

NeuroMatters, Fall 2017 Edition

The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation operates in a unique and interesting space as the only organization that has a continuous eye on research and knowledge sharing in support of neurotrauma prevention and improved health care practices for those living with neurotrauma. Over the past 20 years this has allowed us to develop strong networks of researchers and stakeholders throughout Ontario, across Canada and internationally.

October and November are months where many of these networks come together and without fail, myself, the ONF Program Directors and program staff are in demand to speak about advancements, facilitate discussions and present the latest research findings.

What are we recognized for? We bring value to Ontario's health care system through the evidence-informed guidelines, best practices and standards that ensure research leads to new prevention initiatives and positive changes in health care practice for those living with ABI and SCI. What we also know is that it is difficult for those with ABI and SCI to get consistent access to care across the province. We believe that Ontarians with neurotrauma have a right to evidence-informed care wherever they live and however they became injured.

Those living with ABI, often not a visible health condition, can be shuffled through the mental health and social services systems in addition to healthcare system due to concurrent health and social issues. Those living with SCI are more visible but also struggle with consistency in the access to treatment. In a big city there are options not available in rural or remote areas where a long wait and a long trip may be required to receive ongoing treatment.

Through research and collaboration ONF will continue to focus on its efforts to ensure evidence-informed care options are identified, qualified and as much as possible implemented. The thousands of Ontarians living with ABI and SCI deserve nothing less.

KENT BASSETT-SPIERS

CEO, Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation

In this Edition....

- [*If it's November it must be Fall Prevention Month*](#)
- [*ONF takes lead in approach to Implementation Science*](#)
- [*SCI Ontario provides input at summer hearings on Marshall Review*](#)
- [*Clinician education focus of Post-Concussion Care Standards roll-out*](#)
- [*Ottawa emerging as a collaborative centre for SCI research*](#)
- [*TBI Guideline implementation*](#)
- [*Fall prevention a popular seasonal topic*](#)
- [*ONF Partner Profile: Canadian Spinal Research Organization*](#)
- [*NeuroMatters Researcher Profile – Dr. Eldon Loh*](#)

- [ONF welcomes new Project Co-ordinator, Prevention](#)
- [NeuroMatter News](#)
- [Fall conference line-up](#)

If it's November it must be Fall Prevention Month

Reducing the number of falls experienced by the older adult population in this country will not only reduce healthcare and personal costs but it will also reduce debilitating injury, loss of independence and even death. Fall Prevention Month is all about getting that message out using some practical ideas and resources for implementation by organizations working with older



The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) led the implementation of the first Fall Prevention Month initiative three years ago based on the efforts of a collaborative of healthcare providers and organizations focussed on injury prevention. The bilingual campaign puts a special focus on the older adult population in advance of the winter months. While falls happen year round snow and ice make slips and falls an all-too-common occurrence during the winter.

“This is a campaign that focuses on the important evidence about the causes and prevention of falls, says Hélène Gagné, ONF Program Director Prevention. “And it offers a variety of practical approaches to raise awareness and help organizations and individuals reduce their risk of falls.”

A core part of Fall Prevention Month is the resource-rich bilingual [website](#). Packed with information for practitioners and organizations, an event calendar that includes a listing of local initiatives and activities, and a resource section filled with information for older adults.

The campaign harnesses social media including Twitter ([#PreventFalls2017](#) and [#PreventFalls](#)) and all participating organizations have access to guides, sample activities and promotional resources on the website.

Implementation Science (IS) pushes research outcomes into practice

ONF takes lead in approach to IS

The best research outcome means little if it is not applied to establish or improve a practice, program or policy. Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) recognized the need for such a process to speed research results into practice. For the past several years ONF has taken the lead to collaborate with key stakeholders and apply Implementation Science strategies and processes to research outcomes.

ONF is ready to take the next step that will see all programs – Spinal Cord Injury, Acquired Brain Injury and Prevention – co-ordinate to fully embrace IS as the core approach to ensure that results of research connected to each program leads to sustainable improvements in clinical practice and care outcomes.

