

Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research (CROR) Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2026
SEPTEMBER 1, 2025-AUGUST 31, 2026

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From the Director

Dear Colleagues,

As I reflect on the past year at the Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research (CROR), I am reminded of the impact of our collective efforts. This year marked the conclusion of two major five-year grants funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). These projects have generated valuable knowledge, tools and resources that will continue to improve the lives of people with disabilities for years to come.

Our Knowledge Translation Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project focused on expanding and enhancing the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab [Rehabilitation Measures Database](#) (RMD), one of the most widely used rehabilitation instrument resources in the world. As part of the project, the team added and updated dozens of measure summaries with the help of volunteers and graduate students from around the country, developed patient-friendly infographics about rehabilitation measures, created educational resources and presented at numerous conferences. These efforts have significantly enhanced the value and scope of the RMD and improved its utility for people with disabilities and their care partners.

Our [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Home and Community-Based Services](#) also reached an important milestone and will continue through a second no-cost extension as we complete analyses and manuscripts. This project developed and tested new measures of person-centered services, identified organizational best practices and created an innovative microlearning training program for direct service professionals. These efforts will help HCBS providers deliver more person-centered support and improve outcomes for the people they serve.

This year also marked a transition in CROR as we celebrated the remarkable contributions of [Deborah Crown, CRC, LCPC](#), who entered semi-retirement after more than 35 years with Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. Since joining CROR in 2018, Deborah has been an indispensable leader, project manager, researcher and mentor. Her expertise in vocational rehabilitation, combined with her deep institutional knowledge, has strengthened our projects, especially our [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Employment of People with Physical Disabilities](#), and helped ensure its success. We are profoundly grateful for her dedication and service.



Shirley Ryan AbilityLab staff and friends gathered to celebrate Deborah's (front, gray jacket) retirement.

Looking ahead, we remain energized by the opportunities before us. Ongoing projects include international research examining rehabilitation length of stay and outcomes for people with spinal cord injury, initiatives to improve air travel accessibility, a project to enhance rehabilitation participation in patients with spinal cord injury/disorder SCI/D using motivational interviewing and studies exploring how smartphone-based technologies can improve rehabilitation outcomes and reduce loneliness. Together with our partners, participants and supporters, we look forward to advancing research that creates lasting change and expands opportunities for people with disabilities.

Allen Heinemann, PhD
Director, Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research

CROR Leadership



Allen Heinemann, PhD
Director, CROR
Professor, Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation,
Northwestern University
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Linda Ehrlich-Jones, PhD, RN
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Deborah Crown, CRC, LCPC
Manager, Research
Operations, CROR



Jacqueline Kish, PhD, OTR/L
Research Scientist, CROR



Jenny Burns, BA
Research Project Manager,
CROR



Amy Zhou, PhD
Biostatistician, Shirley Ryan
AbilityLab

CROR Staff

Lorie Cashdollar, MPH, Senior Project Coordinator
Kevin Fearn, MS, Project Coordinator
Nick Formanski, Senior Project Coordinator
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Kelly Keel, MA, Research Consultant
Angelika Kudla, MS, LCMHCA, Volunteer
My Le, BS, Project Coordinator
Elise Olsen, BA, Project Coordinator
Sharon Parmet, MS, Healthcare Communications Associate
Erin Walaszek, PT, DPT, Research Project Manager

The Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System (MRSCICS)

The Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab is a leading center for innovative, integrated, interdisciplinary research and care for people with spinal cord injury (SCI). Funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), MRSCICS is one of 18 SCI Model System centers across the United States. It leads a site-specific project and a project in collaboration with other model systems. MRSCICS also contributes data to the National Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems Database. This is the final year for the 2021-2026 five-year grant cycle.

IMPROVING ADHERENCE TO SCI EXERCISE GUIDELINES USING SMARTPHONE-BASED TECHNOLOGY AND E-COACHING: A PROOF-OF-CONCEPT SMART DESIGN STUDY (SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECT)

Researchers designed and tested an app-based intervention to improve adherence to exercise guidelines for people with SCI. Using smartphone technology, ecological momentary assessment (EMA) and e-coaching, the team aimed to deliver personalized, real-time support. The study is led by Alex Wong, PhD, DPhil, and Arun Jayaraman, PhD, PT, executive director, Technology & Innovation Hub at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.

Key Achievements

- Usability testing has been successfully completed.
- 40 participants (with a target of 50 total) have been enrolled in the randomized controlled trial. Ten participants have completed the trial.
- Preliminary results indicate that participants using the proposed intervention demonstrated modestly higher adherence to prescribed exercise programs.

EVALUATING THE UTILITY OF SPASTICITY AND BRAIN-DERIVED NEUROTROPIC FACTOR (BDNF) IN PREDICTING NEUROLOGICAL OUTCOMES AND MOTOR FUNCTIONAL RECOVERY AFTER SPINAL CORD INJURY (COLLABORATIVE PROJECT)

This multi-site study, led by Monica Perez, PhD, PT, scientific chair of the Harris Family Foundation Arms + Hands Lab at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, investigates spasticity and brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) as potential biomarkers for predicting neurological and functional recovery in individuals with subacute SCI. Participating sites include the Rocky Mountain Regional Spinal Injury System, the Baylor Scott & White Spinal Cord Injury Model System and the Minnesota Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System.

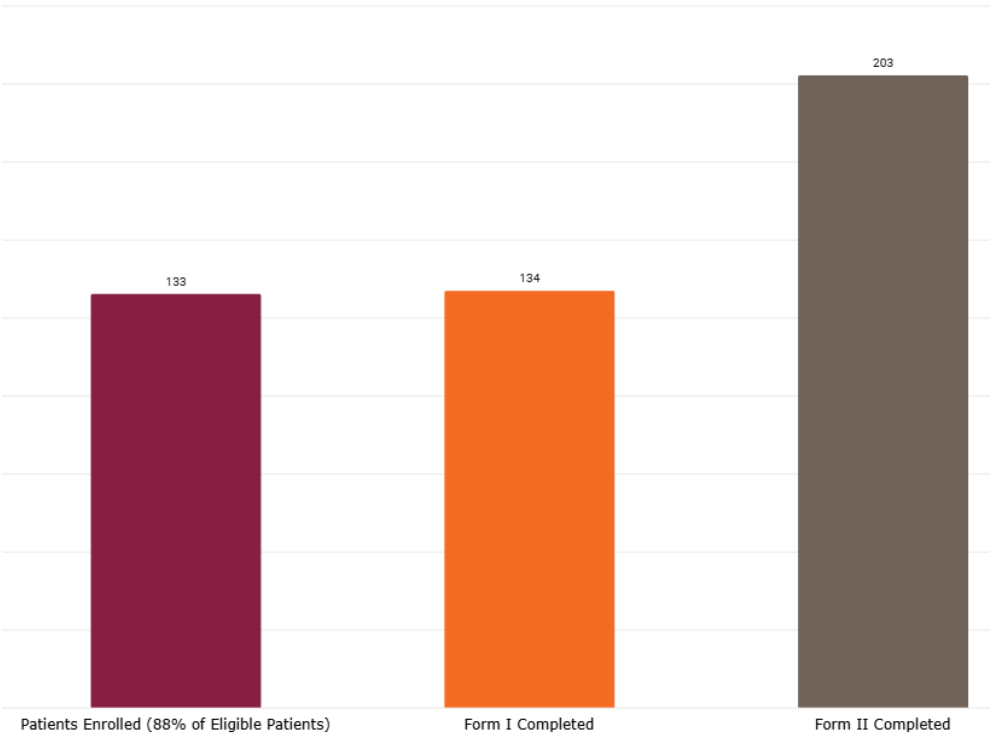
Key Achievements

- Enrollment in the study has been completed (130 people with SCI and 147 controls).
- Statistical analysis of the data is ongoing.

The National Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems Database

The National Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SCIMS) Database, established in 1973, is the longest-running repository of traumatic SCI data. It captures approximately 6% of new traumatic SCI cases in the United States and holds records from more than 55,000 individuals. The NIDILRR-funded SCI Model System centers submit standardized data on demographic and injury characteristics, functional, medical, psychosocial, employment and survival outcomes.

FY26 Enrollment in the National SCIMS Database at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab



Knowledge Translation

“I Was a Wheelchair Kid” is a podcast produced by MRSCICS in collaboration with FacingDisability.com, an online resource offering information and support for families affected by SCI. The podcast features stories told by adults who were paralyzed as children or teens. The first episode was released in August 2024, and 10 episodes are now available. The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) has endorsed the podcast.



Listen to the podcast.



Presentations

53rd American Spinal Injury Association Annual Scientific Meeting April 24-26, 2026, San Antonio, Texas.

Anne Deutch, Ronald Reeves. "Non-traumatic Spinal Cord Etiology: US SCI Model System Pilot Study Experience."

