



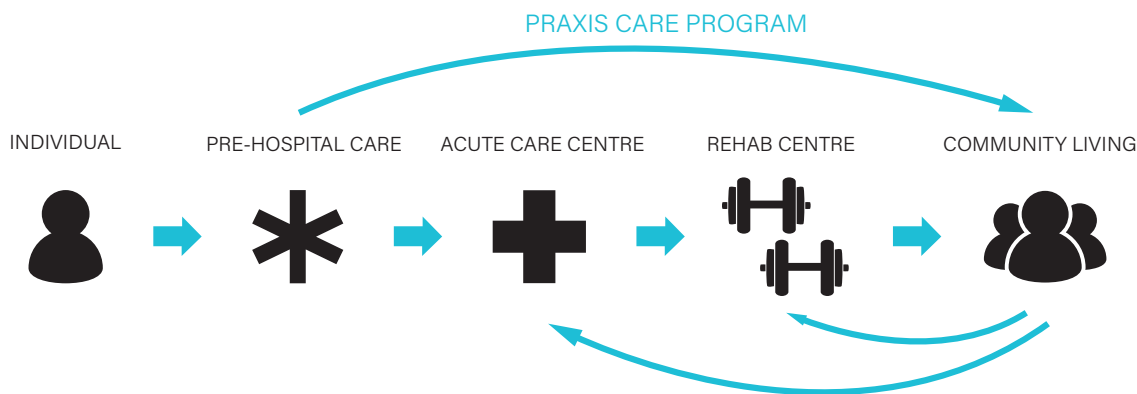
PRAXIS SPINAL CORD INSTITUTE CARE PROGRAM

PROVIDING EQUITABLE AND OPTIMAL CARE FOR CANADIANS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY

This document is a roadmap that describes the Praxis Spinal Cord Institute’s Care Program, its objectives and activities. It was developed based on recommendations provided by the Praxis Care Program Advisory Committee in 2013 and subsequent strategic planning meetings in 2018.

CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY

The continuum of care encompasses the pre-hospital, through acute, rehabilitation and into the community. Praxis’ Care Program will span all four phases and includes both traumatic and non-traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI).



OUR VISION & MISSION

VISION: A world without paralysis after spinal cord injury.

MISSION: To lead collaboration across the global spinal cord injury community by providing resources, infrastructure and knowledge; and to identify, develop, validate and accelerate the translation of evidence and best practices to reduce the incidence and severity of paralysis after SCI, improve health care outcomes, reduce long-term costs, and improve the quality of life for those living with SCI.

CURRENT STATUS OF SCI CARE

The provision of SCI care across the country is not standardized and there is tremendous variability in the care provided. There is a critical need to ensure best practices are implemented nationally to reduce this variability. This will improve care delivery and result in improved patient outcomes and ultimately in cost savings for the health care system. As advances are made in cure(s) for SCI, it will also facilitate the investigation and implementation of these treatment advances if SCI care is similar across SCI Centres in Canada.

THE CARE PROGRAM AT PRAXIS

The Care Program at Praxis aims to identify and fill gaps in knowledge regarding the clinical management of SCI as well as to promote best practices in SCI care delivery based on existing evidence for Canadians who are newly injured or those living with an existing SCI. The Care Program Advisory Committee was created to provide ongoing advice in care-related activities and recommendations on future activities supported by Praxis. The areas of focus were shaped based on recommendations at a strategic planning meeting in 2013 and then updated at a subsequent strategic planning meeting in 2018. In 2020, the Care Program Advisory Committee transitioned to the Praxis Advisory Committee (PAC). The purpose of the PAC is to provide strategic direction to the Board on the integration of its programmatic activities. Please see box below for more details on the PAC.

The Care Program strives to develop patient-centred model of care and aims to ensure innovations are available to individuals living with SCI; therefore, the Care Program is closely linked to the Consumer Program and Commercialization Program. While improved care will benefit the individuals with SCI directly, the Care Program is also tightly linked to the Cure Program in that optimized and standardized care is a necessary precursor to the multi-site clinical research and trials to be undertaken in search of SCI cure(s). Our ability to better understand, measure and standardize the clinical environment will enable us to administer emerging treatments and measure the effects in clinical studies. Treatments to minimize paralysis will need to be provided hours following injury and evaluated in multi-centre clinical trials. This will require a detailed understanding of the current health care system and the changes needed to provide treatments ‘out in the field’ hours following the injury.

PRAXIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

The Committee advises Praxis on our strategic direction, including the integration of the activities of the Cure, Care, Consumer and Commercialization programs, to achieve our vision, mission and operational and fundraising goals.

PAC MEMBERS

*Member of the Praxis Board of Directors

Michael Beattie (Chair)*

Professor of Neurological Surgery & Co-Director,
Brain and Spinal Injury Center, University of California

Kristine Cowley*

Assistant Professor, Physiology & Pathophysiology,
University of Manitoba

Graham Creasey

Paralyzed Veterans of America Professor of Spinal Cord Injury
Medicine Emeritus, Stanford University

Richdeep Gill*

Minimally Invasive Upper Gastrointestinal & Bariatric
Surgeon, Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Calgary,
Peter Lougheed Hospital

Hans Keirstead

Chairman & CEO, AIVITA Biomedical Inc.