“We see major benefits to modelling IS by co-ordinating our research implementation efforts across the three ONF programs,” says H el ene Gagn e, Program Director, Injury Prevention. “Taking the lead also means we have a responsibility to help inform and support our stakeholders to understand and apply IS processes.” H el ene was a member of the planning committee for the biennial Global Implementation Conference held in Toronto this past June and provides IS supports at ONF.

To support its efforts to adapt to IS, ONF reached out internationally and partnered with the [National Implementation Research Network \(NIRN\)](#) some years ago. NIRN has established and shares its science-based approach for moving evidence to practice. In addition, ONF created the Integrated Research and Knowledge Mobilization Framework, a document called “Informing Implementation” as a guide to decision-making on research funding. The framework provides the basis for sharing research outcomes required for the IS approach.

“Sustainable practice improvements that can be widely and systematically implemented are the core of IS,” says H el ene. “At a very practical level, improved practices lead to better outcomes for individuals and reduced costs to families and the health care system.”

For the past several years ONF has been gradually applying IS to its collaborative work with partners such as the [Institut national d’excellence en sant e et en services sociaux \(INESSS\)](#) and the [Rick Hansen Institute](#). ONF also encourages effective implementation processes through its support of Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and local organizations by offering webinars, presentations and consultations.

SCI Ontario provides input at summer hearings on Marshall Review

With little fanfare, hearings to gather public input on [“Fair Benefits Fairly Delivered: A Review of the Auto Insurance Industry in Ontario”](#) were held in late August. The review was completed

for the Minister of Finance by David Marshall and released in April. The hearings were led by Parliamentary Assistant for the Minister, Yvan Baker.

Peter Athanasopoulos, Senior Manager Public Policy and Government Relations for Spinal Cord Injury Ontario and Manager Ontario Spinal Cord Injury Solutions Alliance (a partnership between ONF and SCIO) presented the final of 17 presentations received during the two days of the hearing.

“Our message was that it is time to start listening and responding to what people living with SCI need,” he said. “I felt that I was being heard. And our presentation echoed many of the messages already presented including the need for more investment into research and the implementation of a Neurotrauma Care Pathway that determines what the recovery process for each person looks.” Similar care pathways are already adopted for stroke and cancer.

The needs of the patient, rather than the cost of a settlement following an automobile collision should be the focus of effort for the automobile insurance industry and health care providers according to the recommendations in the review. Automobile collisions are a major cause of neurotrauma and, as noted in the review, the resulting medical and rehabilitation care requirements are not always delivered consistently or efficiently. This has often resulted in expensive, lengthy and repetitive assessment processes that include both the public and private health care providers.

“We need healthcare to be based on evidence that leads to the best course of recovery for each individual,” says Peter. “This will require investment by the government but it will also mean better short- and long-term outcomes for each person.”

David Marshall is the former head of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board and was appointed special advisor to the Minister of Finance in 2016.

Clinician education focus of Post-Concussion Care Standards roll-out

Education for front-line clinicians is the first step in the implementation plan for the roll-out of the evidence-based Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation [Standards for Post-Concussion Care from Diagnosis to the Interdisciplinary Concussion Clinic](#). The ONF Concussion Advisory Committee came to this conclusion based on the feedback received from patients, families and physicians after the launch of the Standards in June.

“Clinicians are the ones to make decisions about how patients move through the healthcare system,” says Judy Gargaro, ONF Clinical and Systems Implementation Associate with the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) program. “By ensuring frontline physicians are the well educated about the Standards, ongoing implementation efforts will be on a solid foundation.”

The Concussion Advisory Committee is now exploring the variety of options for clinician education which is likely to include continuing medical education (CME) options targeted at family and emergency physicians who are often first in line to see patients with post-concussion symptoms.

The evidence-based guidance for the interdisciplinary model requires system changes to achieve the post-concussion care pathway – the right care, at the right time by the right health care provider. Although there are clinics and networks already functioning well using an evidence-based model, system-based issues including scope of practice, resourcing or staffing may be barriers for others.

