

Inclusivity and Engagement



PRAXIS

Spinal Cord Institute
Institut de la moelle épinière

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Praxis Land Acknowledgement

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute would like to acknowledge that the land on which we are located is on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, specifically the shared traditional territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliil'iwəta? (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) First Nations.



Our Vision

A world without paralysis after spinal cord injury

Our Mission

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

Our Values

- Teamwork
- Global Collaboration and Partnerships
- Innovation for Impact
- Integrity and Trust
- Exceptional Outcomes

What We Do

Praxis is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization that leads global collaboration in spinal cord injury (SCI) research, innovation and care. We accelerate the translation of discoveries and best practices into improved treatments for people with spinal cord injuries.

Our work is driven by the priorities of people with SCI and led by our four teams — PLEX (persons with lived experience), Cure, Care and Commercialization.

Success means IMPACT; we measure our success through how we make a difference and improve quality of life for people living with SCI and the SCI community.



Message from our Leadership

INCLUSIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute works with a diverse range of partners on multi-disciplinary projects and initiatives to help improve access and quality of spinal cord injury (SCI) care.

To ensure that we focus only on priorities and initiatives meaningful to the SCI community, we engage with persons with lived experience (PLEX) early and often throughout all stages. Furthermore, our research and best practice implementation initiatives use an Integrated Knowledge Translation (IKT) approach throughout. Through this people-centred lens, we then apply it to a learning health system approach (data to knowledge to practice) to achieve evidence-informed, equitable, and optimal care. This starts with stakeholder engagement and knowledge generation, followed by knowledge translation and dissemination, implementation, evaluation, and national coordination.

Moving from data to knowledge to practice

But what does this mean, and what does inclusivity and engagement in action look like?

It looks like asking people with a disability how they cope with extreme heat events. People with a disability such as SCI or MS are already vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat. Our SCI Climate Futures outreach found us learning that with mobility issues and lack of cooling solutions in the home, municipal cooling stations are mostly out of reach.

It looks like PLEX mentoring for innovation. Companies coming into our SCI Commercialization programs receive one-on-one mentoring by PLEX that helps refine and direct innovation, so the results are meaningful and answer PLEX priorities for a better quality of life.

It looks like amplification, making sure that PLEX voices are heard, and that PLEX have a space at the table. Promoting the North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium (NASCIC) course ensures that for research and innovation, PLEX voices are activated,

and the SCI community is represented meaningfully at all stages in the development cycle avoiding tokenism or exploitation.

In summary, Praxis operates on inclusivity for engagement by incorporating and recognizing lived experience.

Engagement with and inclusion of PLEX

Engagement with and the inclusion of people with lived experience of SCI uniquely underpins operations at Praxis; mentorship and guidance by PLEX extends into all work at the Institute, internally and externally. It is critical that the experiences and opinions from those living with SCI are heard early and often to ensure that our work focuses only on projects meaningful to the SCI community.

Praxis means translation of knowledge into practice; without inclusivity and engagement, how do we know that what we're focusing on is meaningful to the SCI community?



Bill Barrable
Chief Executive Officer



Sean Gjos
Chair (Interim), Board of Directors

We're also grateful for the generosity and professionalism shown by our professional partner networks, the exemplary leadership of our dedicated Board of Directors, and the Praxis team. Each guides our vision and implements our work, driving theory into practice and knowledge into action. With this support, Praxis continues to transform the lives of people with SCI.

In addition to thanking our volunteers and personal donors in and around the SCI community, we acknowledge the generous financial support from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.