Anne Deutch. "Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) Prices, Expected Rehabilitation Length of Stays, Provider Charges, Payments for Patients with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury by Case-Mix Group, 2013-2022" (Presentation)

Allen Heinemann, Edelle Field-Fote, Leslie Morse. "Turning Evidence Into Action: Implementation Strategies for Motor Restoration and Spasticity, Bone Health, and Rehabilitation Engagement" (Course)

Allen Heinemann. "Measurement Properties of SCI-QoL Participation Short Forms" (Presentation)

Anne Deutch, Yuying Chen. "Changing Demographics and Injury Profile of New Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries in the United States, 1972-2024"

Edelle Field-Fote, Anne Deutch. "Risk of Unintentional Injuries After Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury."

2026 Association for Rehabilitation, Research, Policy and Education Conference Feb. 23-24, 2026, San Antonio, Texas.

Alex Wong, Sara Nataletti, Anusha Banerjee, Sara Prokup, David Chen, Allen Heinemann, Arun Jayaraman. "Empowering Wellness: A Mobile App Intervention to Promote Exercise Adherence for Adults with Spinal Cord Injury" (Presentation)



19th World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress Feb. 9-12, 2026, Bangkok, Thailand

Alex Wong (left), Sara Nataletti, Anusha Banerjee, Sara Prokup, Arun Jayaraman. "Development and Testing of a Mobile Health Intervention to Improve Adherence to Exercise in Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury" (Presentation)

Neuroscience 2025 Nov. 16-19, 2025, San Diego, Calif.

T Wu, Dalia De Santis, Monica Perez. "Biomarkers for Recovery Following Severe Spinal Cord Injury." (Poster)

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine 102nd Annual Fall Conference & EXPO Oct. 27-30, 2025, Chicago, Ill.

Anne Deutch, James Wilson, Yuying Chen, David Chen, Chloe Slocum. "Expected Lengths of Stay and Payments for Medicare Fee-for-service Patients with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury Treated in Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, 2013-2022"

2025 Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals Educational Conference & Expo Sept. 3-6, 2025, Philadelphia, Pa.

Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Anne Hambleton, Stephanie Lollino. "[I Was A Wheelchair Kid](#) Podcast"

Publications

Redepenning DH, Deutch A, Heinemann A, Tefertiller C, Worobey LA. [Health Literacy During Inpatient Rehabilitation and Its Association with One-Year Health and Functional Outcomes in Individuals with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 Jun 28:S0003-9993(26)00793-8. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.06.020. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42365913.

Lopez MP, Kozlowski KA, Chaudhry AS, Green SK, Griffin DB, Adam TH, Ontiveros NC, Kessler AB, Soriano RH, Galiano RD. [Predictors of Complications and Recurrence After Pressure Injury Reconstruction in Spinal Cord Injury: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#). Int Wound J. 2026 May;23(5):e70915. doi: 10.1111/iwj.70915. PMID: 42036300; PMCID: PMC13110922.

Chen Y, Coker J, Zhang Y, Botticello A, Deutch A, Cowan R, Reeves RK. [Evolving Demographics and Injury Characteristics of US Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury, 1972-2024](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 May 31:S0003-9993(26)00746-X. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.05.017. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42225230.

Cao Y, DiPiro ND, Field-Fote EC, Coleman D, Deutch A, Worobey LA, Botticello AL, Coker J, Krause JS. [The Association Between Psychoactive Substances Usage and Unintentional Injuries After Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury](#). Top Spinal Cord Inj Rehabil. 2026 Spring;32(Suppl 1):127-136. doi: 10.46292/sci25-00126. Epub 2026 Apr 21. PMID: 42028358; PMCID: PMC13102071.

Richardson EJ, Azuero CB, Battaglino RA, Bryce TN, Haubert LL, Heinemann A, Monden KR, Morse LR, Philippus AH, Taylor HR, Felix ER. [Effects of Depression and Resilience During Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation on Pain Outcomes One Year After Spinal Cord Injury](#). Top Spinal Cord Inj Rehabil. 2026 Spring;32(Suppl 1):149-161. doi: 10.46292/sci25-00131. Epub 2026 Apr 21. PMID: 42028363; PMCID: PMC13102079.

Dinelli EJ, Deutsch A, Choi H, Heinemann AW. [Evaluating Psychometric Characteristics of the SCI-QOL Ability to Participate and Satisfaction With Social Roles and Activities](#). Top Spinal Cord Inj Rehabil. 2026 Spring;32(Suppl 1):44-57. doi: 10.46292/sci25-00105. Epub 2026 Apr 21. PMID: 42028351; PMCID: PMC13102080.

Reeves RK, Chen Y, Zhang Y, Bryce TN, Deutsch A, Snider BA, Worobey L, Kirshblum S. [Nontraumatic Spinal Cord Injury Etiology and Rehabilitation Outcomes: SCI Model Systems Pilot Study Data](#). Top Spinal Cord Inj Rehabil. 2026 Spring;32(Suppl 1):177-187. doi: 10.46292/sci25-00119. Epub 2026 Apr 21. PMID: 42028347; PMCID: PMC13102074.

Worobey LA, Redepenning DH, Pearlman J, Cowan RE, Heinemann AW, Shea M, Dyson-Hudson TA, Pedersen JP, McKernan G, Boninger ML. [Knowledge, Capacity, and Frequency of Performance of Wheelchair Maintenance Among Individuals With Spinal Cord Injury](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 Feb 14:S0003-9993(26)00081-X. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.02.004. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41698521.

Redepenning DH, Worobey LA, Ding D, Field-Fote EC, Cowan RE, Heinemann A, Felix ER, Slocum C, Tefertiller C, Fyffe DC, Reeves R, Swank C, Boninger ML. [Perceived Value, Ownership, and Barriers to Smart Home Technology for Individuals With Spinal Cord Injury and Disease](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 Jan 17:S0003-9993(26)00027-4. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.01.007. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41554395.

Post MWM, Tate DG, Ahmed S, Bartlett SJ, Charlifue S, Coker J, Craig A, Ducharme S, Duff J, Heinemann AW, Kuzu D, Monden KR, Rohe D, van Diemen T, Zebracki K. [Development of the international spinal cord injury psychological functioning basic data set](#). Spinal Cord. 2026 Jan;64(1):60-65. doi: 10.1038/s41393-025-01144-3. Epub 2025 Nov 24. PMID: 41286349.

Noonan VK, Humphreys S, Biering-Sørensen F, Charlifue S, Chen Y, Guest JD, Jones LAT, French J, Widerström-Noga E, Lemmon VP, Heinemann AW, Schwab JM, Phillips AA, Rizi MM, Kramer JLK, Jutzeler CR, Torres-Espin A. [Enhancing data standards to advance translation in spinal cord injury](#). Exp Neurol. 2025 Feb;384:115048. doi: 10.1016/j.expneurol.2024.115048. Epub 2024 Nov 8. PMID: 39522801.

Balas A, Earnest K, Deutsch A. [Empowering Patients With Spinal Cord Injury: A Guide to Online Resources for Nurses](#). Rehabil Nurs. 2025 Oct 10. doi: 10.1097/RNJ.0000000000000518. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41069003.

Episodes of Inside the OUTcomes: A Rehabilitation Research Podcast

Episode 40: [Wheelchair Repair, Equity & the Push for a Better System](#)
Released June 9, 2026

Episode 36: [The National Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems Database](#) (co-hosted with the American Spinal Injury Association)
Released Feb. 10, 2026

Episode 35: [The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center](#)
Released Jan. 13, 2026

Episode 33: [FacingDisability.com: Resources for Families of People Living with Spinal Cord Injury](#)
Released Nov. 11, 2025

International Exploration of Rehabilitation Length of Stay Following Spinal Cord Injury

CROR continues to lead this international study examining how differences in inpatient rehabilitation intensity and length of stay affect the experiences and outcomes of people with SCI in different countries. Supported by a grant from NIDILRR, the project is now entering its fourth year. Collaborating researchers are from England, The Netherlands, Canada, Australia and the United States.

Key Achievements

- Completed meta-analysis for two systematic reviews.
- Purchased U.S. and Canadian national patient datasets to compare rehabilitation lengths of stay and functional outcomes is in progress.
- Initiated cognitive testing of the survey to collect and compare inpatient and post-rehabilitation experiences of people with SCI across countries is ongoing.
- Coding of transcripts from focus groups with people with SCI, care partners and clinicians is ongoing.

Presentations

43rd Guttman Conference for Spinal Cord Injury June 11-12, 2026, Cardiff, Wales

Jane Duff, Amanda Butler. “International Perspectives of People with Lived Experience of SCI Rehabilitation,” and “Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation and Discharge Preparedness Perceptions: Lived Experience of People, Their Care Partners and Clinicians from England” (Workshops)

20th International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine World Congress May 17-21, 2026 Vancouver, Canada

Allen Heinemann, Jane Duff, Sara Ahmed, Ashley Craig, Sherri LaVela, Marcel Post. “International Perspectives of People with Lived Experience of Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation” (Poster).

Northwestern Global Health Education Day 2026 May 12, 2026, Chicago, Ill.