“The health care system isn’t truly set up for the care pathway at this point,” says Corinne Kagan. “Helping frontline clinicians learn about and appreciate the benefits of the 15 Standards is the key to moving everything forward.” With its broad networks of stakeholders including researchers and care providers,

ONF is well placed to lead this implementation process. ONF has taken leadership across the spectrum of post-concussion care regardless of whether the brain injury has occurred as a result of a sports injury, fall or motor vehicle collision. This includes the collaborative development and publication of [Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Managing of Pediatric Concussions](#) as well as the [Guidelines for Concussion/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Persistent Symptoms](#). ONF, with its partner the [Institut national d’excellence en santé et en services sociaux \(INESSS\)](#) was proud to release the INESSS [Clinical Practice Guideline for the Rehabilitation of Adults with Moderate to Severe TBI](#).

Ottawa emerging as a collaborative centre for SCI research

A team from the [Ottawa Hospital Research Institute](#) (OHRI) is establishing leadership in translational research focused on spinal cord injury from basic disease/injury mechanisms, genetics, stem cells and computer modelling to bioengineering and the development of new imaging techniques and clinical trials.

“Clinicians are engaged and supporting this research,” says Dr. Eve Tsai, a neurosurgeon and



researcher and the Suruchi Bhargava Chair in Spinal Cord and Brain Regeneration Research at OHRI. “The collaboration is amazing.” One recent advancement has been the availability of live cell human spinal cord tissue. Working with Dr. Charles Tator

(Krembril Research Institute, Toronto) collaborative members have further developed a process to gain live tissue as well as techniques to use this tissue to understand the spinal cord repair and pain mechanisms in animals and humans.

Dr. Tsai and her colleagues are motivated by the SCI patients they see in their clinical practises. “We all want to make life better for those living with SCI,” she says. “We all want as many patients as possible to regain their mobility what frustrates for everyone is not having an understanding of which patients are most likely to regain use of their legs and arms following spinal cord injury.”

The translation of basic science breakthroughs to patient care and treatment is the focus of an October 18 symposium at the University of Ottawa Surgical Skills Centre that will bring together the various OHRI researchers to share their most current research findings and identify new areas for collaboration. The SCI community participating in the symposium will include neuroscientists, physicists, biologists and clinicians as well as people living with spinal cord injury. The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation is supporting and participating in the symposium.

The research partnership between the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation and the [Rick Hansen Institute](#) has funded OHRI researcher Dr. Kirsty Boyd (Division of Plastic Surgery) for her research into nerve transfers in tetraplegia ([Nerve Transfers in Tetraplegia: A Multi-Centre, Multi-Disciplinary Pilot Study](#)). This work is collecting evidence of how nerve transfer surgery can be used to improve upper extremity function in people with cervical SCI.

“OHRI has emerged as a significant centre for spinal cord research over the past few years,” says Dr. Tara Jeji, ONF Program Director, SCI. “The research underway is focussed and collaborative and will make a positive difference to so many of us who live with SCI.”

TBI Guideline implementation focussed on improving care, best use of resources

A year after the release of the INESSS-ONF [Clinical Practice Guideline for the Rehabilitation of Adults with Moderate to Severe TBI](#) (the Guideline) the nuts and bolts of implementation planning are almost complete. Working with key stakeholders, the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) has focussed on determining which of the 109 recommendations have priority and be achievable within the existing funding and resource envelopes currently available for rehabilitation programs across the province.

Released by the ONF and the [Institut national d’excellence en santé et en services sociaux](#) (INESSS) the Guideline covers all rehabilitation considerations following a TBI starting with rehabilitative care including the physical, sensory, cognitive, behavioral and emotional components as well as associated conditions such as behavioral, mental health and addiction issues.

