PRAXIS
Spinal Cord Institute
Institut de la moelle épinière

Praxis SCI Accelerator

Advancing SCI Innovation Since 2020

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute is opening applications for the next cohort of the Praxis SCI Accelerator, a virtual program* for health technology startups developing solutions across care, research, and quality of life for individuals living with SCI.

We Provide

Lived Experience Validation

Validation of products and concepts by Persons with Lived Experiences (PLEX) of SCI and clinicians with experience in SCI.

Research Validation

Access Praxis's research team and global network of SCI researchers, clinicians, and key opinion leaders.

Non-Dilutive Support

Up to $30K CAD support for tailored project work to achieve key commercialization milestones.

Tailored Mentorship

Benefit from 1:1 mentorship with leading experts in SCI research, MedTech regulatory strategy, reimbursement, and commercialization.

Our Impact

51
Start-ups Supported

15
Products on the Market

$36M+
Follow-on Gov't and Non-dilutive Grants

$263M+
Investment Funding Catalyzed

90
Founders Mentored

3000+
Hours of 1:1 Mentorship

Contact us

Click here to book an exploratory call

Need more info? Email Weiqi Li
wli@praxisinstitute.org

*Program commencement is subject to confirmed funding.

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Our vision: A world without paralysis after spinal cord injury.

What is Spinal Cord Injury?

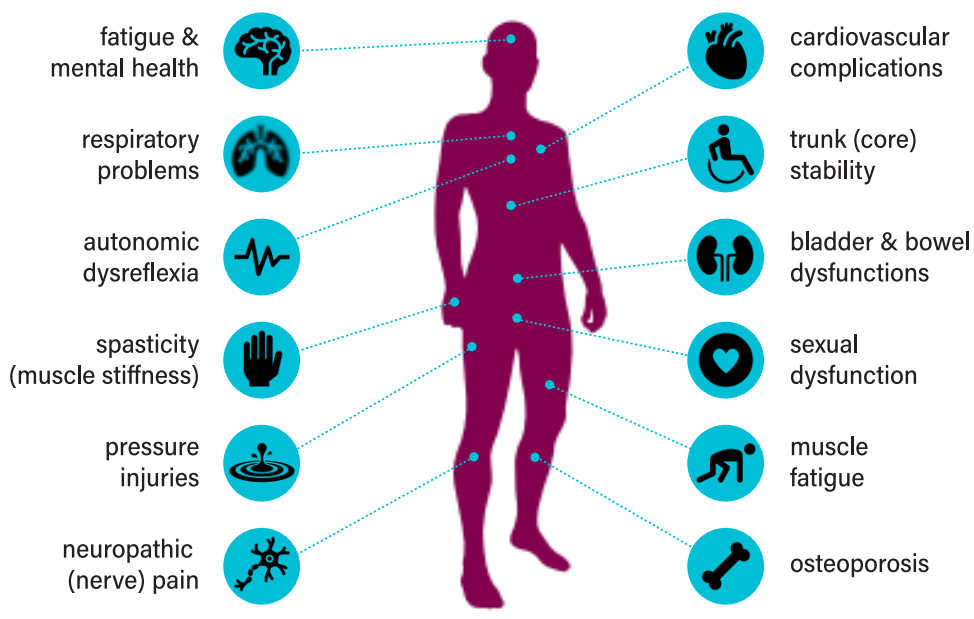
A spinal cord injury (SCI) occurs when the spinal cord is injured, which sets in motion a chain of events, that leads to irreversible damage. A spinal cord injury occurs through a traumatic accident—a fall, car accident, sporting injury—or non-traumatically, primarily resulting from degenerative disorders and spinal tumors.

The damaged spinal cord decreases the brain's ability to communicate important messages to and from other parts of one's body, depending on the severity of the injury and area of the spine affected. An SCI causes a neurological impairment of the body's motor, sensory and autonomic nerve functions that leads to ongoing health conditions as the injury slows the functioning of the body's internal organs.

Secondary Complications

With no known cure, a spinal cord injury is a lifelong medical condition. An SCI is more than just sensory and mobility paralysis, it also affects every physiological system in the body. On average, a person with an SCI experiences 15 secondary health complications at any given time, which range from mild daily occurrences to severe life-threatening conditions, which are the leading causes of death for individuals with a spinal cord injury.

Many of the secondary complications of SCI are shared with other chronic health conditions, such as MS, ALS, stroke and diabetes. Despite being costly to manage and an ongoing concern to millions of Canadians, most secondary complications of SCI have out-dated and, in many cases, ineffective solutions that greatly limit the quality of life for many Canadians.



Data source: 2020 RHSCIR network report (published 2022) that details the clinical and demographic data of spinal cord injury in Canada.

4,500
Canadians sustain an SCI every year

86,000
Canadians currently live with SCI

250,000
New spinal cord injuries globally each year

"My injury occurred while I was cycling with friends. In a split second, I lost control and found myself in a hospital bed days later, unable to move or breathe on my own.

The experience was both confusing and terrifying, and I knew that my life had changed forever.

► Individual who fractured their C1, C2 and C3 vertebrae resulting in a high-level SCI with no motor ability below their shoulders

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