Allen Heinemann, Sarah Ahmed, Mohit Arora, Jane Duff, Sherri LaVela, Marcel Post, Lexi Wolfe. “International Perspectives on Rehabilitation Intensity and Length of Stay Following Spinal Cord Injury” (Poster)

12th European Spinal Psychologists Association Conference April 23-24, 2026, Murnau, Germany

Amanda Patrick-Smith, Eline Scholten, Marcel Post, Aline Hakbijl-van der Wind, Jessica Dring, and Jane Duff. “Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation and Discharge Preparedness Perceptions: Lived Experience of People, Their Support Partners and Clinicians from England and the Netherlands” (Presentation)

Eline Scholten, Jane Duff, Sean Hill, Amanda Patrick-Smith, Jessica Dring, “European Healthcare Clinicians and Persons with Lived SCI Experience of Preparing for Discharge and Community Transition” (Workshop)



Left to right: Eline Scholten, Jane Duff, Sean Hill, Amanda Patrick-Smith, Jessica Dring.

Amanda Patrick-Smith, Jessica Dring, Jane Duff. "International Perspectives of People with Lived Experience of Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation" (Poster)

Jane Duff, Jessica Dring, Amanda Patrick-Smith. "Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation and Discharge Preparedness Perceptions: Lived Experience of People, Their Support Partners and Clinicians from England" (Poster)

Left to right: Eline Scholten, Sara Ahmed, Mohit Arora, Jane Duff, Allen Heinemann and Marcel Post meet to discuss the international project.



2026 Association for Rehabilitation, Research, Policy and Education Conference Feb. 23-24, 2026, San Antonio, Texas
Alex Wong, Allen Heinemann. "Rehabilitation Length of Stay and Treatment Intensity Following Spinal Cord Injury: Predictors, Outcomes, and Perspectives from Individuals with Lived Experience, Care Partners and Clinicians." (Presentation)

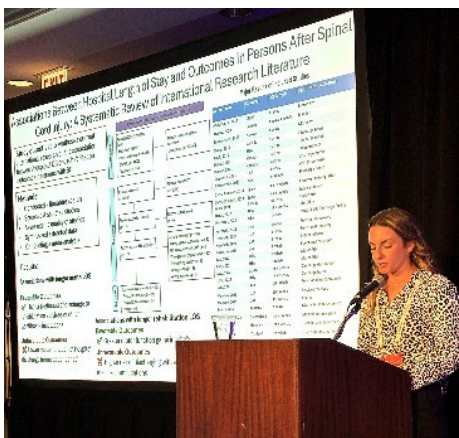
United Spinal Association's Maximizing Rehabilitation Outcomes Meeting Nov. 19, 2025, Virtual
Allen Heinemann, Alex Wong, Jenny Burns, Lorie Cashdollar and My Le "Length of Stay Following Spinal Cord Injury: Associators with Predictors, Outcomes, and Stakeholders Experiences in Inpatient Rehabilitation" (Presentation)

Multidisciplinary Association of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals 27th Annual Conference Nov. 13, 2025, Loughborough, England
Jane Duff, Amanda Butler. "A System Under Pressure: Experiences of Rehabilitation From People with SCI, Support Partners and Clinicians"

Dutch Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Nov. 6-7, 2025, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Eline Scholten. "Healthcare Providers Perspectives on SCI Rehabilitation" (Poster)

International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine 19th World Congress Nov. 3-7, 2025, Marrakesh, Morocco
Allen Heinemann. "Rehabilitation intensity and length of stay following spinal cord injury: Perspectives of people with lived experience and care partners" (Poster)

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine 102nd Annual Fall Conference & EXPO Oct. 27-30, 2025, Chicago, Ill.
My Le, Lorie Cashdollar, Jenny Burns, Q. Eileen Wafford, Anne Deutsch, Allen Heinemann, Alex Wong. "Factors Associated with Hospital Length of stay in Persons with Spinal Cord Injury: A Systematic Review of International Research Literature" (Poster)
**Spinal Cord Injury ISIG Best Poster Award*



Lorie Cashdollar (left), My Le, Jenny Burns, T Webb, Q. Eileen Wafford, Anne Deutsch, Allen Heinemann, Alex Wong. "Associations Between Hospital Length of Stay and Outcomes in Persons After Spinal Cord Injury: A Systematic Review of International Research Literature" (Poster) **Spinal Cord Injury ISIG Early Career Poster Award*

KTDORR 2025 Virtual KT Conference Oct. 20-23, 2025

Sharon Parmet. "From My Perspective: A Blog by and For People with Spinal Cord Injury." (Presentation)

64th International Spinal Cord Society and 19th Nordic Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meeting Oct. 8-11, 2025, Gothenburg, Sweden

Eline Scholten, Aline Hakbijl-van der Wind, Allen Heinemann, Marcel Post. "Rehabilitation Intensity and Length of Stay Following Spinal Cord Injury: Perspectives of Dutch Clinicians" (Presentation)

Allen Heinemann, Sarah Ahmed, Mohit Arora, Jane Duff, Sherri LaVela, Marcel Post. "International Perspectives on Rehabilitation Intensity and Length of Stay Following Spinal Cord Injury" (Poster)

Allen Heinemann, Lorie Cashdollar, My Le, Deborah Crown, Linda Ehrlich-Jones. "Rehabilitation Intensity and Length of Stay Following Spinal Cord Injury: Perspectives of People with Lived Experience and Care Partners" (Poster)

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Research Day Sept. 11, 2025, Chicago, Ill.

My Le, Lorie Cashdollar, Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Sherri LaVela, Ibuola Kale, Bishan Yang, Heerak Choi, Allen Heinemann. "Civilians' and Veterans' Perspectives on Rehabilitation Intensity and Length of Stay Following Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders" (Poster)

Lorie Cashdollar, My Le, Deborah Crown, Sherri LaVela, Ibuola Kale, Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Bishan Yang, Heerak Choi, Allen Heinemann. "Civilians' and Veterans' Care Partner Experiences of Inpatient Rehabilitation Following Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders" (Poster)

Publications

Heinemann AW, Cashdollar LJ, Crown DS, Le M, Yang B, Choi H, López-Rosado R, Wolfe A, Ehrlich-Jones LS. [Inpatient rehabilitation experiences and preparedness for discharge: Perspectives of people with spinal cord injuries, care partners, and rehabilitation clinicians](#). Rehabil Psychol. 2026 May 11. doi: 10.1037/rep0000677. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42113136.

Episodes of INSIDE the OUTcomes: A Rehabilitation Research Podcast

Episode 37: [Living Independently in Utrecht, The Netherlands, After Spinal Cord Injury](#)

Released March 10, 2026

Knowledge Translation Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project

The goal of this project is to promote patient-centered care by developing a comprehensive and coordinated set of knowledge translation resources for patients and their care partners, students and clinicians to enhance and sustain the use of standardized rehabilitation measures. The Shirley Ryan AbilityLab [Rehabilitation Measures Database](#) (RMD) is a key component of the grant. Funded by a five-year grant from NIDILRR, the project was carried out under a no-cost extension through August 2026.

Key Achievements

- 5 Measurement Tools were submitted to The Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: Quick Disabilities of the Arm Shoulder and Hand (Q-DASH), Lower Extremity Functional Scale (LEFS), Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM), Contextual Memory Test (CMT), and 6-Minute Walk Test (6MWT).
- 17 new measures were added to the RMD, bringing the total to date to 605.
- 14 rehabilitation measure summaries were updated.
- 9 rehabilitation measures were translated into infographics
- Collaborated with 15 allied health graduate programs.
- A Shirley Ryan AbilityLab medical extern worked on developing a measure summary for the International Knee Documentation Committee (IKDC) Subjective Knee Form.

Presentations

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine 102nd Annual Fall Conference & EXPO Oct. 27-30, 2025, Chicago, Ill.

Left to right: Maya Smith, Sabrin Rizk, Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Allen Heinemann, Sharon Parmet. "The Rehabilitation Measures Database: A Curricular Resource for Collaboration with Health Professional Students." (Symposium)

Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Sabrin Rizk, Maya Smith, Jenny Burns, Sharon Parmet, Allen Heinemann. "The Rehabilitation Measures Database: A Curricular Resource for Collaboration with Health Professional Students." (Symposium)

Sharon Parmet, Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Jenny Burns, Kevin Fearn, Deborah Crown, Allen Heinemann. "Translating Rehabilitation Measures into Infographics for Patients and Their Care Partners" (Poster, *ISIG Measurement in Action Poster Award*)



Sharon Parmet (lower right) visited the University of Illinois Chicago in February 2026 to review occupational therapy graduate students' infographics.

The Rehabilitation Measures Database

Managed by CROR in partnership with Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, the RMD is a leading resource for outcome measurement in physical medicine and rehabilitation. It gets approximately 4.5 million pageviews annually from users from more than 125 countries. The RMD includes summaries of more than 600 standardized measures that include psychometric data, normative values, cut-off scores, recommended uses and population-specific considerations, plus links to original tools, translations and common data elements. It also offers educational resources and more than 30 infographics of the most commonly used measures designed to be shared with patients and their care partners. To date, these infographics have been downloaded more than 900,000 times. Through partnerships with allied health graduate programs worldwide, students help update summaries and create infographics while developing skills in evidence-based assessment and outcome evaluation.

