org.

The Rick Hansen Institute would like to thank the following for their generous support: Government of Canada through Western Economic Diversification Canada, Rick Hansen Foundation and the Governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. We would also like to express our gratitude to individuals, corporations and other organizations that have made contributions to the Rick Hansen Institute.
**CURE**

Generating knowledge and establishing treatments for people with SCI.

**OBJECTIVES**
- Further our understanding of the biology and physiology of SCI.
- Develop promising therapies for neuro-restoration in acute and chronic SCI.

**AREAS OF FOCUS**
- Support pre-clinical and clinical studies that increase our understanding of SCI or evaluate therapeutic agents, cellular treatments, rehabilitation strategies and/or management of acute SCI.
- Develop a biobank or a repository of biological samples (e.g., CSF, blood, cord tissue) to support current and future international studies.
- Develop outcome measures to supplement the International Standards for Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury (the examination used to determine the severity and location of SCI) as well as improve or develop new measures of neuro-recovery.
- Promote, develop and adopt international standards and datasets for use in SCI clinical research.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
www.rickhanseninstitute.org/work/programs/cure

**CARE**

Creating and adopting best practices for the care of people with SCI, maximizing functional recovery and preventing complications.

**OBJECTIVES**
- Achieve evidence-informed equitable care for Canadians who sustain a SCI.
- Identify and fill important gaps in knowledge that will advance SCI care and facilitate future SCI cure(s).

**AREAS OF FOCUS**
- Secondary complications which will focus on pressure ulcers, urinary tract infections, respiratory infections and neuropathic pain.
- Neuro-recovery which will focus on activities supporting the improvement of neurological outcomes including pre-hospital triage, acute care management and rehabilitation to maximize recovery.
- Long term health, wellness and community participation which will focus on creating the optimal ‘environmental’ conditions to support long-term health, wellness and participation.
- Accreditation Canada implementation strategy which will focus on accreditation of RHI SCI Centres under the new SCI Acute Care and Rehabilitation Standards.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
www.rickhanseninstitute.org/work/programs/care

**COMMERCIALIZATION**

Facilitating increased investment in innovative technologies.

**OBJECTIVES**
- Accelerate the commercialization process for innovative technologies that will benefit people with SCI.
- Increase investor and industry engagement and participation in SCI research and development.

**AREAS OF FOCUS**
- Leverage RHI’s network in support of development and commercialization initiatives and continue to expand partnerships internationally.
- Support early-stage evaluation of technologies to introduce mechanisms/criteria that will proactively evaluate technologies for their applicability and benefit to people with SCI from a commercialization perspective.
- Develop policy and advocacy mechanisms related to health economic evaluation, impact analysis, regulatory considerations and advocacy in order to provide the evidence for reimbursement of innovations by payers.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
www.rickhanseninstitute.org/work/programs/commercialization

**CONSUMER**

Engaging people with SCI in research and helping them make evidence-based decisions about their health.

**OBJECTIVES**
- Provide resources and tools to help answer people’s most critical questions about their injury.
- Identify activities and opportunities to engage consumers and increase involvement in research activities.

**AREAS OF FOCUS**
- Develop an evidence-based, “go-to” resource that will help answer critical questions for injured individuals and their supporters about the healthcare, services and resources available to best support recovery after SCI.
- Increase opportunities for people with SCI through collaboration with other SCI organizations on events and tools; the Consumer Program will put research into the hands of consumers in useful formats.
- Support a consumer advisory committee representing the SCI population that will guide efforts to engage people with SCI in research, shape evidence-based resources and identify consumer research priorities for the Blusson Integrated Cures Partnership (a partnership between RHI and ICORD - International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
www.rickhanseninstitute.org/work/programs/consumer