Encouraging Collaboration on a National and Global Scale

85

National and international partners in 2023



Engaging People with Lived Experience

1,424

Enrolments in Praxis-led Canadian National SCI Registry (April 2023 - March 2024)

13,207

Total participants in Praxis-led Canadian National SCI Registry*



Improving Spinal Cord Injury Care, Accelerating Cure-Based Research

30

Participating facilities in Praxis-led Canadian National SCI Registry*

7,766

Canadians with spinal cord injury benefited from the implementation of best practices

53%

Praxis-led Canadian National SCI Registry network accredited with Accreditation Canada's Qmentum Standards for Spinal Cord Injury

\$2.6M

Grant funding distributed to support and accelerate SCI research and best practice implementation (Cure and Care Apr 23 - Mar 24)



Driving Innovation

36

SMEs supported**

35,000

Use of ISNCSCI Algorithm in 130 countries

24

Total number of prototypes ready for demonstration in an operational environment

17

Number of products, processes, services or technologies to market

125+

People with lived experience (PLEX) of spinal cord injury actively engaged in projects annually

365+

Praxis led and supported publications in peer reviewed journals

74

Entrepreneurs trained since start of accelerator programs

2,600

Total hours of 1:1 mentorship with SMEs

\$1.1M

Venture funding provided to SMEs to advance innovations in spinal cord injury cure and care

\$90.1M

Leveraged private investment and non-dilutive funding by start-ups developing new live-changing innovations after participation in Praxis programs

*Rick Hansen SCI Registry (RHSCIR)

**SME - small-to-medium enterprise

Note: these metrics cover life of institute unless otherwise specified

Why is Praxis practising inclusivity and engagement?

- PLEX needs decide priorities and guide actions: BC Regional SCI Health Workshops
- PLEX voices and experience determine priorities for meaningful innovation/action: SCI Climate Futures



PLEX needs decide priorities and guide actions

BC Regional SCI Health Workshops

Making sure people living with SCI have access to the best possible care and better management of their secondary complications when they live outside of major urban centres so they can be active in their community is a key part of Praxis's work on regional engagement.

Interior Health workshops in BC engage clinicians and people with lived experience through in-person and virtual education sessions to optimize and improve care outcomes. Driven by direct feedback from PLEX, ongoing education is delivered to clinicians working outside of the Lower Mainland on the unique needs of people living with SCI.

Praxis SCI Clinical Workshops have taken place in Vernon, Kamloops, Kelowna, and Penticton. Additionally, a **one-day summit** was held in Kelowna (September 2023). The intention of the summit was to determine what are the needs, supports and connections required to facilitate knowledge exchange and implementation of best practices for SCI health. A two-day SCI Workshop was offered in Prince George and gathered Northern Health clinicians, PLEX, and other SCI community stakeholders to learn, share experiences, and build connections to support SCI health. Further summits and workshops for

the B.C. Interior are planned. One of the goals of the Network will be to establish linkages with the SCI specialists at the Vancouver General Hospital and GF Strong SCI Programs.

“The Summit far exceeded the expectations that I had for the event! It was perfectly facilitated and organized so that participants were engaged throughout. I felt the combination of presentations from PLEX folks and experts to be knowledgeable and informative. I loved that practitioners throughout the valley attended...”

Image Top: Praxis Research and PLEX team at the BC Interior SCI Summit 2023 in Kelowna.

Images Below: Praxis outreach; BC Northern SCI Workshop held in Prince George, BC

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PLEX voices and experience determine priorities for meaningful innovation/action

SCI Climate Futures

Climate change is impacting British Columbia with more frequent extreme heat events and people with disabilities, such as a SCI and multiple sclerosis, are more vulnerable. They often have difficulty with thermo-regulating, including the ability to sweat, and this can lead to unconsciousness or worse. Temperatures as low as 29°C can result in death.

Praxis direct engagement with the SCI community uncovered previously unknown impacts on life with a disability during heatwaves. Asking people living with SCI and their caregivers about experiences with BC's 2021 extreme heat episodes is helping define priorities for heatwave mitigation. Understanding the barriers to effective cooling is essential for developing solutions.

Cooling centres are not effective for people living with disabilities. Since the majority of people living with disabilities don't have access to cooling devices, either residential or portable, both their homes and the commute to a cooling center are unsafe.

