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## Annual Meeting Material Available Online!

The agenda, presentation slides, and videos of the 4 sessions of the meeting are now available on our website for [download and viewing](#).

## New Funding Opportunity Focused on SCI

DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency in the USA) has announced a new funding opportunity focused on spinal cord injury – [Bridging the Gap Plus](#). In a nutshell, this competitive program is focused on developing new interventions that bridge acute injury, regeneration, and chronic functional restoration.

That's a lofty goal considering that our field is littered with past failures of these individual strategies. Some things are a little different with this program however.

- It is heavily engineering oriented. Each proposal has to build 2 implantable devices – one around reducing the effects of acute injury and one around restoring multiple functions in the chronic setting.
- The proposed interventions are required to fit in the FDA regulatory pathway and investigators must engage with the FDA early. It is expected that a person with SCI will be implanted by the 5<sup>th</sup> year of each project under FDA oversight.
- They are interested in the SCI consumer perspective. Barry Munro, NASCIC Treasurer, was invited to speak at the Proposer's Day meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The audience was 130+ people considering submitting proposals. Barry told them about the value of considering the end user at the beginning. Including lived experience on the research team only strengthens the end result. He also told them that NASCIC is here to partner with them to enhance their proposals.

Full proposals are due by January 22, 2020. We will keep you posted on NASCIC's involvement and which proposals end up being funded.

## Invite a Friend, Increase our Network

Spread the word to your friends and colleagues. Ask them if they would like to:

- Join the consortium in unifying the SCI community to cooperatively leverage resources and facilitate change to improve the lives of people living with SCI.
- Engage with the SCI community to enhance effective partnerships between research, healthcare, and industry.
- Be part of the [SCITrials.org](https://www.scitrials.org) platform created by and for our community of stakeholders.

Joining NASCIC is easy. Ask your friend or colleague to fill out a [free application](#) and start providing their voice to the solution!