

Module 12 – SCI 101 for Researchers

Questions to Ask and Answer Before Engaging

Whether you are a researcher seeking to recruit people with lived experience of SCI, or a research advocate who has lived experience of SCI, you'll want to be clear on the project's objectives and what everyone's roles, goals, and expectations are.

The following basic elements should be clear to all participants before an engagement plan begins.

- How will input from people with lived experience be used?
- What Is the Project? Researchers should provide the program title and a brief description in lay language.
- Who Are We Seeking? Researchers should describe the candidates they want to engage with. For example, what levels of injury and duration post injury? People living with SCI, or caregivers, or both? Include race, ethnicity, age, gender, and other demographic characteristics if relevant.
- What Are the Duties? How will advocates be involved and engaged with this project? What project tasks will advocates perform if selected? How often will we meet? Will there be travel? Describe the mode or medium of communication.
- What Is the Time Commitment? How many days or hours will be required? What is the plan for scheduled or ad hoc engagements?
- What is the overall length of the commitment?
- What type of technology is needed for engagement? Will technology be provided if the participant does not already have it?
- What is the compensation?

In addition, there are many great resources on patient engagement in research, some of which have been mentioned throughout this course. To access these resources, please refer to the supplementary resources for this module.

And now, congratulations! You have completed the SCI Research Advocacy Course! We are excited for you to join us as we all work toward the goal of advancing research that improves the lives of people with spinal cord injuries.

Why not get started right now? If you're an advocate, click below to register in the PED. And if you're a researcher, click to review our project submission applications and guidelines.

We can't wait to get to work with you!