

Preliminary Conference Program



interdependence 2012

Global advancement in accessible communities
and spinal cord injury research for a cure

May 15-18, 2012
Vancouver, Canada

www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012



Rick Hansen Institute
Institut Rick Hansen

Rick Hansen
Foundation



INTERDEPENDENCE 2012 KEYNOTE PLENARY SESSIONS

The keynote plenary sessions have been designed to appeal to all Interdependence 2012 delegates. These sessions will focus on four critical themes that are relevant to both the accessibility and SCI research agendas and have the potential to inspire a dialogue in the pursuit of a more healthy and inclusive world.

Thought leaders from fields outside of those featured at the conference will give the keynote address, delivering experience-based solutions and practical applications that will resonate with the combined delegate group. Two international field experts, who will share the podium with the keynote speaker, will then offer their subject-matter perspectives on the themes.

KEYNOTE PLENARY THEMES

Accelerating progress: are global standards, systems and tools the answer?

Common frameworks and language – arrived at through international collaboration – are critical for accelerating progress towards a more accessible and inclusive world for persons with disabilities. In this session, speakers will discuss how a universal framework, including global standards, systems and tools that are intended for all – from governments and business to community institutions and persons with disabilities – enables effective planning, information-sharing and accountability for outcomes.

The promise of technology: finding solutions for a healthier and more inclusive world

With the rapid development of information technologies and technology platforms comes a natural increase in opportunities to harness their potential to build a more inclusive world. Explore how the strategic use of information technologies, when combined with global collaboration, can improve knowledge-sharing and transfer to improve health and empowerment for persons with disabilities.

Realizing tomorrow's potential through collaborative partnerships

The major challenges faced by the global community cannot be solved by one individual, organization or country. Developing effective partnerships is critical to achieving common goals more efficiently and with better results. Join experts who are employing strategies to engage the right people, in the right place, at the right time – to attain tangible results and carve a path to a secure future.

Investing in the future: the value proposition

Businesses and government face increasing pressure for investment decisions. To advance the business case for community accessibility, inclusion and SCI research, it is necessary to strategically match resource opportunities to clear and specific objectives. This session will explore the changing roles and responsibilities of leadership, how to capitalize on opportunities that result from improving the quality of life and promoting the inclusion of the 1-billion strong demographic of persons with disabilities and achieve the all-important return on investment.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Program Committee of Interdependence 2012 is inviting the submission of abstracts.

Abstract Deadlines

August 10, 2011	Abstract Submission Opens
December 1, 2011	Abstract Submission Deadline
January 18, 2012	Author Notifications of Acceptance

To find out more information on abstract categories and to submit an abstract online, please visit www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012.






Making Communities Accessible for All

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The Making Communities Accessible for All program has been developed within the context of six overall streams:

- Accessible community planning and infrastructure
- The changing face of tourism
- International sport events as a catalyst for change
- Harmonizing global standards, policies, language and systems
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Capitalizing on information communication technologies and platforms for improved accessibility

All of these streams will be presented with a lens toward the built environment. Since they are not mutually exclusive, the individual sessions are designed to encompass more than one of the six streams.

-  Accessible community planning and infrastructure
-  The changing face of tourism
-  International sport events as a catalyst for change
-  Harmonizing global standards, policies, language and systems
-  UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

MAJOR SESSIONS

The accessibility advantage



The business case for accessibility has never been better. The growing combined demographic of people with a disability and a significant aging population will continue to have an enormous impact on how our world does business. Through forward-thinking leadership, many organizations are capitalizing on the demographic shift by making significant changes to the physical accessibility of their operations and communities. In this session, you will hear from corporate executives, accessibility experts and government leaders who are pioneering the development of accessible and inclusive communities and getting ahead of impending international standards and legislation to develop strong competitive advantages.

Collaborating on accessible communities



Building vibrant, accessible communities requires a strong partnership between the public and private sectors, to develop innovative solutions from shared opportunities and challenges. Through engaging case studies, find out how governments, industry, private business and accessibility experts around the world are working collaboratively to address common issues and leverage the opportunities in urban planning and accessible building to design more inclusive communities.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Making a difference: governments in action to improve community accessibility



Learn how governments from around the world are successfully addressing physical accessibility in their communities through improved standards and legislation, public-private partnerships and innovative community planning.

The new era: the future of accessibility in the tourism and hospitality industry



Learn from global experts and industry leaders about the future of accessibility, its impact on the tourism and hospitality industry and how to capitalize on the next big market.

Accessibility essentials 101: preparing building owners and design and construction professionals for the future of accessibility



Gain valuable insights from experts and industry leaders about the future of accessibility, its impact on design and construction and how to prepare for the next great demographic shift.

The win-win: benefits of major international events on community accessibility



Participants will learn how major international events can leave a measurable and lasting impact on the accessibility of host communities.

A new world order: the evolution and impact of accessibility policies around the world



Learn how accessibility standards and legislation models are improving access to buildings and community infrastructure around the world. Good-practice case studies from a variety of developed and emerging economies will be shared, including the successes and challenges in the design, development and implementation of standards and legislative processes.