In 2023, in partnership with BC Hydro and Technology for Living, Praxis Spinal Cord Institute helped launch **SCI Climate Futures** as an emergency response to health issues posed by ongoing BC heatwave crises. The first phase,

a rapid response program for British Columbians, provided free portable cooling devices to 140 individuals with disabilities. BC Hydro funding and Technology for Living assistance covered the costs of the devices while Praxis facilitated rapid user testing and deployment.

“Before receiving this device, there were many times I would want to call 911 because I felt delirious (with the heat) and I was scared. So, using this cooling vest has given me clarity, normality... and fun.”

SCI Climate Futures phase 1 recipient:

A person with a T5 AIS D spinal cord injury and a traumatic brain injury, which impairs his cognition and increases his susceptibility to heat stroke.

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What does inclusivity and engagement look like at Praxis?

- Engaging with Experts: International Standards for Neurological Classification of SCI (ISNCSCI) Algorithm
- Outreach to PLEX: Praxis Connect
- Engaging with PLEX and amplifying their voices: SCI Research Advocacy Course & Program with North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium (NASCI)
- PLEX mentorships sets priorities
 - NanoTess
 - Karma Medical Products Ltd.

Engaging with Experts

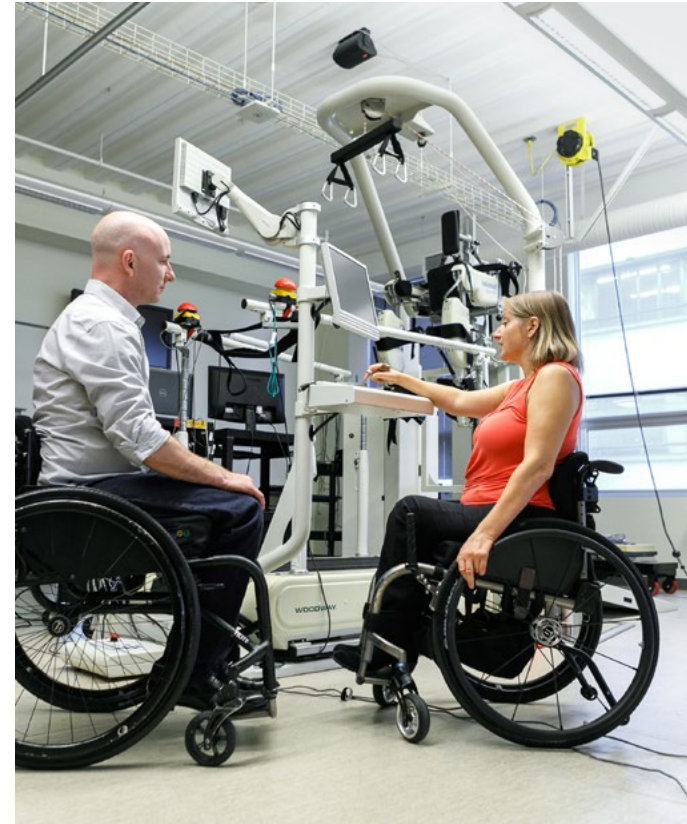
ISNCSCI Algorithm

Accurately classifying spinal cord injuries is important to inform patient recovery expectations, evaluate the impact of clinical and research interventions and ensure high quality data for clinical trials. Praxis developed the International Standards for Neurological Classification of SCI (ISNCSCI) Algorithm as a free tool in partnership with ISCoS and a group of international experts to help clinicians and researchers in 2012 which has had worldwide use.

The Algorithm is an up-to-date, user-friendly, computerized application which captures ISNCSCI clinical exam information, utilizing current ISNCSCI classification rules and providing an accurate determination of level and severity of injury to support education, research and clinical care. The Algorithm is based on the International Standards for Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury (ISNCSCI), determined by ASIA and updated in 2019, which is the gold standard assessment for determining a person's level and severity of impairment after SCI.

