

Module 12 – SCI 101 for Researchers

Time to Jump In!

Congratulations! You've reached the last module of the SCI Research Advocacy Course. You've learned how new drugs and medical devices are developed and approved, and why it's important for research advocates to be involved in every step of the process.

You've learned about the biological changes that happen inside the body after injury and throughout the aging process, and how researchers are using that information to make discoveries in neuroprotection, cell replacement, neurorepair, neuromodulation and neuroplasticity that could lead to new treatments. You have also been introduced to the unique considerations involved in quality-of-life research.

Importantly, you've heard from members of the SCI community about what it's like for different people living with SCIs. And you've learned about best practices for effective collaboration between researchers and people with lived experience.

There was a lot to learn, but remember, you don't need to be an expert on each topic. And you can revisit whole modules or individual videos any time you want a refresher. You also can review the supplemental resources to dive deeply into a specific topic.

Now there's just one thing left to do: Get started! Whether you are a new research advocate or an SCI researcher looking for partners from the community, this module will describe the ways that NASCIC can help you put your newfound knowledge into practice.

We will start with ways for research advocates to get involved, including:

- Registering for NASCIC's Project Engagement Database
- Participating in programs run by NASCIC's partners and member organizations, and
- Engaging with researchers at conferences and events.

Ian Burkhart – After your learnings here, you should feel much more comfortable in voicing your opinion and sharing your personal lived experience, as well as the general ideas that you would understand of someone else with a different type of injury and their experience.

Then we will describe how NASCIC helps researchers find the right partners who have SCI lived experience.

Ian Burkhart – The NASCIC PRC, or project review committee, helps make sure that individuals with lived experience are voicing their experiences into active research projects. Many universities, industry partners, and others will reach out to NASCIC to partner with us on

projects to ensure that they have the voice of lived experience involved in their project from the start.

Finally, we will review key questions that both advocates and researchers should discuss prior to committing to an engagement.