Motivation beyond the minimum: from compliance to competitive advantage



This session will present compelling opportunities and technology innovations, motivating the private sector and government to move beyond minimum existing standards of accessibility in both regulated and unregulated environments.

Accessibility essentials 102: the must-have tool-kit for accessible design and construction



Learn which methods industry and accessibility experts use to maximize inclusive design in public infrastructure.

A forward-thinking strategy for a legacy of accessibility



This workshop will explore the accessibility legacy opportunities in hosting a major international sport event and the role that organizing committees – and their stakeholders – play in contributing to the future of host communities.

An integrated strategy for the design of outdoor public spaces



Urban planners, government leaders, policy makers, non-governmental organizations and parks and recreation departments will discuss jurisdictional responsibility, opportunities and challenges in relation to the planning and design of accessible outdoor public spaces. Learn from international case studies and good-practice collaboration models in this dynamic and interactive session.

Moving toward a global language: exploring the business case for harmonizing global accessibility standards and systems



International thought leaders and standards development professionals will explore the pros and cons of harmonizing global language, standards and systems for accessibility to the built environment. Case studies and international collaboration models from other fields will be presented to bring further depth and experience to the discussion.

Global accessibility initiative: leveraging consumer power to drive social change



Discover how this innovative accessibility ratings system and tool can support public policy goals and help businesses improve their bottom line. Consumers, private sector businesses and governments each play pivotal roles in creating long term sustainability and a more accessible and inclusive world.

Retrofitting accessibility: case studies of community infrastructure retrofit projects



Through the review of case studies and proven solutions, participants will learn how to overcome the challenges associated with building for accessibility in community infrastructure retrofit projects.

Sustainable accessibility design for major international event venues



This how-to session will explore good-practice design principles for major event venue construction, showcasing flexible solutions that meet both temporary and community legacy requirements.

Town hall: government



In a lively and interactive session, government thought leaders from around the world will engage in a candid dialogue to address the major opportunities and challenges that governments face in making public infrastructure accessible. Audience members will be encouraged to participate in this forward-thinking discussion.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

Town hall: tourism and hospitality industry



Join expert panelists in an engaging dialogue about current and future challenges in the tourism and hospitality industry. Global thought leaders will explore trends and shared opportunities, and engage with audience members to identify solutions for global accessibility issues.

Town hall: building owners and the design and construction industry



Join expert panelists in an engaging dialogue about current and future challenges in the design and construction industry. Global thought leaders will explore key trends and shared opportunities, and engage with audience members to identify solutions for global accessibility issues.

Promoting achievable accessibility legacies in a major international sport event host community



With a focus on delegate engagement and interaction, these Delphi Sessions will invite the organizing committees of major international sport events – and their community and corporate stakeholders – to explore a number of topics in a focused series of roundtable discussions. Topics may include:

- Setting priorities and objectives for a legacy of accessibility
- Engaging stakeholders
- The role of accessibility in creating commercial viability for emerging markets around major sport events
- Establishing the legacy schemes to undertake post-event responsibilities

Leadership roundtable: government



Think globally and act locally by collaborating with other government leaders to identify solutions to public infrastructure accessibility challenges in a dynamic, facilitated roundtable discussion.

**Advance registration will be required.*

Industry leader roundtable: tourism and hospitality



Leaders in the global tourism and hospitality sector will collaborate on industry-wide solutions to shared opportunities and challenges in a dynamic, facilitated roundtable discussion.

**Advance registration will be required.*

Industry leader roundtable: building owners and the design and construction industry



Leaders, decision-makers and developers from the design and construction sector, will collaborate on industry-wide solutions to shared opportunities and challenges in a dynamic facilitated roundtable discussion.

**Advance registration will be required.*

Improving community access through innovative technologies



Learn how to capitalize on innovative information technologies and platforms to re-think and improve access to your business or community.

Differentiation and marketing: how to showcase your accessibility to attract new consumers



In this session, participants will learn how to turn accessibility investments into a competitive advantage.

A world of good practices



Through brief, dynamic presentations, this session will provide an opportunity for a global showcase of cutting-edge research, new innovations and good practices – in making accessible communities for all.

**There will be an abstract process for this session.*

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Research and Development

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The SCI Research and Development program has been developed within the context of five overall streams:

- Acute SCI intervention
- Chronic SCI intervention
- Rehabilitation
- Neuroregeneration
- Registries and data management

All of the streams will be presented with a lens towards clinical trials. As they are not mutually exclusive in practice, the individual sessions will all touch upon more than one of the five streams.

Evaluation of pre-clinical evidence in order to translate into clinical trials

The SCI community has witnessed the pre-clinical emergence of a number of promising neuroprotective and neuroregenerative treatments, which have then disappointingly failed to demonstrate convincing efficacy in clinical trials. Due to the costs of conducting clinical trials, it is of utmost importance to determine which therapies have sufficient preclinical evidence of efficacy to justify testing in humans. Learn about the current systems and processes in development, which will ensure that treatments with the greatest chance of success will be translated into clinical trials.