Canadian Occupational Performance Measure

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research

What's the purpose?
The Canadian Occupational Performance Measure helps you and your occupational therapist identify activities important to you in your daily life to work on in therapy. It takes between 15 and 45 minutes to complete.

What do I have to do?
Your therapist will ask you about:

- Personal care (dressing, bathing, feeding, hygiene)
- Functional mobility (transfers, indoor and outdoor mobility)
- Community management (transportation, shopping, finances)
- Paid and unpaid work (finding/keeping a job, volunteering)
- Household management (cleaning, laundry, cooking)
- Play/School (play skills, homework)
- Quiet recreation (hobbies, crafts, reading)
- Active recreation (sports, outings, travel)
- Socialization (visiting, communication, events)

After discussing the activities listed above, you will select 5 activities that you want to work on in therapy. You'll rank these activities by how important they are to you. You'll also give each activity a score between 1 (least satisfied) and 10 (most satisfied) based on how well you do that activity right now.



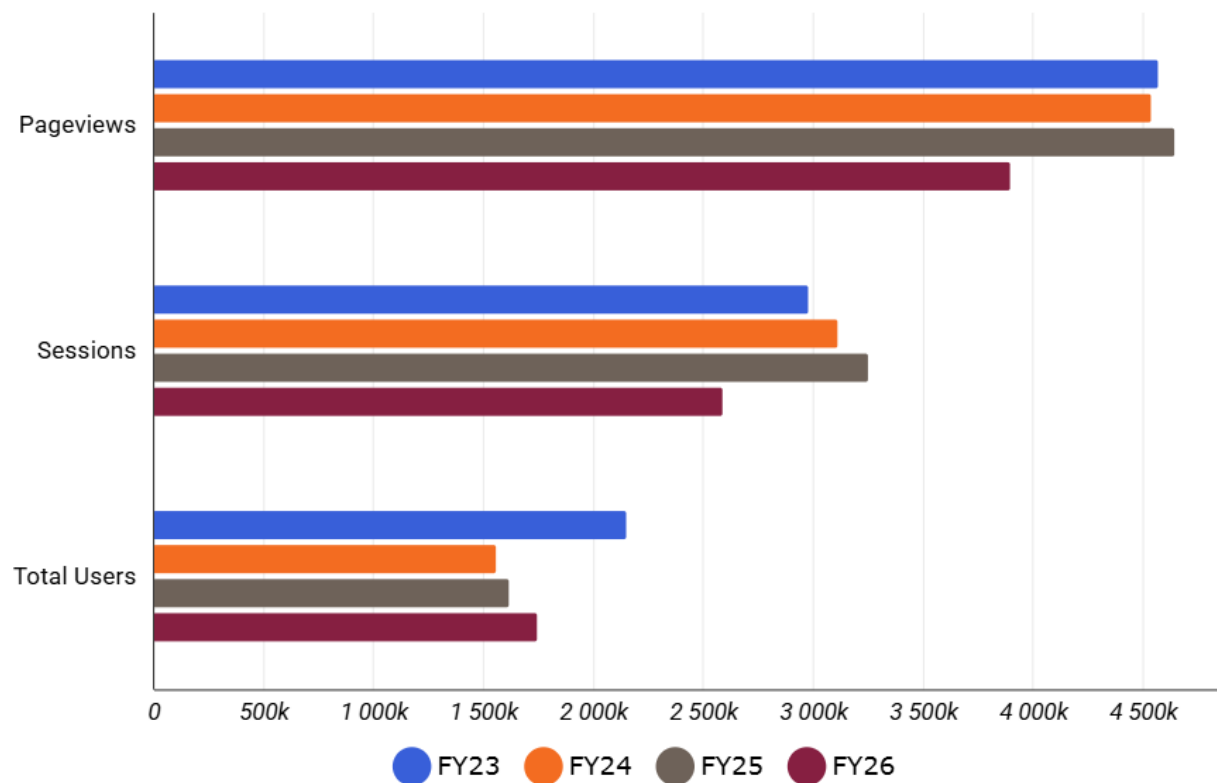
What does my score mean?
After spending some time working with your therapist on the 5 activities you chose, you will give each a new score based on how well you can do the activities now. Changes in the scores will show where you have made improvements and where you still need to do some work.

Have a conversation with your therapist about what the results mean for you.

To see a full summary of this instrument and more, visit srabilab.org/rehabilitation-measures.
Questions? Email rehabmeasures@srabilab.org or call 312.238.2802

The contents of this infographic are not intended to be used as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. The contents of this infographic do not necessarily represent the views of Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, LLC, or any of its affiliates and are not intended to be used as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

RMD Pageviews, Sessions, Total Users, New Users FY23-FY26



Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Home and Community-Based Services

CROR's NIDILRR-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Home and Community-Based Services (RRTC on HCBS) focuses on person-centered service delivery and outcome measurement to support the design, implementation and ongoing improvement of federal and state home and community-based programs, policies and interventions. The project entered a second no-cost extension on September 1, 2026. Key activities of this grant included creating person-centered measures, identifying best practices among high-performing HCBS providers and designing a microlesson-based training for direct service professionals (DSPs) on using motivational interviewing to deliver person-centered care.

Key Achievements

- 231 participants enrolled in the person-centered outcome measure project; 161 completed initial assessments; 81 completed second assessments.
- 176 participants enrolled to beta test the DSP training; 71 engaged with the curriculum and 36 completed it. A PDF of the microlessons is available.

Presentations

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine 102nd Annual Fall Conference & EXPO Oct. 27-30, 2025, Chicago, Ill.

Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Jacqueline Kish. "Innovative Approaches to Integrating Evidence-based Practice: Appreciative Inquiry and Microlearning." (Presentation)

Publications

Yang B, Sadler T, Tenny N, Kaine R, Heinemann AW. [Competencies for person-centered practice in the home and community-based services workforce: a scoping review of gray literature](#). Home Health Care Serv Q. 2026 Aug 4:1-31. doi: 10.1080/01621424.2026.2712897. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42552568.

Deutsch A, Smith L. [Quality Measurement: Technical Specifications and Key Development Considerations](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 Apr 25:S0003-9993(26)00682-9. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.02.508. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42044862.

Deutsch A, Smith L. [Quality Measurement: Key Terms and Definitions](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 May 19:S0003-9993(26)00683-0. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.04.021. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42162652.

Episodes of INside the OUTcomes: A Rehabilitation Research Podcast

Episode 32: [Rebalancing Long-Term Services and Supports](#)

Released Oct. 13, 2025

Enhancing Accessible Air Travel for People With Physical Disabilities

This NIDILRR-funded project aims to advance accessible and inclusive air travel for individuals with physical disabilities from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. CROR researchers are partnering with principal investigator, Shu Cole, PhD, of the Indiana University School of Public Health – Bloomington. The study will examine the air travel experiences of people with physical disabilities (including those aging into disability); develop enhanced training programs for airline personnel; and implement knowledge translation strategies to promote industry-wide improvements. Jacqueline Kish leads a participatory research project for this grant and will conduct focus groups to gather in-depth insights into the travel experiences and needs of people with disabilities. This project is in its third of five years.

Key Achievements

- Recruited and screened 130 participants for photovoice and focus group research projects.
- Conducted five focus groups with diverse participants with physical mobility disabilities on their air travel experiences including barriers, facilitators, safety and recommendations for accessibility.
- Consented and trained six of eight photovoice participants.
- Collected photographs and interviews from participants from eight air travel trips.
- Created an initial codebook for data analysis of focus groups based on existing peer reviewed literature.

Episodes of INside the Outcomes: A Rehabilitation Research Podcast

Episode 34: [Accessible Air Travel with Open Doors Organization](#)

Released Dec. 9, 2025

Enhancing Rehabilitation Participation in Patients With SCI/D Using Motivational Interviewing

Linda Ehrlich-Jones is the principal investigator on this three-year, \$550,000 grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation to study whether training physical and occupational therapists in motivational interviewing can improve rehabilitation outcomes for people with spinal cord injuries. Building on pilot-study findings, the project will examine whether patients treated by therapists trained in motivational interviewing show greater therapy participation, functional improvement and community reintegration after rehabilitation at Baylor Scott & White Institute for Rehabilitation in Dallas, and the University of Washington/Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. The project is in a no cost extension.

Key Achievements

- Therapists at Baylor Scott & White Institute for Rehabilitation were randomized into intervention and control groups.
- The Baylor Scott & White Institute for Rehabilitation site is collecting data.
- University of Washington – Harborview (hospital) was added as a second site.