Based on user feedback the team is developing the Algorithm into an iOS/Android Application to support use on a smartphone or tablet and to enable offline use.

This was identified as important to those working in countries without reliable internet access (e.g. Sudan, Ukraine, etc.).



Outreach to PLEX

Praxis Connect

Centring work around inclusivity and engagement means that voices in the SCI community are heard. In order to achieve this, the Praxis information management team is utilizing Praxis Connect as a customer relationship management (CRM) system that will help share useful information and opportunities with PLEX.

Praxis Connect is an app that health organizations use to collect research data and store in a database for further analysis. Since we need cost-effective solutions, we suggested Praxis Connect to the PLEX team to avoid the high costs of CRM applications like Salesforce.com.

Praxis Connect supports secure storage of personal health information in Canada, and a robust business intelligence dashboard for reporting, that is even better than the ones provided by a standard CRM app.



Engaging with PLEX and amplifying their voices

SCI Research Advocacy Course & Program with NASCIC

PLEX advocacy is now an essential part in research. More research grant applications now require evidence of community engagement that is substantive, meaningful, and supported within the study proposal. There's a move away from tokenism; engagement with people with lived experience should be more than just asking a few questions in a focus group. There should be inclusivity and engagement throughout the process, from study design through data gathering and interpretation. PLEX should be consulted early and often.

In order to support the SCI community, the North American SCI Consortium created an advocacy course that aims to increase knowledge of the research process so that PLEX feel prepared to serve as research advocates, and that SCI researchers, healthcare providers, and industry stakeholders are better able to effectively partner with the SCI community. The course covers education about the research process and SCI as an introduction to being advocates in the research and innovation that is directed to the SCI community.

Since inclusivity and engagement is foundational, Praxis is proud to support and be the Canadian partner of the NASCIC advocacy course.

[North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium \(NASCIC\)](#) helps to achieve unity in research, treatment, patient care, and policy to support collaborative efforts across the SCI community.

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PLEX mentorships for setting priorities

NanoTess

Most people living with spinal cord injuries (SCI) experience at least one or more pressure injuries in a lifetime. As part of the daily care plan, this means paying close attention to skin prone to damage. An untreated pressure injury can quickly progress into full thickness damage and systemic infection, greatly impacting quality of life or even causing death. In economic terms, a 2021 Praxis report concluded that pressure injuries in the Canadian population with SCI cost between \$410 and \$907.9 million annually.

It's worth noting though that these stats include only direct costs, mainly from hospital administrative data such as admission costs and does not account for the indirect costs of PIs. Additional costs of pressure injuries for people living with SCI may include lost time from work, impact on families and caregivers, and expenses associated with morbidity and mortality. This further increases the economic burden of PIs and the potential cost savings resulting from interventions that aim to reduce its occurrence and/or severity.

NanoTess took part in the Praxis SCI Incubate program. The company's wound dressing, NanoSALV Catalytic Advanced Wound Care Treatment Matrix, has been approved as a medical device in Canada that promotes wound healing. The product now has Health Canada approval for use in management of acute and chronic wounds across the full continuum of care, including early-stage prevention and acute wounds, chronic

and advanced stage wounds, infection protection, and post-surgical intervention. It has also been approved by Alberta Health Services to be used in the hospital system, giving access to a significant SCI population to a lifesaving technology.

Refined during the SCI Incubate program, Canadian company NanoTess worked through focus group feedback from people living with SCI to broaden the scope of the product to include pressure injuries. According to Megan Leslie, CEO & Co-founder, getting this outside perspective was valuable to NanoTess.

Initial studies show this new technology greatly improves tissue healing in stubborn wounds such as pressure injuries and diabetic ulcer common with SCI. In addition to providing broad-spectrum antimicrobial control and activity against biofilm formation, the product supports endogenous healing by stimulating healing and healthy cells. Clinical studies showed improvement over standard dressings by 57.6% (percentage area reduction, $p > 0.0001$), where all wounds treated with NanoSALV decreased in area and one third healed more than 80% in four weeks.