“We have undertaken a broad consultation and received input from six acute care centres and 14 rehabilitation sites across the province,” says Judy Gargaro, ONF Implementation Associate. “Every site was asked to rate themselves on their progress against all 109 recommendations, we provided everyone with a summary of their own responses in the con



text of the provincial results.” In particular, sites were asked to identify any internal barriers beyond staff time that might impact on their ability to improve rehabilitative TBI care.

The results of this outreach have been very encouraging with most sites reporting progress in key areas or noting that plans are in place to adjust clinical practices based on the Guideline.

ONF is now applying an implementation science approach to support effective and sustained changes to support care recommended in the Guideline. Survey results indicate there is particular interest in having ONF drive system-level priorities such as collaborative approaches to mental health, substance use and behaviour disorders, as well as establishing consistent approaches to discharge planning including communication and clear protocols and follow-up with every patient.

“While we will be happy with short-term ‘wins’ the long-term picture is very important. It would be great to see a report card on TBI care, for instance,” says Judy. “The Guideline offers a framework for change that will improve care and make better use of the resources devoted by each site to TBI rehabilitation.”

Fall prevention a popular seasonal topic

At the [“End Falls this Fall”](#) conference held in early October, the focus was all about different strategies to cut down on the number and severity of falls experienced in older adults. With the approach of winter, fall prevention initiatives become even more urgent given the surge in injuries due to falls.

The only regional conference to focus specifically on fall prevention, this is the 10th time health practitioners from North Simcoe Muskoka and beyond have come together to share knowledge and best practices. More than 150 people participated this year.

“This is an interactive and informative conference setting,” says H el ene Gagn e, Program Director, Injury Prevention at the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation. “While some of the information is specific to issues related to footwear, medical conditions and the home environment it all revolves around the range of approaches to reduce falls. The conference provides a window to the bigger picture and is very helpful in introducing practitioners to fall prevention strategies.”

The Simcoe Muskoka Fall Integrated Fall Strategy sponsored and organized the one-day event which was held in Orillia.

ONF Partner Profile: Canadian Spinal Research Organization

Mission

The Canadian Spinal Research Organization (CSRO) raises funds to support targeted research that is focused on functional recovery and a cure for paralysis caused by spinal cord injury.

Goal

CSRO has more than \$20-million to fund SCI research in the last decade and a half, and is committed to raising \$10-million in the next five years.

ONF/CSRO Partnership Details

Associated with the American Spinal Research Organization, CSRO and the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) have a long-standing and productive association focused on spinal cord research that improves the lives of those living with spinal cord injury (SCI). ONF



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supports CSRO by identifying the needs and gaps in practise or policy that can be bridged through investment in relevant clinical research. ONF then facilitates research partnerships for CSRO by making the connection to the research community through the [Ontario SCI Research Network](#) (OSCIRN). Together CSRO and ONF ensure the research undertaken addresses the needs of the SCI community both practitioners and those living with SCI and facilitates changes to health policy where relevant or needed.

Looking Ahead

The newly-formed [North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium](#) (NASCI) is now co-located with CSRO. The result of almost a year of discussions and planning by 12 founding partners including CSRO and ONF, NASCI brings together like-minded organizations, individuals, and groups to improve research, care, and policies impacting people living with spinal cord injury, families and the community. CSRO provides in-kind resources to help maintain the day-to-day administrative needs for NASCI.

NeuroMatters features one of our partners in each issue. ONF is proud to work with a number of partners to determine the key causes of neurotrauma and support the development of interventions and policies that make a difference in the lives of those with spinal cord and acquired brain injuries.

NeuroMatters Researcher Profile – Dr. Eldon Loh

Beginning with this issue, NeuroMatters will feature a profile of those who contribute to improving the understanding of neurotrauma and care for those with spinal cord or acquired brain injury through their research and implementation efforts.



