Praxis is a unique model, not only to SCI research, but also to the broader life sciences and health care sectors. Its aim is to improve health outcomes and reduce health care costs in spinal cord injury.

**THE CHALLENGE**

Despite the amount of funding that supports basic research, few research discoveries achieve their potential. The various transitions from bench-to-bedside research is so fraught with obstacles that they are referred to as the **valleys of death**.

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**SCI RESEARCH CONTINUUM**

**Basic + Discovery Research** → **Clinical Research + Development** → **Healthcare Implementation** → **Short-term Outcomes** → **Long-term Outcomes**

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**VALLEY OF DEATH**
- Poor incentives
- Lack collaboration
- Lack of capacity
- Regulatory complications

**VALLEY OF DEATH**
- Lack of harmonization
- Cost and repetition
- Market size
- No medium for dissemination
- Insufficient value or relevance
- Lack of coverage or reimbursement

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**THE SOLUTION**

The Rick Hansen Institute has developed solution-focused tools to overcome specific obstacles in the research continuum of SCI discoveries to achieve the ultimate goals of improved healthcare outcomes for people with SCI and decreased financial impact on the healthcare system. RHI refers to it as the **Praxis Model**.

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**THE BENEFITS**

The Praxis Model enables RHI to achieve a better **return on investment** for its funders than other models. We define return on investment as improved outcomes for people with SCI divided by the cost of improved outcomes.
The Three Essential Components

1. COORDINATED PROGRAM STRATEGY
A set of four distinct, but interrelated programs – Cure, Care, Consumer and Commercialization Programs – ensures all projects and activities are focused on reducing the impact of paralysis.

2. KNOWLEDGE CYCLE
A four stage cycle that helps drive research forward.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCES
Tools to help overcome the obstacles which prevent research from reaching the bedside.

- Funding – RHI provides funding to translational SCI research and best practices implementation projects.
- Clinical Research Operations – RHI manages clinical trials in a similar manner to a clinical contract research organization.
- Informatics – RHI manages the Rick Hansen Spinal Cord Injury Registry and provides data collection, management and analysis services.
- Clinical Research & Best Practice Implementation – In addition to supporting research, RHI conducts clinical research (such as epidemiology, health services) and facilitates the implementation of best practices.
- Consumer Engagement – RHI works to increase opportunities for people with SCI to participate in research and health decision-making through awareness of SCI research.
- Collaborative Network – RHI works with academics, clinicians, individuals with SCI, administrators, policy makers and representatives from community organizations.
- Strategic Partnerships – RHI has established relationships with individuals, governments, NGOs, trade associations, research and healthcare institutions and corporations.

The Rick Hansen Institute is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization with the goal of creating a world without paralysis after spinal cord injury. It works towards this goal by accelerating research and translating clinical findings into practical solutions to develop new treatments, improve health care outcomes, reduce long-term costs and improve the quality of life for those living with spinal cord injury. www.rickhanseninstitute.org

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