Image Centre: The NanoTess team at work in the lab.
Image Below: Founders, Julian Mulia and Megan Leslie.

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PLEX mentorship sets priorities

Karma Medical Products Ltd.

Karma Medical Products Ltd. (KMP) is an Edmonton, Alberta corporation that manufactures rehabilitation equipment. KMP's vision is to provide affordable medical rehabilitation devices to get patients back in action faster.

While taking part in SCI Accelerate, the Karma team gained valuable insight into the needs and priorities of the SCI community. This came from active engagement with PLEX mentors throughout the program. These mentors are essential to all SCI Innovation program cohorts as they help establish meaningful development and innovation for the SCI community.

KMP's first product is the FEPSim[®], a rehabilitation medical, which is a device that simulates daily activities for patients with hand and wrist functionality impairment. Via adjustable resistance and functional accessories, it exercises common motions, focusing on the Flexion, Extension, Pronation, Supination of the wrist and lower arm.

Praxis SCI Accelerate:

A six-month commercialization program geared towards healthcare companies with a product ready to launch into market that will transform the lives of people living with SCI. In addition to providing targeted persons with lived experience and research mentoring, the program offers regulatory, reimbursement and business mentorship support from leaders in the healthcare industry.

Image Top: Karma Medical Products visual identity.

Image Centre: FEPSim[®] rehabilitation medical technology.

Image Below: Karma Medical Products founders, Melissa and Darryl Short.

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Inclusivity and engagement accelerate charitable impact.

Support Us



Accelerating Charitable Impact

To understand the unique challenges and identify the barriers faced by Indigenous SCI communities across Canada, is the first step in improving healthcare for Indigenous SCI. Guided by the tenet of collaboration, Praxis and its partners engage Indigenous peoples living with SCI to share their lived experience and learn, together, about what meaningful solutions look like for their communities.

Thanks to our donors, including Michael Smith Health Research BC, Praxis was able to double the scope of our Indigenous SCI initiative in BC this year. Facilitated by our Indigenous Peoples Liaison, Richard Peter, three Indigenous SCI Gatherings took place across British Columbia in Prince George, the Okanagan and on Vancouver Island where over 50 stories were recorded from Indigenous SCI community members.

“Through continued financial support and collaboration, Praxis is advancing a movement to build stronger health resiliency within Indigenous communities.”

In support of Praxis' mission, Praxis launched an initiative to support ventures developing innovations with evidence-based applications to improve the quality of health for people living with SCI through seed investments. Praxis' mission-related investments (MRIs) focus on supporting start-ups that are addressing the SCI communities' priorities with a particular focus on innovations that mitigate the ongoing health concern posed by secondary complications of SCI.

Despite being costly to manage and an ongoing concern to millions of Canadians, most secondary complications of SCI have outdated and, in many cases, ineffective solutions that greatly limit the quality of daily life for many Canadians. Praxis' MRIs in start-ups with health solutions validated by the SCI community, aim to catalyze the further investments necessary to bring much-needed products onto the market and into the hands of people living with SCI. To date, Praxis has invested in four start-ups with promising technologies.

Images: Praxis at Shim's Ride 2022.



Making a Difference

IN THE LIVES OF THOSE LIVING WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY

Praxis Active Partners

Canadian

The University of British Columbia
– Faculty of Medicine
– Faculty of Human and Social Development
– School of Health and Exercise Sciences
– School of Biomedical Engineering

Michael Smith Health Research BC

International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD)

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

Simon Fraser University
– Dept of Gerontology
– Faculty of Engineering

University of Alberta
– Faculty of Medicine
– The Governors of the University of Alberta
– Donadeo Innovation Centre for Engineering
– Faculty of Nursing
– Neuromuscular Control & Biomechanics (NCB)-Lab