Presentations

Crossroads in Spinal Cord Injury Treatment: Present & Future Jan. 29-30, 2026, Houston, Texas
Linda Ehrlich-Jones. “Using Motivational Interviewing in Rehabilitation” (Presentation)

Development of a Text Messaging Intervention for Important Health Information to People with Spinal Cord Injury

This two-year project, funded by the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, will identify secondary health conditions associated with SCI and develop a text message content library to help people manage these conditions. The project will adapt this intervention for delivery through a digital platform and evaluate its feasibility and effectiveness in improving the psychosocial health of individuals with SCI. Alex Wong is a co-principal investigator on this grant with Kerri Morgan, PhD, OTR/L, at Washington University.

Key Achievements

- Completed focus groups with clinicians and people with SCI to identify key secondary health conditions for intervention content development.
- Developed four libraries of text messages covering educational information and self-management strategies for pain, bladder and bowel management, skin pressure sores and mental health issues.
- Submitted a manuscript on key themes related to secondary health conditions for self-management based on the focus groups.
- Enrolled more than 45 participants in a trial to test the text messaging intervention.

Presentations



American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine 102nd Annual Fall Conference & EXPO Oct. 27-30, 2025, Chicago, Ill.
Kerri Morgan, Alex Wong. "Digital Self-Management Interventions: Empowering Individuals with Neurological Disorders to Manage Secondary Conditions and Daily Life Participation." (Symposium)

Development and Validation of a Nutrition Knowledge Questionnaire for Individuals With Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders

This project focuses on improving health for people with SCI/D by addressing a key gap: understanding what they know about nutrition. While many studies have examined exercise, much less is known about how nutrition knowledge affects eating habits in this group, even though poor diet and obesity are common concerns. The grant, funded by the Department of Defense, will develop and test a questionnaire to measure nutrition knowledge tailored to people with SCI/D. This tool will help researchers and healthcare providers identify knowledge gaps, design better nutrition programs and track improvements over time to support healthier eating and reduce related health risks. Sherri LaVela, PhD, MPH, a research health scientist in the Center of Innovation for Complex Chronic Healthcare in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is the principal investigator on the grant. Alex Wong and Allen Heinemann are co-investigators. This project is in a no-cost extension.

Key Achievements:

- Completed Rasch analysis of the initial questionnaire using responses from more than 350 participants, resulting in a refined version of the instrument.
- Collected responses from more than 300 participants to evaluate the refined questionnaire.
- Conducting Rasch analyses of the refined questionnaire to assess its measurement properties and support final instrument development.

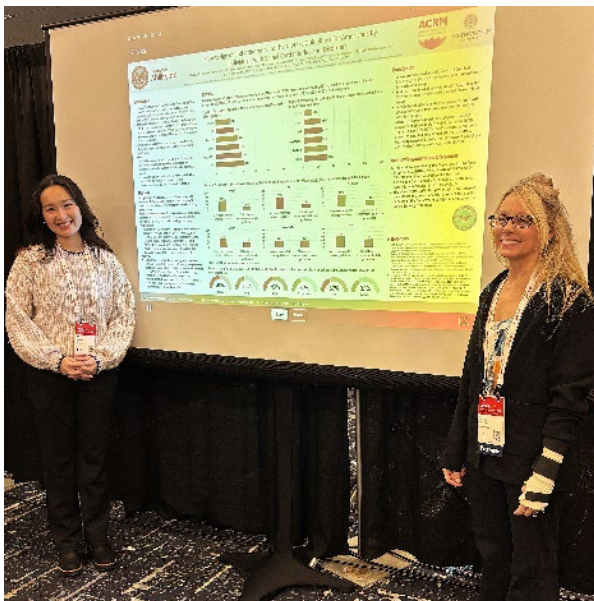
Presentations

53rd American Spinal Injury Association Annual Scientific Meeting April 24-26, 2026, San Antonio, Texas

Sherri LaVela, Allen Heinemann, Alex Wong, My Le, Marissa Wirth, Rena Steiger-Chadwick, Lorena Reyes, Jenny Burns, Dan Eisenberg, Brian Bartle, Gary Farkas. “Knowledge of and Adherence to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans by Individuals with Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders”

Sherri LaVela. “Food Avoidance Behaviors, Associations, and Reasons Identified by Individuals Living with Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders”

Gary Farkas, Brian Bartle, Jenny Burns Daniel Eisenberg, Allen Heinemann, My Le, Lorena Reyes, R Steiger-Chadwick, Marissa Wirth, Alex Wong, Sherri LaVela. “Prevalence and Consequences of Overeating Among Individuals with Chronic Spinal Cord Injuries/Disorders” (Presentation)



American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine 102nd Annual Fall Conference & EXPO Oct. 27-30, 2025, Chicago, Ill.

Alex Wong, Allen Heinemann, Rega Steiger-Chadwick, Gary Farkas, Lorena Reyes, Dan Eisenberg, Jennifer Burns, Vanessa Rosales; My Le, Brian Bartle, Sherri LaVela. “Weight Loss Behaviors and Eating Patterns Used by Individuals Living with Spinal Cord Injuries/disorders” (Presentation)

My Le, Sherri LaVela (left), Allen Heinemann, Marissa Wirth, R Steiger-Chadwick, Alex Wong, Lorena Reyes, Jenny Burns, Daniel Eisenberg, Brian Bartle Gary Farkas, Sherri LaVela. “Knowledge and Adherence to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans by Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury or Disorder” (Poster)

64th International Spinal Cord Society and 19th Nordic Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meeting Oct. 8-11, 2025, Gothenburg, Sweden

Allen Heinemann, Melissa Wirth, Rena Steiger-Chadwick, Gary Farkas, Lorena Reyes, Alex Wong, Dan Eisenberg, Jenny Burns, V Rosales, Brian Bartle, My Le, Sherri LaVela. "Knowledge of and Adherence to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans by Individuals with SCI/D"

Publications

Wong AWK, Heinemann AW, Steiger-Chadwick RM, Farkas GJ, Reyes L, Eisenberg D, Burns J, Le M, Bartle B, LaVela SL. [Weight loss strategies used by individuals with spinal cord injuries or disorders: Prevalence and associations with health, dietary, and activity factors.](#) J Spinal Cord Med. 2026 Aug 20:1-11. doi: 10.1080/10790268.2026.2709253. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42622483.

LaVela SL, Heinemann AW, Wirth M, Steiger-Chadwick RM, Wong AWK, Reyes L, Le M, Burns J, Eisenberg D, Bartle B, Iyer P, Farkas GJ. [Knowledge of and adherence to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans by individuals with chronic spinal cord injuries and disorders.](#) J Spinal Cord Med. 2026 Jun 4:1-10. doi: 10.1080/10790268.2026.2672831. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42240629.

Steiger-Chadwick RM, Farkas GJ, Reyes L, Wong AWK, Ray C, Heinemann AW, Eisenberg D, Burns J, Le M, LaVela SL. [Development and content validity of a nutrition knowledge questionnaire for individuals living with spinal cord injuries and disorders.](#) Spinal Cord. 2026 May 19. doi: 10.1038/s41393-026-01218-w. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42156538.

LaVela SL, Farkas GJ, Heinemann AW, Eisenberg D, Reyes L, Steiger-Chadwick RM, Burns J, Le M, Bartle B, Wirth M, Aguina K, Wong AWK. [Food avoidance behaviors in individuals living with spinal cord injuries and disorders.](#) Rehabil Psychol. 2026 Apr 2. doi: 10.1037/rep0000659. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41926223.

MENTOR: Mindfulness, Exercise and Nutrition to Optimize Resilience



In March 2023, CROR partnered with the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD) to enroll participants in MENTOR, an eight-week virtual program that focuses on improving physical and psychological health for individuals with mobility limitations. In addition to enrolling participants in MENTOR, CROR researchers will investigate the impact and implementation process of the program utilizing the RE-AIM (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance) framework. Results will help identify factors that promote or hinder the successful implementation of the MENTOR program. The project is in a no-cost extension through June 2027. Alex Wong leads this project.

Key Achievements

- More than 175 people were enrolled in the MENTOR program.
- Recruitment efforts tapped into Shirley Ryan AbilityLab opt-in patient research registries and were driven by partnerships with community-based organizations including Stroke Onward, the Stroke Foundation and the Stroke of Grace.

Building and Testing a Mobile Real-Time Caring Message Intervention for Loneliness and Social Isolation in Persons With Spinal Cord Injury

This new three-year grant, funded by the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation and led by Alex Wong, aims to develop a digital strategy to predict and mitigate loneliness among individuals with spinal cord injuries. The project will involve designing a smartphone app, recruiting participants to test it, and evaluating its usability and preliminary effectiveness in preventing or reducing loneliness in people living with SCI-related disabilities.

Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training Grant for Disability Policy

This three-year, NIDILRR-funded training grant supports fellows at Northwestern University in the Integrated Fellowship Program in Health Services and Outcomes Research. It is led by Anne Deutsch and Megan McHugh, PhD, professor of health services and outcomes research in the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. In collaboration with the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program at Columbia University, the grant supports selected fellows in gaining policy research experience and policy-related experiences on Capitol Hill or non-profit organizations focused on disability policy. The grant was awarded in June 2025 and fellows funded under this award are [Hope Sparks, PhD](#), and Mallory Johnson.

Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training Grant for Disability Employment

This five-year, NIDILRR-funded training grant supports fellows at Northwestern University in the Integrated Fellowship Program in Health Services and Outcomes Research. Led by Allen Heinemann and Megan McHugh, the program prepares fellows to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities through training in scientific methods and disability research. It also aims to build capacity for high-quality rehabilitation research, with an emphasis on disability studies, rehabilitation science, and implementation of the Rehabilitation Act. The grant was awarded June 1, 2020 (now in a no-cost extension). Postdoctoral fellows funded under this award are [Heerak Choi, PhD](#); [Melody Yang, PhD, OT](#); [Amy McArthur, PhD](#), Amelito Andalya, MS; Miyang Park, and Han Su.

Knowledge Translation

Knowledge translation (KT) is a core component of CROR’s research mission. Our KT efforts include a range of products such as newsletters, social media content, podcasts, videos and infographics. CROR also shares its work by presenting at national and international conferences, helping to bridge the gap between research and real-world application.

Newsletters



[CROR Outcomes](#) is a quarterly newsletter featuring articles on CROR research and news, interviews with leading experts on disability and rehabilitation research, profiles of CROR staff and collaborators and updates related to the Rehabilitation Measures Database. It has 5,000 subscribers.



[HCBS Quality Matters](#) is a quarterly newsletter that shares news related to CROR’s Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Home and Community-based Services. It has 4,500 subscribers. The last issue was sent in August 2026.



[MRSCICS Matters](#) is a biannual newsletter reaching 1,500 subscribers, including individuals with SCI enrolled in the National Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems Database, researchers and clinicians. This plain-language newsletter features research opportunities, profiles, SCI-related news and links to fact sheets on SCI from the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center.



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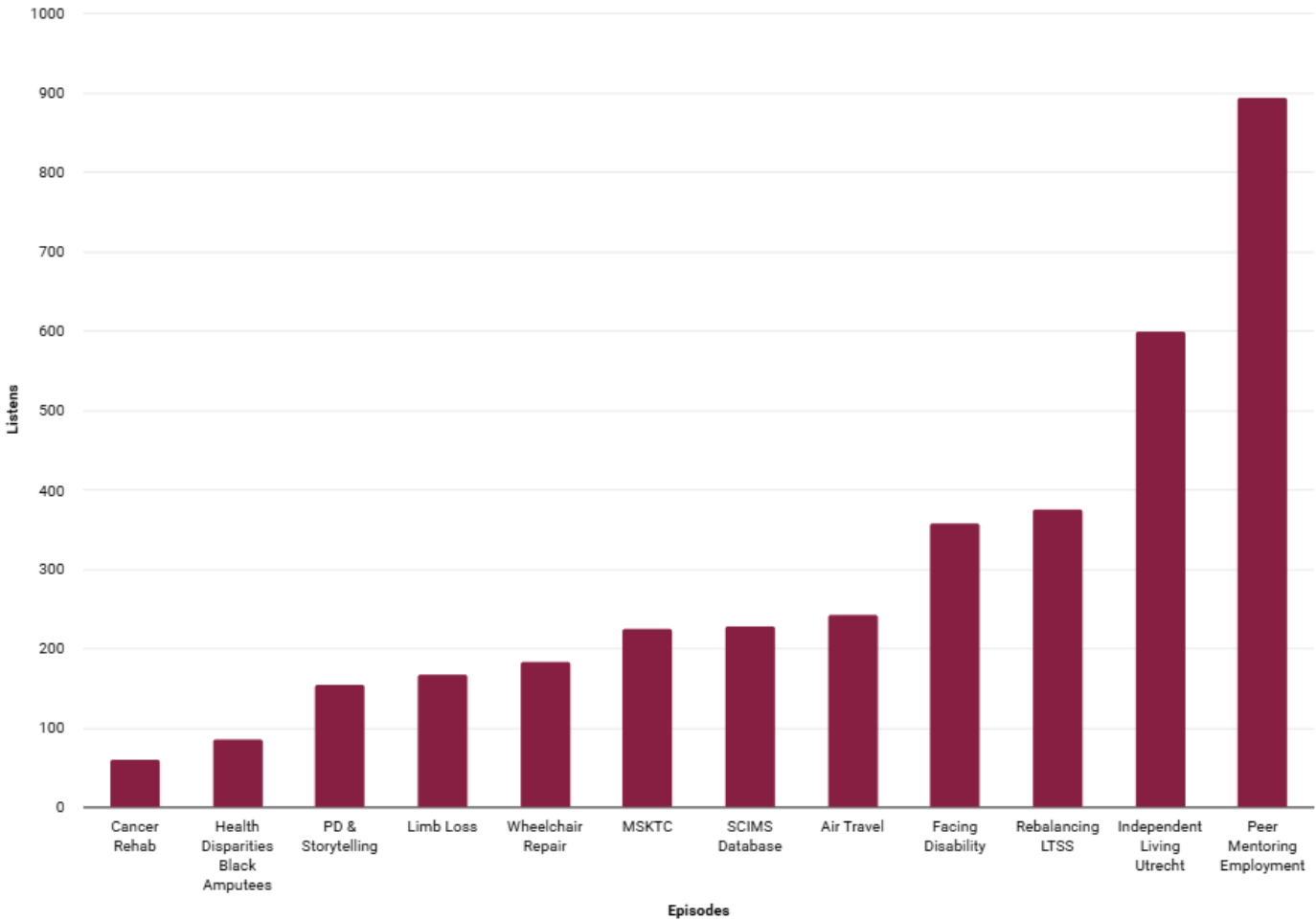
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Inside the OUTcomes: A Rehabilitation Research Podcast

Inside the OUTcomes is a monthly podcast produced by CROR that features in-depth conversations with Shirley Ryan AbilityLab scientists, clinicians and other leading experts in rehabilitation research. The podcast also includes interviews with people with lived experience of disability. The podcast is available on: [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) and [YouTube](#).



Listens for FY26 Episodes



Grant Activities

Grants Funded

Lived Transportation Experiences of People With Aphasia: Identifying Strategies, Supports and Barriers

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab Catalyst Grant

Principal Investigator: Jacqueline Kish

Grants Under Review

Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training Grant on Employment

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

Principal Investigator: Megan McHugh, PhD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Co-Investigator: Allen Heinemann

Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training Grant on Health and Function

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

Principal Investigator: Allen Heinemann

Co-Investigator: Alex Wong

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Community Participation

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

Principal Investigators: Alex Wong, Allen Heinemann

Co-Investigators, Jacqueline Kish, Linda Ehrlich-Jones

Spinal Cord Injury Model System: The Midwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

Principal Investigators: Allen Heinemann, Allison Kessler, MD, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Navigating Transportation-Related Risks: Supporting Community Participation in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation

Craig H. Neilsen Foundation

Principal Investigator: Jacqueline Kish

Tai Chi Intervention for Stroke Survivors

National Institutes of Health

Principal Investigator: Alex Wong

Novel Post-stroke Cognition Rehabilitation Using Mobile Toolbox

National Institutes of Health

Principal Investigator: Alex Wong

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project: Community Living and Participation (Development)

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

Principal Investigators: Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Jacqueline Kish

Other Presentations

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Annual Conference July 24, 2026, Virtual

Anne Deutsch, Taylor Stallworth, Barbara Winter-Todd. "De-Mystifying Peer Review"

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab Health Equity Subcommittee of the IDEA Council April 21, 2026, Virtual

Jacqueline Kish, Tertia Jeppson, Nicholette Andrews, Justin Mun. "Equitable Care in Rehabilitation: What Every Provider Should Know" (Webinar)

Boundaries: The Ninth Annual Northwestern Bioethics and Medical Humanities Conference April 13, 2026, Chicago, Ill.

Jacqueline Kish, Amy McArthur. "Redrawing the Boundaries between Safety and Risk: Incorporating Perspectives from the Disability Community"

2026 Association for Rehabilitation, Research, Policy and Education

(ARRPE) Conference Feb. 23-24, 2026, San Antonio, Texas

Y Shi, Mandy Fong, Christopher Metts, DC Mohr, E Lenze, JM Lee, L Hu, Alex Wong. "Smartphone-based ecological Momentary Assessment and Network Approach to Understand Dynamic Relationships Between Social Isolation and Secondary Health Conditions in Individuals After Stroke." (Poster)

International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics Canada Annual General Meeting Nov. 22, 2025, Virtual

Allen Heinemann. "Patient-Reported and Performance Measures for Custom AFO Users." (Keynote Speaker)

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine 102nd Annual Fall Conference & EXPO Oct. 27-30, 2025, Chicago, Ill.

