POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

The Government of Alberta and our partners have played a leading role in supporting spinal cord injury (SCI) research and community services in the province by providing critical investments and services. This support has distinguished Canada as a leader in medical research, treatment and care for people living with SCI.

THE NUMBERS

140 days
Median length of hospital stay and rehabilitation for individuals with SCI. Required care is highly specialized and hugely complex.

$400 million
Estimated annual amount that spinal cord injuries cost the Government of Alberta in health care and support costs. As the population ages and more spinal cord injuries occur from falls, these costs will increase dramatically.

4,675 residents
Estimated number of Albertans living with traumatic spinal cord injuries, with more than 157 new injuries occurring every year.
TANGIBLE PROGRESS

The Rick Hansen Institute connects scientists, researchers, surgeons and health care practitioners to acquire and translate research findings into practical solutions.

Canadian facilities and three global sites engaged in knowledge transfer.

A nation-wide clinical research and data collection infrastructure, led by RHI, has been implemented in every major Canadian medical facility treating traumatic SCIs. Four sites are in operation in Alberta at Foothills Hospital, Calgary; and Royal Alexandra Hospital, University of Alberta Hospital and Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, in Edmonton. To date, 413 Albertans with SCI have registered.

ReJoyce – this hand and arm rehabilitation system, developed by DR. ARTHUR PROCHAZKA at the University of Alberta, is a dexterity trainer that simulates everyday functions, such as turning a key in a lock, or opening a jar. Integrated with an online computer, daily rehabilitation can be done anywhere, with the remote guidance of a specialized therapist. The system is now commercially available, manufactured at an Edmonton-based medical services company.

Early Detection of Pressure Ulcers – DRS. VIVIAN MUSHAHWAR, MARTIN FERGUSON-PELL, and RICHARD THOMPSON, at the University of Alberta, are developing clinically-feasible methods for early detection of deep tissue injury and novel electrical stimulation-based interventions.

Minocycline as a Neuroprotective Agent – led by Neurosurgeons JOHN HURLBERT and STEVE CASHA, at the University of Calgary, a multi-centre clinical trial is testing this off-patent antibiotic drug which shows positive impacts to both long-term physical motor recovery and sensory scores, when administered less than 12 hours after injury.

Internet Pressure Ulcer Clinic – this Clinic enables local home care providers to work with medical specialists, via the internet, for wound assessment and treatment information. Following development in London, ON, the Clinic is being implemented in Calgary (at Foothills Hospital), Winnipeg and Fredericton.

CAMPER (CSF/Biomarker study) – Calgary is one of seven centres in the Fluid Pressure Monitoring and Biomarker Validation clinical trial, which aims to minimize secondary damage to the spinal cord, reducing length of hospital stays, need for home care support, and hospital readmissions. This will result in reduced health care costs.

Access to Care and Timing project – development of a simulation model to describe processes of care, from the time of injury until discharge into the community, involves 27 acute and rehabilitations SCI centres across Canada, including sites in Calgary and Edmonton. This will help to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of SCI care in Alberta.

approximately

$2.3 million

invested by the Rick Hansen Foundation and the Rick Hansen Institute for research and quality of life projects in Alberta.

Learn more.

www.rickhanseninstitute.org