University of Toronto
– Dept of Physical Therapy
– Innovations & Partnership Office

University of Calgary
– The Governors of the University of Calgary
– Clinical Research Unit Health Standards Organization

Spinal Cord Injury BC

McMaster University – Faculty of Health Sciences

University of Manitoba
– University of Manitoba Spinal Cord Research Centre

University Health Network
Eastern Regional Health Authority
Regional Health Authority B

Université de Montréal - Department of Specialized Medicine

Focal Lines Technologies
University of Saskatchewan
Nova Scotia Health Authority
Lawson Research Institute
Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation
University Health Network
Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
Unity Health Toronto
Sunnybrook Research Institute
CHU de Québec – Université Laval

Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS) Nord-de-L'Île-de-Montréal

Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de la Capitale-Nationale (CIUSSS-CN)

Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Centre-Sud-de-L'Île-de-Montréal

Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de la Capitale-Nationale (CIUSSS-CN)

La Corporation de L'Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal

Canadian Spine Outcomes and Research Network

Canadian Spinal Research Organization
Technology for Living

BC Hydro (SCI Climate Futures)

Karma Medical Products Inc.

Rehabtronics Inc.

Enerision Inc.

Modern Niagara Engineering Inc.

International

International Spinal Cord Society (ISCOS)
inContAlert
Battelle
ONWARD
AO Spine
New Zealand Spinal Cord Injury Registry
United to Fight Paralysis
Inochi Care Private Limited
UPnRide Robotics Ltd.
Karma Medical Products Ltd.
Mimic Systems Inc.
Swiss Paraplegic Research

Praxis-Led Canadian National Spinal Cord Injury Registry Facilities

GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre
Vancouver General Hospital
Foothills Hospital
Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
Royal Alexandra Hospital
University of Alberta Hospital
Royal University Hospital
Saskatoon City Hospital
Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre
Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - Lyndhurst Centre
St. Michael's Hospital
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Toronto Western Hospital
Hamilton Regional Rehabilitation Centre

Hamilton General Hospital
Parkwood Institute
University Hospital
Victoria Hospital
Ottawa Hospital - Rehabilitation Centre
Ottawa General Hospital
Hôpital de l'Enfant-Jésus
Institut de réadaptation en déficience physique de Québec
Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal
l'Institut de réadaptation Gingras-Lindsay-de-Montréal Rehabilitation Institute (IRGLM)
Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre
Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre
L.A. Miller Rehabilitation Centre
Saint John Regional Hospital
Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation
General Hospital - Health Science Centre

Our work would not be possible without the significant contribution of individuals living with spinal cord injury.

Also, the projects highlighted in this year's annual report are made possible through the generous support of our funders.

Government of Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada 

Province of British Columbia

 BRITISH COLUMBIA

Making a Difference

IN THE LIVES OF THOSE LIVING WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY

Donor List

Patrons

\$100,000 +

BC Hydro

Advocates

\$10,000 +

ICBC

Michael Smith Health
Research BC

Shim's Ride

Benefactors

\$2,500 +

Ryan Barrington-Foote

Coloplast Canada

Barrable Family Fund

Champions

\$500 +

Jeremy Abitbol

Stephanie Cadieux

Alexander Hutchinson

National Seating & Mobility

John & Joanna Monette

Dockside Physiotherapy

Monthly Donors

Angela Chang

Andrew Forshner

Kalagon

Christopher Marks
in honour of Brad Jacobsen

Yasmin Passos

Omair Rahman

Arushi Raina

AeroTrack Technologies Inc.