Katie Lafferty

CEO, Heart & Stroke Foundation Canadian Partnerships
for Stroke Recovery

Ian Rigby*

Emergency Room Physician, Foothills Medical Centre
Chair, Praxis Board of Directors

Christine Sang*

Director, Translational Pain Research, Brigham and
Women’s Hospital

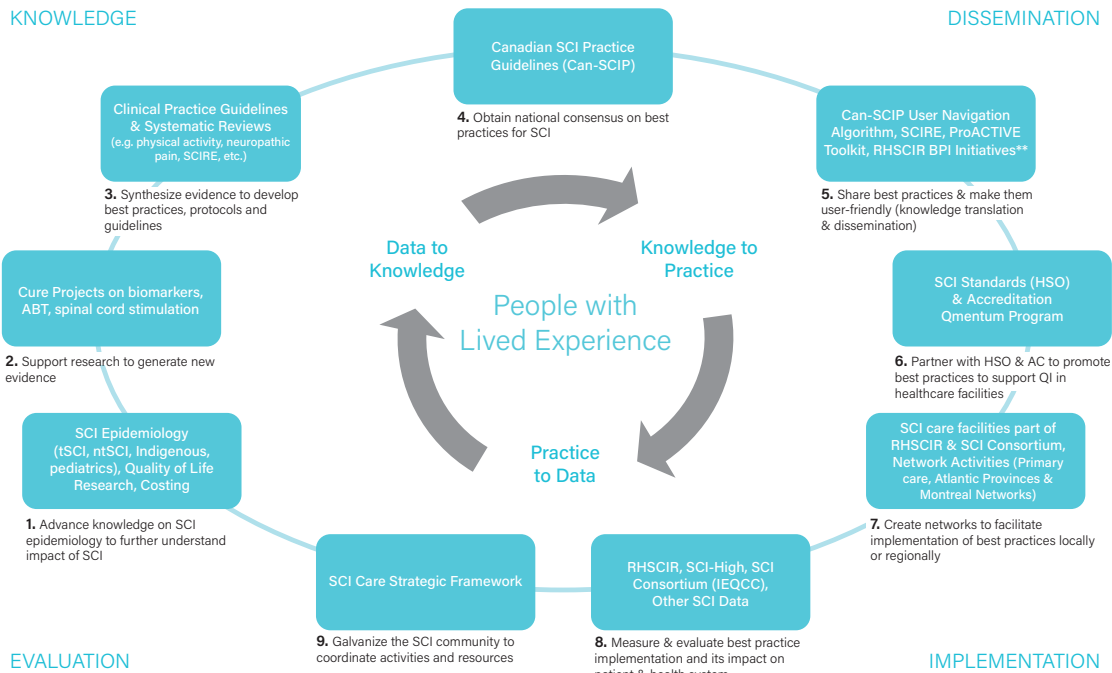
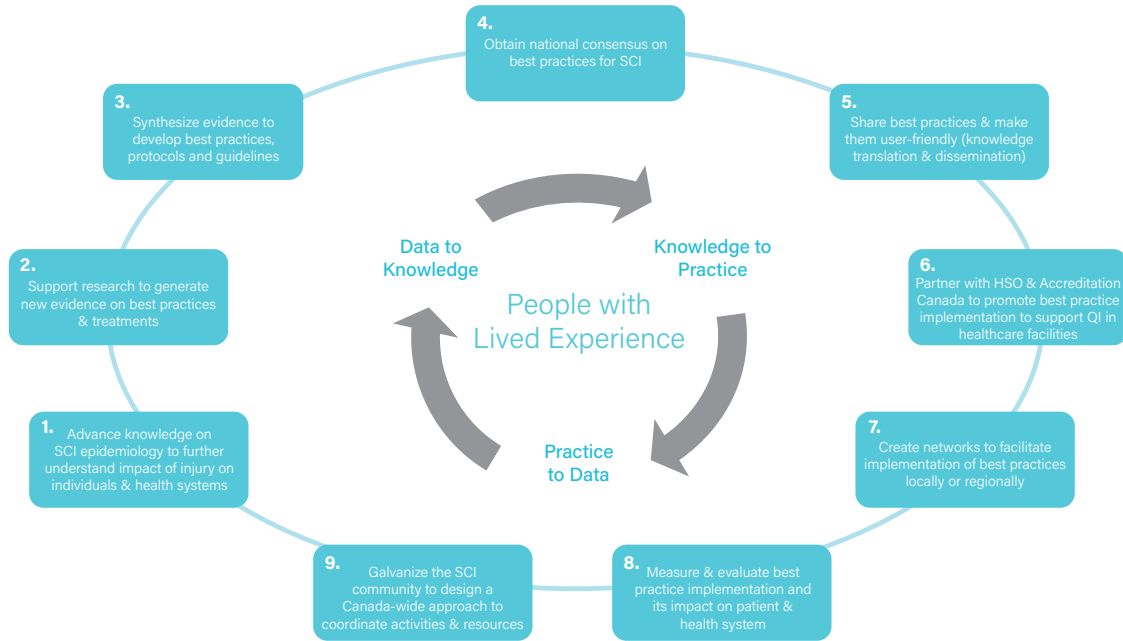
Simon Sutcliffe

