



Don't Leave Us Behind

CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST

Congress should fully fund CDMRP SCI research and restore cuts made in FY25

Why **Federal SCI Research** is essential

- Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) is a chronic condition affecting 350,000 Americans. It can happen to anyone at any time and has a significant health and quality of life impact.
- The SCI population is too small to be profitable for competitive market research, but too large (350K) to be given “orphan condition” designation by the FDA.
- Federal costs of health care for the SCI population is approximately \$83B/year.
- Each research development that prevents a secondary condition (eg pressure sore, UTI, lung infection, blood pressure drop, et al) decreases the cost of care and increases independence.
- Opportunity loss (eg loss of employment) is approximately \$33B/year.
- 70% of people with SCI are unemployed after injury and rely on social services.

Why **CDMRP SCIRP** is essential

- Only Federal Research Program that focused solely on SCI.
- SCI research is already underfunded compared to other diseases/conditions and SCIRP comprised 1/3 of Federal funding at \$40M
- Emphasis on Innovation and Impact, Translation to clinic, Deliverables and Shovel-Ready therapies. SCIRP Coordinated with the NIH, VA and private funders to reduce funding redundancy.
- Prioritized the warfighter's care and recovery. SCI is 8-10 times more likely during combat and there are 42K veterans living with SCI in the US.
- Run from within military culture: goal oriented, nimble, responsive, accountable. Cannot be replicated in other agencies.
- Was not in competition for Defense spending, but funded as a Congressional Special Interest project and added to Department of Defense budget to manage.^{2 3}
- It has the right research priorities because people with SCI inform award decisions by participating in peer reviewed research.

¹ National Spinal Cord Injury Statistics Center (NSCISC) Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury Facts and Figures at a Glance 2024

² Schoenfeld et al., Nature Spinal Cord, Spinal cord injury within the United States military (Mar. 8, 2011).

³ U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, VA Research on Spinal Cord Injury. (June 10, 2021);



United to SAVE SCIRP

