

**Five-Year Cooperative Agreement Proposal: SCIRF 12-004**  
**Mid-year Report, Year One**  
**April 30, 2013**

**Goal 1:** Educate individuals with spinal cord injuries and their family members about the South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund, the role it plays in supporting spinal cord injury research in the state of South Carolina, and current research studies being funded.

**Year One Objective 1.1:** At least one detailed presentation, either by SCSCIA staff or SCIRF-supported researchers, will be made to each of the association's seven peer support groups (now known as Breeze groups).

**Work Completed:** In attending the Scientific Conference at MUSC on March 22, we investigated which research study would be the best fit to present at our Breeze groups. We decided that Lee Saunders' work with health outcomes could be presented in a way that group members could understand and relate to their own lives. We are currently working with Lee on how this can be done in a 45-minute format for non-scientific individuals.

**Year One Objective 1.2:** One issue of the association's newsletter, *Outspoken*, will feature a detailed article about a current research study. The other issue will feature a shorter update about SCIRF news.

**Work Completed:** An article about Mark Bowden and Chris Gregory's research on walking after incomplete spinal cord injury ran in the Winter 2013 issue of the newsletter. The article, which was featured on the front page, included contact information for individuals interested in participating in one of the studies.

**Year One Objective 1.3:** Periodic updates on SCIRF will be provided on the association's website.

**Work Completed:** The following information has been posted:

An announcement of a five-year grant by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to the Longevity after Injury Project to study employment after Spinal Cord Injury

Summary of a ten-year study by the Longevity after Injury Project to look at the risk of subsequent injuries after spinal cord injuries

A notice of the statewide database study by the Longevity after Injury Project, including a request for participants

In addition, a tab on the association's home page has been changed from Health Care to: Health Care/Research to make it easier for readers to find the SC Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund on the drop-down menu.

**Goal 2:** Strengthen peer support services and volunteer leadership of the association in order to more effectively disseminate information about the South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund.

**Year One Objective 2.1:** Feature a presentation by a SCIRF board member, scientific director, or SCIRF-supported researcher at annual peer leader (Breeze leader) training workshop. Promote workshop as a SCIRF hosted event.

**Work Completed:** The Breeze leader training is scheduled for May 10. Mark Bowden and Chris Gregory are scheduled to do a presentation on their research about walking after incomplete injury.

**Year One Objective 2.2:** Include a component about SCIRF in the association's first new injury volunteer visitation (Now called Peer Visitors) orientation/training session.

**Work Completed:** The orientation training session is tentatively scheduled for September 20. The Research Fund will be addressed by SCSCIA staff, and peer visitors will become familiar with the form to sign up potential research participants.

**Year One Objective 2.3:** Create a brochure introducing SCIRF to be packed in the wheelchair backpacks given out during new injury visits.

**Work Completed:** A decision was made to wait until after the Scientific Conference before taking this on. Work will be done on this over the summer.

**Goal 3:** Furnish ongoing education to professionals who work with individuals with spinal cord injuries to create a greater awareness of the South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund, its purpose and accomplishments.

**Year One Objective 3.1:** Provide four on-site in-service presentations to professionals on the Spinal Cord Injury Association, the South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund and the relationship between the two organizations.

**Work Completed:** In-services provided:

November 8, 2012  
Spartanburg Vocational Rehabilitation  
30 staff  
VR Counselors

November 27, 2012  
Kershaw Vocational Rehabilitation Department  
12 staff  
VR Counselors

January 16, 2013:  
Roper Hospital, Charleston  
26 staff  
Nurses, PT's, OT's social workers, a recreation therapist and a physician

February 21, 2013  
HealthSouth, North Charleston  
14 staff  
PT's and OT's

**Year One Objective 3.2:** Disseminate periodic SCIRF updates through the association's email distribution list of professionals.

**Work Completed:** This goal will be addressed over the next few months.

**Goal 4:** Reach out through all of the above goals to promote opportunities to participate in SCIRF-funded studies.

**Year One Objective 4.1:** Recruit potential study participants on an ongoing basis.

**Work Completed:** With the new form reported under Objective 4.2, 116 participants who initially signed up with just basic contact information were each contacted to ask for additional information. We have gotten the detailed information completed by 30 of these individuals.

**Year One Objective 4.2:** Fine-tune intake system being developed for SCSCIA website to register potential research participants online.

**Work Completed:** A new website form has been created, with assistance from Richard Aust, which collects more detailed information that will be useful to researchers.

<http://www.scspinalcord.org/south-carolina-spinal-cord-injury-research-fund/south-carolina-spinal-cord-injury-research-fund>

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