Former President, BC Cancer Agency
Vice Chairman, Omnitura Therapeutics

Rob Wudlick

Treasurer & Co-Founder, Get Up Stand Up
Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School

Integration of SCI care projects* spanning from generation of knowledge to implementation of best practices to achieve evidence-informed equitable and optimal care across the SCI Continuum.



*Not all projects are shown

**BPI initiatives include implementation of SCIM, Standing & Walking, ISNCSCI

ACRONYM LEGEND

ACT – Access to Care & Timing project
 BPI – Best practices implementation
 HSO – Health Standards Organization
 IEQCC – Implementation & Evaluation Quality Care Consortium

ISNCSCI – International Standards for Neurological Classification of SCI
 ntSCI – Non-traumatic spinal cord injury
 RHSCIR – Rick Hansen SCI Registry

SCI-HIGH – SCI Rehab Care High Performance Indicators
 SCIM – Spinal Cord Independence Measures
 SCIRE – SCI Research Evidence
 tSCI – Traumatic spinal cord injury

Top figure shows the steps/approach Praxis takes starting from knowledge generation, dissemination, implementation of best practices to evaluation and galvanizing the SCI community. Bottom figure shows the projects at each step and the integration between projects at each step in working towards our goal of achieving evidence-informed equitable and optimal care.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Praxis' Care Program aims to achieve evidence-informed equitable and optimal care across the SCI continuum. Areas of focus for Praxis' Care Program for 2018 to 2022 include the following:

- **Describing and Understanding the SCI Population**
 - » Updating SCI epidemiology and health care costs in Canada.
- **SCI Care and Long-term Health, Wellness and Participation**
 - » Supporting the development of a National SCI Care, Health and Wellness Strategy with partners and stakeholders to generate consensus on the priorities and an action plan;
 - » Enhancing and refining the SCI standards and Qmentum Accreditation Program with key partners;
 - » Assessing and selecting clinical guidelines and indicators for implementation;
 - » Supporting care and self-management (e.g. physical activity) by creating evidence-informed resources for both clinicians and people with lived experience across the SCI continuum;
 - » Supporting the co-creation and implementation of regionally relevant and innovative solutions through the development of networks.
- **Data, Informatics and Evaluation**
 - » Supporting evidence-informed decision-making policies and implementation of best practices through data platforms (e.g. Rick Hansen SCI Registry);
 - » Validating outcome measures/data sets and developing reports (static and interactive) and other clinical tools (e.g. ISNCSCI Algorithm);
 - » Incorporating advanced analytical methods (e.g. machine learning, artificial intelligence) with SCI data (collection, linking, analysis, reporting);
 - » Evaluating impact and return on investment (value/health economics).

PRAXIS' ROLE IN SUPPORTING CARE-RELATED RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION

To support the above areas of focus, Praxis will carry out the following activities:

- Identify gaps in knowledge and the requirements to fill them.
- Leverage existing initiatives in other health conditions (e.g. general trauma) where appropriate.
- Leverage existing Praxis projects and ensure ethical approval is in place to be able to link de-identified data across projects.
- Integrate projects where possible to support feasibility and resource requirements.
- Prioritize areas for implementation where there is enough existing evidence to implement and no further studies are needed to maximize impact over the funding period.
- Make a shift from a research to a quality of care model for many Praxis projects (e.g. RHSCIR), as this is needed to monitor changes in practice and outcomes.
- Include indicators to measure success (indicators – outcomes – impact) in all areas of focus.
- Partner with SCI organizations such as SCI Canada to facilitate patient engagement in research, lobbying for policy change and best practice implementation.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Praxis recognizes that the development of a comprehensive Care Program that provides evidence-informed equitable care to Canadians sustaining a SCI and facilitate the development of cure(s) must involve collaborations across nations, disciplines and organizations. Praxis will continue to nurture existing and develop new relationships with the following entities towards building collaborative partnerships:

- National and international SCI-related foundations
- Consumer groups (national and international)
- Other national or regional SCI research institutions and networks
- Canadian and international universities and hospitals
- Accreditation organizations
- Professional and work safety organizations
- Corporations
- Non-SCI entities that have synergy with Praxis' objectives

MOVING FORWARD

Please refer to the [Praxis website](#) for more information.

CARE PROGRAM PRAXIS CONTACT

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Praxis Spinal Cord Institute
is proudly accredited by
Imagine Canada.