Lessons learned from past clinical trials in SCI and the challenges of performing acute SCI clinical trials

Treatments for acute SCI with promising pre-clinical details have yet to perform to expectations once assessed within the framework of a clinical trial. What can be learned from the failures in past clinical trials that will help address the challenges moving forward? Hear from experts in acute SCI clinical trials for the current thoughts on these issues.

Cellular trials in SCI: Which patient? Which cell? Which outcomes?

Among the general public, cellular transplantation therapies – and stem cells in particular – are commonly associated with the future of SCI treatment. As cellular transplantation therapies continue to advance into Phase 1 clinical trials, the debate continues over which patients are appropriate candidates for such therapies, which cell should be used, and which outcomes should be measured. This session will explore the current perspectives in SCI cellular trials.

New technology development in SCI

Technological innovations continue to hold promise in helping restore physical function following SCI and improving the impact of the medical consequences of SCI for those living with the injury. Learn about the current trends in technology development that have great potential to improve the lives of people with SCI.

Statistics: significant findings to minimally clinically important differences

Statistical analysis of the data produced in clinical trials is valuable in assessing outcomes – from the smallest absolute difference in score, which patients perceive as beneficial, to differences in scores that are of clear clinical significance. In this session, leaders in statistics, as applied to SCI trials, will discuss the current thoughts and trends in the area.

Examining the unmet needs and under-examined areas of SCI research

Due to a variety of complexities, some areas of SCI research are much better served and funded than others. What are some of the unmet needs and under-examined areas of SCI research and how can they become better served given limited resources? In this session, experts will discuss some of these under-served areas and why they should receive more attention.

Building a global clinical trials network for SCI: how can the different networks, organizations and institutions collaborate?

A global clinical trials network for SCI has long been Rick Hansen's vision. But, what actually needs to occur to make this vision a reality? Can the existing SCI Network, organizations and institutions, meaningfully collaborate despite differing priorities and responsibilities? Come and join a panel discussion that will explore this vision.

Advancing neuroregenerative innovations to clinical translation

From Anti-Nogo-A to Chondroitinase and trophic factors, as well as biomaterials, there are a variety of promising therapies on the horizon to promote neuroregeneration. Which of these neuroregenerative strategies are best positioned to advance to clinical trials? What still needs to occur in order for these strategies to be ready for translation? Learn more about the preceding questions from key opinion leaders in neuroregeneration.

Commercialization of SCI research: Perspectives from the private sector

The private sector typically has better access to the resources and distribution channels necessary to ensure that SCI research innovations can reach consumers. Representatives from the private sector of SCI research will discuss their perspectives on the current challenges of commercialization within the field.

Influencing policy: The business case for the benefits of investment into SCI research and care

Due to the costs and dynamics of SCI research and care, it is crucial to have the ability to influence healthcare policy among government and other payers. However, it is up to those in the field to present the evidence of the investment benefits in the form of a business case to payers. In this session, those with experience in this realm will discuss the evidence required to form an effective business case to ensure continued investment in SCI research and care.

From injury to community integration - how to establish global best practices

The rationale is clear for implementing evidence-based best practices from injury all the way through to community integration; however, how do you implement these best practices globally given the different healthcare systems? Learn about the various strategies for implementation that will help move towards global establishment of best practices.

Advancements in the management of the secondary complications and medical consequences of SCI

Although the ultimate vision is a cure for paralysis after SCI, the management of secondary complications and medical consequences remains the more immediate concern for those living with SCI. Hear from various experts as they discuss the advancements in this area

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS – SCI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

William A. Bauman, MD
James J. Peters VA Medical Center, USA

Armin Curt, MD, FRCPC
Balgrist University Hospital, Switzerland

Marcel Dvorak, MD
University of British Columbia, Canada

James Fawcett, PhD
Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair, United Kingdom

Michael Fehlings, MD PhD FRCSC FACS
Toronto Western Hospital, Canada

Kenneth Galbraith
Ventures West Capital Ltd., Canada

Robert G. Grossman, MD
The Methodist Hospital, USA

James D. Guest, MD, PhD, FRCS (C), FACS
The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, USA

Susan Harkema, PhD
University of Louisville, USA

James S. Harrop, MD
Thomas Jefferson University, USA

Andrei Krassioukov, MD, PhD, FRCPC
University of British Columbia, Canada

Brian Kwon, MD, PhD, FRCSC
University of British Columbia, Canada

Charles Tator, PhD, MD
Toronto Western Hospital, Canada

Wolfram Tetzlaff, PhD
University of British Columbia, Canada

Jill M. Wecht, EdD
James J. Peters VA Medical Center, USA

Peter T. Wilderotter
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, USA

Stephanie Williams, PhD
The Spinal Cord Injury Network, Australia

Edward Wirth, MD, PhD
Geron Corporation, USA

Jean-Jacques Wyndaele, MD
Antwerp University Hospital, Belgium