Supporters

\$500

Kofi Amankwah

Victoria Benoit

Suzanne Barnhill

Pam Bertuzzi

Ben Chaddock

Damir Duranovic

Emma Durham

Michael Foote & Lisa Kwasnek

Dan Gronross

Carol & Blair Horn

Max Kasper

Matt Kissick

Garrett Kryt

Thomas Lobsinger

A Graeme Mackay

Peggy & Dave MacLean

Carol MacMillan

Daria Magar

Bichtar Mahal

Erica Mayhew

Tim McClure

Kirsten McKay

Craig Millar

Donna Nasu

Chak Kin Ngan

Daniel Rowe

Kevin Scott

Holly Simonson

Mirosław Szymanowski

Siobhann Williamson

Charlotte Youngson

Liquor Plus

Making a Difference

IN THE LIVES OF THOSE LIVING WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY

Board and Committees

Praxis Board of Directors

Ben Almond, **Chair**
CEO, Engineering Services Canada,
AtkinsRéalis

Sean Gjos, **Vice-Chair**
CFO, FirstHx, Thrive Health,
Human in Motion Robotics Inc.

Dr. Richdeep (Richi) Gill, **Secretary**
Minimally Invasive Upper Gastrointestinal
& Bariatric Surgeon Assistant Professor
of Surgery, University of Calgary, Peter
Lougheed Hospital

Harbir Toor, **Treasurer**
CFO, Eyam Vaccines
and Immunotherapeutics Ltd.

Jeremy Abitbol
Vice President, Business Development,
Northleaf Capital

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

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CFO for Proactive Immune
Sciences Corporation

Peter Guo
Partner, Leader, Enterprise Risk
Services, MNP

Jauvonne Kitto
Co-Founder & CEO, Saa Dene Group
of Companies

Nava Swersky Sofer
International Speaker, Innovation
& Commercialization Expert Co-Chair,
Directors Leading Change

Dr. Kim Anderson-Erisman
Staff Scientist, Department of Physical
Medicine and Rehabilitation, Metrohealth
Professor, Department of Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation, CWRU Associate
Director, Institute for Functional Restoration,
CWRU Investigator, Cleveland FES Center

David Estrada
Program Manager at Spaulding
Rehabilitation Hospital

Benveet (Bean) Gill
Public Speaker, Model Of Diversity,
Wheelchair Pageant Queen, Entrepreneur

Joel Dembe
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications
RBC Accessibility And Diversity Expert,
5-Time Canadian National Wheelchair Tennis
Champion, Paralympian And Public Speaker

Dr. Ian Walker
Emergency Physician, Foothills Medical
Centre and Rockyview Hospital, Calgary

Committee Chairs

Executive – Ben Almond

Commercialization – Nava Swersky Sofer

Audit & Finance – Harbir Toor

Program Advisory – Dr. Michael Beattie

Governance – Nava Swersky Sofer

Fund Development – Jeremy Abitbol

Praxis Advisory Committee

Dr. Michael Beattie, **Chair**
Professor of Neurological Surgery,
Co-Director, Brain and Spinal Injury Center,
University of California, San Francisco

Jeff Charpentier, Treasurer CFO for Proactive
Immune Sciences Corporation

Ben Almond
CEO, Engineering Services Canada,
AtkinsRéalis

Dr. Kim Anderson-Erisman
Staff Scientist, Department of Physical
Medicine and Rehabilitation, Metrohealth
Professor, Department of Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation, CWRU Associate
Director, Institute for Functional Restoration,
CWRU Investigator, Cleveland FES Center

Dr. Ian Walker
Emergency Physician, Foothills Medical
Centre and Rockyview Hospital, Calgary

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

Dr. Ali Etemad
Associate Professor, Mitchell Professor,
Queen's University

Dr. Letitia Graves
Assistant Professor, University of Texas
Medical Branch, School of Nursing

Dr. Hans Keirstead
Chairman & CEO, AIVITA Biomedical Inc.