Dr. Eldon Loh, Medical Director of the Spinal Cord Injury Program at the Schulich School of Medicine, Western University, and consulting physiatrist in the Spin Cord Injury and Brain Injury programs at the Parkwood Institute, St. Joseph’s Health Care Centre, London, Ontario. His most recent research efforts have focused on the treatment of neuropathic pain in those living with spinal cord injury. “[Clinical Practice Guideline for Managing Neuropathic Pain with Patients who have experienced a Spinal Cord Injury](#)” was published in the summer of 2016 in Spinal Cord. Dr. Loh is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and completed his residency at the University of Alberta and an interventional pain fellowship at the HealthPointe Medical Centre in Edmonton.

What has been the response to your research into the management of neuropathic pain related to spinal cord injury?

It has been very positive. Neuropathic pain can be a difficult condition to manage after spinal cord injury, and I think clinicians and others appreciate having the guidelines that we developed as a resource to use when optimizing their practice. The guidelines have also highlighted the gaps in neuropathic pain management after spinal cord injury in Canada, and I think we are on a path to improve all aspects of neuropathic pain moving forward, from basic science to the clinic.

What are those next steps for this area of research?

There is really a lack of evidence for many of the treatments that are used in neuropathic pain management. One important example where the evidence really doesn’t exist now is cannabis. Given the current policy directions with respect to the use of cannabis, there is a lot of interest in gathering evidence about the effectiveness of cannabis as a pain management option for those with spinal cord injury. Another area that needs to be better explored is non-pharmacological treatment options. When I discuss neuropathic pain management with people who have spinal

cord injury, they often ask about non-pharmacological options that may benefit them. Again, this is an area where evidence is limited.

Why did you choose pain as the area of focus for your research?

Throughout my training I worked closely with mentors who were involved in pain management for many different conditions, not just spinal cord injury. Many of my mentors were also actively engaged in pain management research. I was inspired and motivated by their successes in helping people manage their pain in clinic, particularly if this is something that they have had to deal with for many years. I was also struck by their enthusiasm and desire to improve what they were able to offer in clinic through research. Because of them, I wanted to look at ways to help these patients eliminate pain, if possible, or live more comfortably with pain if it wasn't feasible.

Can you share your perspectives on how the management of pain improves the lives of those living with SCI?

Neuropathic pain is often chronic and difficult to treat, and can impact people's lives in a variety of ways. Sleep, mood, participation in rehabilitation, and the ability to perform functional tasks can all be impacted by neuropathic pain. If we can improve someone's experience of pain, their quality of life and their ability to do the things that they want to do can significantly improve. Sometimes this can be achieved with changes in medication or other treatments, but unfortunately, this doesn't happen often enough. Many benefit from counselling about how to live with their pain and improve day-to-day functioning. It is very satisfying to be able to assist patients through this process and observe how even a small improvement can lead to positive changes in their lives and their participation in activities of daily living.

What changes would you like to see in the healthcare system that would support pain management initiatives?

There is an urgency for equal access to pain management regardless of where people live in this province. Specialty pain clinics and spinal cord injury clinics tend to be in larger centres, and it can be difficult for people to access either one. In addition, many of these clinics can have extensive waitlists. Better coordination of care between pain clinics and spinal cord injury rehabilitation clinics may allow people living with SCI to access pain management services more efficiently. Funding for treatment, both pharmacological and non-pharmacological, can also be limited. We must advocate for equitable access and funding for different pain management options which can result in significant improvement in quality of life.

ONF welcomes new Project Co-ordinator, Prevention

Cristina Cicco, MHSc, RD is the newest member of the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation team.



Cristina has worked in the public sector for more than 10 years and brings her skills in project coordination, communications and technology to her new role as the ONF Project Co-ordinator, Prevention. She joined ONF in July.

“My thanks to ONF for welcoming me to the team,” says Cristina. “I’m looking forward to working on initiatives related to the prevention portfolio and contributing to the great work already underway.”