Alex Wong, Zijan Huang, Dan Ding, Michele Polfuss. "Active and Passive Digital Health Technology Measurements in People with Physical Disabilities" (Symposium)

Alex Wong, Sherri LaVela, Kelsey Berryman. "Loneliness and Social isolation in Persons with Neurological Disorders: Definition, Assessment, Intervention and Implication" (Symposium)

Allen Heinemann, Sherri LaVela. "From Challenges to Change: Elevating Diet Quality for Optimal Health Following Spinal Cord Injuries/disorders" (Presentation)

Anne Deutsch, Adam Kinney, Jessica Edelstein, Corey Morrow, Brocha Stern. "Enhancing Rehabilitation Care: Access, Cost-effectiveness and Quality Measurement"

Miriam Rafferty, Mitra Rouhani, Dawn Ehde, Pamela Capraro, Paulo Aco, Allen Heinemann. "Employment in Neurodegenerative Diseases: Intervention Strategies for the Whole Team"

Allen Heinemann, Leighton Chan, Helen Hoenig, Jeff Basford, Glenn Collins. "Publishing in High-impact Rehabilitation Journals"

Mary Slavin, Flora Hammond, Joseph Giacono, John Whyte, Cynthia Beaulieu, Anne Deutsch. "Improving Access to Post-acute Care for People with Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: Next Steps"

Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Jacqueline Kish. "Innovative Approaches to Integrating Evidence-based Practice: Appreciative Inquiry and Microlearning"

Jessica Edelstein, Amanda Hoffman, Darcie Luby, Joseph Rosenthal, James Graham, Anne Deutsch. "Occupational and Physical Therapy in Acute Care: Association of Timing and Frequency with 30-day Readmission After Ischemic Stroke"

64th International Spinal Cord Society and 19th Nordic Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meeting Oct. 8-11, 2025, Gothenburg, Sweden

E Felix, E Richardson, C Azuero, R Battaglino, T Bryce, L Haubert, Allen Heinemann, Kim Monden, Leslie Morse, A Philippus, H Taylor. "Resilience Early After Spinal Cord Injury Contributes to Lower Pain Sensitivity and Interference at One-year Post-injury."

Brain Injury Association of Illinois Online Conference Oct. 17

Alex Wong. "Social Isolation and Loneliness in Individuals with Acquired Brain Injury" (Presentation)

Other Publications

1. Richards LG, Ifejika NL, Stein J, Bahouth MN, Abshire Saylor M, Barrett AM, Chen P, Deutsch AF, Dusenbury W, Ellis C Jr, Eng J, Fleet J, Ford HR, Grattan ES, Harvey RL, Jones CA, Krishnan C, Kutzle S, Matthews D, Mazwi N, Minga J, Nilsen DM, Noser E, Porter HR, Raghavan P, Rose DK, Skidmore ER, St-Onge MP, Stoykov ME, Schettini AT, Terrill AL, Tirschwell DL, Vilar P, Whitaker-Hilbig A, Zorowitz R; Peer Review Committee. [2026 Guideline for Adult Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery: A Guideline From the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association](#). Stroke. 2026 Aug 27. doi: 10.1161/STR.0000000000000536. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42657476.
2. Consortium for Spinal Cord Medicine. (Aug 2026). [Outcomes following traumatic spinal cord injury \(2nd ed.\)](#). Paralyzed Veterans of America.
3. Deutsch A. [Advancing Rehabilitation Nursing Knowledge and Evidence Through Peer Review: A Call for Reviewers](#). Rehabil Nurs. 2026 Aug 1;51(3):101-103. doi: 10.1097/RNJ.0000000000000555. Epub 2026 Jul 30. PMID: 42531503.
4. He J, Bui Q, Fong MWM, Mohr DC, Metts CL, Wong AWK. [Real-Time Associations Between Subjective Cognitive Concerns and Daily Activity Participation in Persons Aging With Stroke: Smartphone-Based Ecological Momentary Assessment Study](#). JMIR Aging. 2026 Jul 14;9:e80222. doi: 10.2196/80222. PMID: 42447458.
5. Fundaun J, Falasinnu T, Pfyffer D, Dildine TC, Kolski M, Heinemann AW, Tharin S, Smith AC, Dirlikov B, Mackey S, Crew J, Weber KA 2nd. [Applying an intersectional framework to characterize chronic pain disparities one year following traumatic spinal cord injury. J Pain](#). 2026 Jul 6;47:106371. doi: 10.1016/j.jpain.2026.106371. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42409205.
6. Fowler King B, Capo-Lugo C, Strehlow E, Walaszek MC, Gray EL, Rossi Pierobon E, Heinemann AW, Rafferty MR. [Physical Therapist Involved Physical Activity Interventions: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#). J Neurol Phys Ther. 2026 Jul 1;50(3):180-197. doi: 10.1097/NPT.0000000000000546. Epub 2026 Feb 13. PMID: 41685968; PMCID: PMC13281973.
7. Deutsch A. [Health Literacy: Implications for Rehabilitation Nursing Practice](#). Rehabil Nurs. 2026 May 1;51(2):45-47. Doi: 10.1097/RNJ. 0000000000000545. Epub 2026 Apr 30. PMID: 42059586.
8. Yun S, Fong MWM, Metts CL, Munsell E, Regan B, Wong AWK. [Self-Administered Mobile Cognitive Assessments for Individuals with Stroke: A Feasibility and Validation Study](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 April. Doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.04.030.
9. Liu Y, Wong AWK, Fong MWM, Metts CL, Shi Y, Lee SI. [Leveraging Language Embeddings from EMA Surveys to Predict Perceived Social Isolation among Stroke Survivors](#). IEEE J Biomed Health Inform. 2026 Apr 28;PP. doi: 10.1109/JBHI.2026.3688513. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42048210.
10. Deutsch A, Smith L. [Quality Measurement: Technical Specifications and Key Development Considerations](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 Apr 25:S0003-9993(26)00682-9. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.02.508. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42044862.
11. LaVela SL, Steiger-Chadwick R, Bartle B, Wong AWK, Heinemann AW. [Oral health problems in individuals living with spinal cord injuries and disorders](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 Apr 6:S0003-9993(26)00640-4. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.04.001. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41951151.
12. Schliep ME, Dunlap PM, Beneciuk J, Carpenter J, Douglas NF, Edelstein J, Ehrlich-Jones L, Johnston TE, Khoja SS, Liu CJ, Li CY, Prusynski RA, Rassu FS, Resnik L, Thackeray A, Juckett L. [Bridging Perspectives: Guiding the Selection of Patient-Centered Outcomes in Rehabilitation Learning Health Systems](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 Apr 30:S0003-9993(26)00701-X. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.04.032. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42069288.
13. Kinnett-Hopkins D, Sotelo J, Muhammad LN, Kayle M, Bussell L, Mao-Draayer Y, Heinemann AW, Maimone C. [Patterns of emergency department utilization among persons with multiple sclerosis across seven medical institutions](#). Mult Scler Relat Disord. 2026 May;109:107145. doi: 10.1016/j.msard.2026.107145. Epub 2026 Mar 16. PMID: 41865560.
14. Ivanhoe CB, Haarbauer-Krupa J, Juengst S, Callender L, Hartford ML, Deutsch A, Pappadis MR, Nelson C, Haas M, Neumann D, Dams-O'Connor K, Pinto SM, Rabinowitz A. [2026 State of Brain Injury Report](#). 2026 Mar.

15. Edelstein J, Hoffman A, Luby DM, Rosenthal J, Deutsch A, Graham JE. [Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy in Acute Care: Association of Timing and Frequency With 30-Day Readmission After Ischemic Stroke](#). Phys Ther. 2026 Feb 1;106(2):pzag007. doi: 10.1093/ptj/pzag007. PMID: 41562579.
16. Deutsch A. [How Reporting Guidelines Can Improve Your Manuscript](#). Rehabil Nurs. 2026 Feb 1;51(1):1-3. doi: 10.1097/RNJ.0000000000000531. Epub 2026 Feb 10. PMID: 41632873.
17. Keshwani A, Patel RD, Doshi S, He J, Bui Q, Fong MWM, Metts CL, Wong AWK. [Staying Active: Promoting Activity Engagement for Poststroke Pain Management With Insights From Ecological Momentary Assessment](#). Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2026 Jan 28:S0003-9993(26)00036-5. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2026.01.016. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41616903.
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21. Yang B, Dinelli EJ, Choi H, Crown DS, Kudla A, Wong J, Trierweiler R, Capraro P, Heinemann AW. [Employers' Perspectives on Challenges and Strategies Related To Employment of People with Physical Disabilities: Findings from a National Survey in the United States](#). J Occup Rehabil. 2025 Nov 27. doi: 10.1007/s10926-025-10345-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41310293.
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Mentorship



[Heerak Choi, PhD](#), is a postdoctoral fellow in Northwestern University's Center for Education and Health Sciences. Her research focuses on self-stigma in people with disabilities. She contributed to a CROR project exploring the psychosocial functioning of people with physical disabilities under the mentorship of Allen Heinemann, Linda Ehrlich-Jones, Anne Deutsch and Deborah Crown. This year, she earned a Craig H. Nielsen Foundation postdoctoral fellowship to explore how self-stigma affects career development among youth with spinal cord injury. She accepted a tenure-eligible faculty position at the University of Iowa beginning fall 2026.