Dr. James Guest
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Neurological Surgery and the Miami Project
to Cure Paralysis, Miller School of Medicine,
University of Miami

Katie Lafferty
Management Consultant,
Portal Consulting Group

Dr. Simon Sutcliffe
Former President of the BC Cancer Agency
Vice Chairman, Omnitura Therapeutics

Rob Wudlick
Treasurer & Co-Founder, Get Up Stand Up

Making a Difference

IN THE LIVES OF THOSE LIVING WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY

Board and Committees

Commercialization Committee

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International Speaker, Innovation & Commercialization Expert Co-Chair, Directors Leading Change

Jeremy Abitbol
Vice President, Business Development, Northleaf Capital

Sean Gjos
CFO, FirstHx, Thrive Health, Human in Motion Robotics Inc.

Peter Guo
Partner, Leader, Enterprise Risk Services, MNP

Dr. Christine Sang
Director, Translational Pain Research, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Fund Development Committee

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Joel Dembe
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David Estrada
Program Manager at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Nicole McKinney
Founder & Co-Creator WAKING THE unConscious CEO, BC@D Group Inc.

Fred Rego
Director IT, Praxis, Founder & CEO, AeroTrack Technologies Teacher, Global Startup School at Tamwood Careers Advisor, Volition Advisors

Investment Committee

Pat Brady
Director, Industry Innovation Programs, Genome BC

Jenny Yang
Angel Investor, Building and Scaling Tech Startups

Tamer Mohamed
Founder & CEO Aspect BioSystems, Board of Directors The Stem Cell Network, Advisory Board Member The Knowledge Society

Bob Yant
President and Founder Axonis, Former Director Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, Founder Cure Medical

Audit & Finance

Harbir Toor, **Chair**
CFO, Eyam Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics Ltd.

Members:

Ben Almond
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Jeremy Abitbol
Vice President, Business Development, Northleaf Capital

Sean Gjos
CFO, FirstHx, Thrive Health, Human in Motion Robotics Inc.

Governance Committee

Nava Swersky Sofer, **Chair**
International Speaker, Innovation & Commercialization Expert Co-Chair, Directors Leading Change

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Peter Guo
Partner, Leader, Enterprise Risk Services, MNP

David Estrada
Program Manager at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND FUND BALANCES

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024, WITH COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FOR 2023

	2024	2023
Revenue:		
Grants and contributions	\$ 10,231,213	\$ 7,819,487
Donations and sponsorships	66,029	56,743
Investment income	633,243	23,677
Other income	156,399	412,631
	11,086,884	8,312,538
Expenses:		
Translational research	2,807,169	2,656,229
Best practice implementation	2,958,532	1,627,456
Commercialization	1,525,000	1,433,319
Informatics	1,491,947	1,179,598
Person with lived experience (PLEX)	906,604	356,999
Fundraising	96,643	106,939
Management and administration	486,522	479,033
	10,272,417	7,839,573
Excess of revenue over expenses	814,467	472,965
Unrestricted fund balance, beginning of year	1,670,793	1,197,828
Unrestricted fund balance, end of year	\$ 2,485,260	\$ 1,670,793

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024, WITH COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FOR 2023

	2024	2023
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 814,467	\$ 472,965
Items not involving cash:		
Depreciation of capital assets	46,789	79,136
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	-	3,866
	861,256	555,967
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	10,020,915	(6,525,627)
Prepaid expenses	(14,605)	(16,503)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(133,870)	392,706
Deferred contributions	(3,179,008)	7,172,513
	7,554,688	1,579,056
Investing:		
Purchase of capital assets	(33,750)	(28,706)
Purchase of short-term investments and investment funds	(14,200,000)	-
Purchase of long-term investments	-	(152,865)
Proceeds from short-term investments	5,053,981	758,606
	(9,179,769)	577,035
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(1,625,081)	2,156,091
Cash and cash equivalents (bank indebtedness), beginning of year	2,694,647	538,556
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 1,069,566	\$ 2,694,647

Contact Information

For Praxis Spinal Cord Institute's complete audited financial statements, please visit our website: praxisinstitute.org

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute

6400 – 818 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver BC
Canada V5Z 1M9

info@praxisinstitute.org