Most recently with the College of Dietitians of Ontario, Cristina completed a three-year project to plan, implement and evaluate a new assessment process for internationally-educated dietitians. Previous to that project she oversaw the website for EatRight Ontario, and planned and implemented several other projects for the health promotion service. Cristina also worked as a Communications Co-ordinator for the Specialty Food Shop at the Hospital for Sick Children and has been a Course Instructor at Ryerson University, Humber College and George Brown College. She completed her Master of Health Science at Ryerson University and is a Registered Dietitian, a regulated health profession which gives her a unique perspective on health issues.

“We are delighted to have Cristina working with us on the prevention portfolio more specifically on Loop/Fall Prevention Community of Practice and the Fall Prevention Month initiatives,” says H el ene Gagn e, Program Director, Injury Prevention. “Cristina’s skill set is a great match with this role.”

NeuroMatters News

Guideline on concussion in sport released by Parachute Canada

Supported by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), in collaboration with Sport Canada, and with the participation of experts in the field of sports concussion Parachute Canada has released the [Canadian Guidelines on Concussion in Sport](#) in September. This guideline is part of

a national initiative to harmonize concussion guidelines and protocols among Canadian amateur sport organizations.

“There is a fair degree of alignment to ONF’s Standards in the Guidelines for Concussion in Sport with regards to roles in diagnosing concussion, the importance of interdisciplinary care and use of evidence to support practice” says Corinne Kagan, Senior Program Manager for the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation. “The ONF Standards take the position that anyone who has sustained a concussion in Ontario regardless of cause should receive quality, appropriate and timely care.”

ONF teams up with RHI for UofT fellowship

The Rick Hansen Institute and the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation [established a new fellowship](#) to support physical therapy research in the area of spinal cord injury, in honour of contributions to the field by Rick Hansen and his wife Amanda. The announcement was made at a University of Toronto event commemorating the 100th anniversary of the University’s Department of Physical Therapy.

Rowan’s Law Advisory Committee issues report on coroner’s jury recommendations

Following a nine-month process, the Rowan's Law Advisory Committee has [issued its report](#) detailing actions to address the recommendations of the coroner's jury into the death of Rowan Stringer. Rowan, a rugby player, died as a result of sports-related head injuries that were not diagnosed. The report was released by the government September 14.

The Committee grouped its recommendations under five themes: Surveillance, Prevention, Detection, Management and Awareness.

ONF CEO Kent Bassett Spiers was a member of the Committee. "ONF will continue its efforts to raise the profile of the importance of prevention," he says. "The focus of our work on concussion care standards is making sure the public receives the right care, at the right time, by the right providers."

"Our work on standards, evidence-based tools and guidelines is consistent with all the themes identified in the report. ONF takes pride in being part of the development of these important recommendations and in continuing to facilitate improvements in concussion care in the province," he says.

New North American organization to drive collaboration on SCI research, care and policy

Following almost a year of effort, the new [North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium](#) (NASCI) held its inaugural meeting October 12. Emerging from discussions at the 2016 PRAXIS and the United 2 Fight Paralysis Working 2 Walk conferences, NASCI is the

first organization of its kind to focus on unified achievements in research, care and policy by fostering collaborative efforts across the spinal cord injury community with an emphasis on those living with SCI. Twelve founding members include the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF), Spinal Cord Injury Canada (SCIC), Rick Hansen Institute (RHI) and the Canadian Spinal Research Organization (CSRO). CSRO hosts the Consortium secretariat and will provide in-kind resources to help maintain the day-to-day administrative needs for NASCIC.

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario recognized through special Second City fundraiser

[Spinal Cord Injury Ontario](#) was a beneficiary of a benefit performance organized and presented by former members of the Second City comedy troupe. The main focus of the fundraiser was the nephew of actor Dave Thomas, Jake Thomas. Jake lives with SCI and the majority of the proceeds from the sold-out event were dedicated to supporting his future requirements. Spinal Cord Injury Ontario received significant media coverage and Peter Athanasopoulos, Senior Manager Public Policy and Government Relations at Spinal Cord Injury Ontario attended the event.