[Emily Dinelli, PhD, CPO](#), has contributed to CROR research related to employment for people with disabilities, development of an outcome measure for home and community-based services, and psychometric analyses for the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Model System Database. Allen Heinemann and Anne Deutsch mentor Emily. Emily has accepted a position as a postdoctoral research fellow as part of the T32 in Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations at Johns Hopkins University.



[Tiago S. Jesus, PhD, OT](#), is a former Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training fellow at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He is a research assistant professor of occupational therapy at Ohio State University and a health services researcher and occupational therapist with a focus on addressing geographic and systemic imbalances in access to rehabilitation services, both within the United States and globally. He continues to be mentored by Anne Deutsch and Allen Heinemann.



[Weiwei Li, PhD](#), is a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Education in Health Sciences at Northwestern University. She is supported by an Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training in Community Living and Participation and is mentored by Alex Wong. Her research interests include emergency preparedness of people with physical disabilities and applications of digital health in wellness interventions.



[Roberto Lopez-Rosado, PT, DPT](#), is a doctoral candidate in the Health Services & Outcomes Research program at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He supports CROR research on mobility outcomes among older adults who with spinal cord injury who are Medicare beneficiaries. Allen Heinemann and Anne Deutsch mentor him. He received a NIDILRR Mary Switzer dissertation fellowship in 2025 to support his studies.



[Amy McArthur, PhD, OTR/L](#) is a postdoctoral fellow who works with the Rehabilitation and Research Training Center on Home and Community-based Services at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. She contributes to a case study project to identify best practices for providing person-centered HCBS. Allen Heinemann serves as a mentor. She will transition to a T32 training grant at Northwestern University in Fall 2026.



[Nicole Sharf, PsyD](#) is a recent graduate of the clinical psychology doctoral program at The Chicago School. She completed her internship in clinical psychology at Jackson Health System in Miami, Florida. As a CROR volunteer, she supported research promoting the psychological wellbeing of people with spinal cord injury. Her focus was on sexuality and spinal cord injury. She continues to be mentored by Allen Heinemann. She returned to Shirley Ryan AbilityLab as a rehabilitation psychology postdoctoral fellow in the Summer of 2026.



[Hope Sparks, PhD](#) is a post-doctoral research fellow at Northwestern University where she examines guardianship policy and works with a multidisciplinary mentorship team that includes Anne Deutsch. The fellowship, supported by an Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, provides training at the intersection of disability policy, health services research and advocacy.



[Melody Yang, PhD, OT](#) is a postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University. She contributes to a CROR study of employers' experience and perspectives in hiring people with physical disabilities as well as a second study comparing rehabilitation lengths of stay across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Australia. She accepted a faculty position at the University of Wyoming beginning Fall 2026.



[Manrui Zhang, PD, MPH, MSW](#) is a postdoctoral fellow in the Northwestern University Center for Health Services & Outcomes Research. She is interested in understanding, developing, and implementing outcome measures, especially assessments of cognitive functioning in medical rehabilitation settings. She recently received a Paralyzed Veterans of America research fellowship and a Craig H. Neilsen Foundation psychosocial research fellowship to support her research into neurocognitive assessments, accommodations and implementation science. Alex Wong mentors her.

Amy Balas, RN, and Isaac Smith, RN, at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab have been mentored by Anne Deutsch and director of nursing research, Katie Earnest, MSN, RN, CRRN, CNML. Their mentorship is supported by a Catalyst Grant for staff nurse development in scholarly writing. Amy is creating an online guide to help nurses empower patients with spinal cord injury, while Isaac is developing a protocol for a scoping review on the experiences of children with functional neurological disorders.

Damyan Farion is a medical student at Midwestern University in Glendale, Ariz. He wrote a summary of the IRF-PAI (Section GG) rehabilitation instrument under the mentorship of Linda Ehrlich-Jones. Anne Deutsch also mentors him.

Jonathan Ripic is a senior physical therapist who works in the Renée Crown Center for Spinal Cord Innovation at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. He is the recipient of a Mentored Catalyst Grant focused on prediction of acute and long term functional and neurologic recovery following SCI. Allen Heinemann serves as a mentor.

2026 CROR Medical Extern

Each summer, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab offers students entering their second year of medical school an opportunity to participate in clinical and research activities for six weeks. CROR hosted one medical extern this year.

[Meghan Coleman](#) is a medical student at the Loyola University Strich School of Medicine. As a medical extern at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, she completed rotations on the traumatic brain injury unit and with the cancer rehabilitation team. She also developed a new measure summary for the [International Knee Documentation Committee \(IKDC\) Subjective Knee Form](#) available on the Rehabilitation Measures Database.



Awards & Accolades



Dr. Heinemann received the Distinguished Career in Rehabilitation Award from the Association for Rehabilitation, Research, Policy and Education at their annual conference from conference president, David Strauser, PhD (left). This award recognizes a career of outstanding contributions to rehabilitation research, policy, and education.

Dr. Heinemann received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 28th Annual Rehabilitation Psychology Conference in Feb. 2026. He is pictured with APA Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology) awards chair Jenna Sarna, PsyD, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, and Dan Rohe, PhD, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine & Science.



Dr. Wong was named a Fellow of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. He was recognized at the ACRM 102nd Annual Fall Conference and EXPO in Chicago and received a plaque from ACRM president Fofi Constantinidou, PhD, in honor of his exceptional contributions to rehabilitation research and medicine.

Dr. Ehrlich-Jones was celebrated for her promotion to research professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Though the promotion officially took place in 2023, colleagues gathered at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab to celebrate promotions for the first time since 2019 in May 2026.





Dr. Deutsch was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). This honor —one of the highest in the nursing profession — recognizes individual accomplishments and, according to AAN, “signifies the power of nursing to transform health and enact positive outcomes.”

Professional Service Activities

ALLEN HEINEMANN

- Member, Outcomes Following SCI Clinical Practice Guidelines Panel, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Task force member, International Psychological Functioning Data Set Development, International Spinal Cord Society
- Co-chair, NINDS Oversight Committee for the NeuroRehab Common Data Elements
- Advisory support, United Spinal Association
- Re-appointed to the National Academy of Medicine's Standing Committee of Medical and Vocational Experts for the Social Security Administration's Disability Programs
- Chaired a planning committee on Exploring the Treatment and Management of Chronic Pain and Implications for Disability Determinations for the National Academy of Medicine
- Member, Wireless RERC Scientific Advisory Board, University of Pittsburgh
- Expert panel member, American Physical Therapy Association's Clinical Practice Guideline Panel: Core Set of Outcome Measures for Patients with Neurological Conditions
- Co-editor-in-chief, Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

LINDA EHRLICH-JONES

- Chair, Awards Committee of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Past chair, ACRM Measurement Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group
- Program committee, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Member, Mentoring Task Force of the Career Development Networking Group, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Membership and awards committee and Quality of Care Committee, American College of Rheumatology
- Board of directors, American Spinal Cord Injury Professionals SCI Nurses
- Liaison to the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Advisory Council from the National Advisory Board of Medical Rehabilitation Research

ALEX WONG

- Program committee, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine 2025 Conference
- Chair of the Measurement Interdisciplinary Interest Group of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Member, Community Group Oversight Committee of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Membership committee, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine.
- Associate editor of the Rehabilitation Research, Policy and Education Journal

ANNE DEUTSCH

- Editor-in-chief of the Rehabilitation Nursing Journal
- Editorial board, Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Editorial board, RTI Press
- Past chair, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine 2025 Conference Program Committee

- Member, Other Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Potentially Disabling Conditions (OTCC) Flags Project Technical Expert panel, Index Analysis Project Team/Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Co-chair, Home and Community-based Services Measures Maintenance and Development Technical Expert Panel project, Mathematica/Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Member, Endorsement and Maintenance Cost and Efficiency Committee, partnership for Quality Measurement by Battelle
- Member, Policy and Legislation Committee, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Reviewer, grant review panel, Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Advance Practice Committee
- Member, Wheelchair Repair Workgroup for Craig T. Nelson Foundation-funded study focused on wheelchair policy considerations (Principal Investigator: Denise Fyffee, PhD)
- Member, community advisory board, for study: 'Building Capacity for Patient Centered Comparative Effectiveness Research Focused on Individuals Living with the Effects of Stroke' PCORI, (Principal Investigator: Mary Ellen Stoykov, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA)
- Member, Other Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Potentially Disabling Conditions (OTCC) Flags Project technical expert panel; Index Analytics Project Team, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Advisory committee member, Mobility Matters: Advancing Care in Skilled Nursing Facilities Conference Series, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- Member, community advisory board, 'Using Intervention Mapping to Co-Design a Transitional Care Intervention in Aphasia Rehabilitation' (Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Schneider, MD; Co-investigator: Carla Tierney-Hendricks, PhD, CCC-SLP)

JACQUELINE KISH

- Community member, CE-SCORE Community of Practice at Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
- Member, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab IDEA council, health equity subcommittee