“We are so thankful for the funds raised that will be used to support the life-changing work we do at Spinal Cord Injury Ontario,” he says. “But equally important was the one-on-one conversations many of our staff had with attendees and some well-known actors who donated their time and talent to make the show happen. We are so thankful to Second City for choosing to support our charity.”

Loop joins the Community of Practice online page at Health Quality Ontario

The Loop Fall Prevention Community of Practice has joined the [Health Quality Ontario \(HQQ\) online Community](#) listings page. The HQO page is accepts groups in the healthcare community tackling quality improvement issues. Loop was launched almost two years ago and has about 1,600 members.

Conference season in full swing

The fall is a busy time for major conferences, meetings and symposiums. The 2017 conference line-up related to ONF programs includes:

ISCOS – International Spinal Cord Society (24 – 27 October)

ISCoS endeavours to foster education, research and clinical excellence in the care of spinal cord injury. The ISCoS 2017 conference brings together an interdisciplinary group of attendees and presenters including nurses, neurologists, neurosurgeons, traumatologists, physical therapists, social workers, occupational therapists, orthopaedic surgeons, psychologists, sports therapists and urologists. The ONF presence includes a speak by SCI Program Director Dr. Tara Jeji that will focus on the importance of engaging of those living with SCI in the research and education process. The educational programme encourages delegates to share knowledge and experience as

they research the new innovations within their fields. More available at: <https://www.iscosmeetings.org/>.

InTBIR – International Traumatic Brain Injury Research Meeting (October 30-31)

InTBIR is a collaborative effort of the European Commission (EC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It was set up in October 2011 to advance clinical traumatic brain injury (TBI) research, treatment and care and to encourage partnerships and collaborations. For more information about InTBIR go to <https://intbir.nih.gov/>.

Provincial ABI conference (Nov 1- 3)

The Conference theme is: [Making A Difference](#) About 600 professionals representing a variety of disciplines as well as persons living with the effects of brain injury, family members and caregivers are expected to attend the 2017 provincial conference. The conference curriculum includes presentations of interest to ABI rehabilitation professionals such as Case Managers, Legal Professionals, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists, Researchers, Speech and Language Pathologists and persons living with the effects of ABI. The main conference includes 2 days of multi-disciplinary educational sessions as well as distinguished keynote speakers. ONF will be leading two presentations at the conference.

7th National SCI Conference (9 – 11 November)

[The major Canadian gathering](#) of clinicians, physicians, research scientists and consumers from across Canada and North America who are focused on achieving recovery and optimizing function for individuals living with spinal cord injury. The conference agenda includes sessions covering the design, interpretation, delivery and evaluation of clinical care. A unique discussion of how advances in military medicine has informed SCI care as well as the unique needs and challenges of individuals with SCI injured in combat. There will be a special acknowledgement on Remembrance Day.

Canadian Fall Prevention Curriculum E-learning course

The University of Victoria is offering a five-week e-learning course focused on developing the skills and knowledge required to apply an evidence-based approach to the prevention of falls and fall-related injuries. The course runs from October 20 to November 24. Details including registration information can be found [here](#).

Envisioning Ageing In Place (November 23)

The National Institute on Ageing's [Envisioning Ageing in Place Conference](#) will bring together experts, thought leaders, practitioners and delegates to learn, share, and brainstorm key ideas and actions to support older adults to age in place. This conference will discuss ageing in place from

a variety of perspectives, from neighbourhood and community capacity-building to age-friendly transportation and inclusive home design. The conference takes place at Ryerson University in Toronto.

SAVE THE DATE! Canadian Fall Prevention Conference, June 2018

Memorial University School of Human Kinetics and Recreation (Newfoundland) and the Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention will co-host the 4th Canadian Fall Prevention Conference June 11- 12, 2018 in St. John's Newfoundland. A pre-conference workshop will be held June 10th, 2018. The conference will feature presentations and discussions on successful fall prevention initiatives from across Canada and elsewhere. Attendees will include leading practitioners, researchers, and experts in the field of fall prevention. Registration details are available at: [www. http://acip.ca/](http://acip.ca/).