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## FOREWORD

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Over the past few years, the volume of publications encompassing a broad definition of rehabilitation after spinal cord injury (SCI) has expanded exponentially. As in all rapidly expanding research fields, it is helpful, from time to time, to review what has been published and assess the quality of the data and conclusions of these reports. Thus was born the SCIRE project.

This manual represents the first comprehensive synthesis of the published evidence on rehabilitation strategies and community-based programs designed to improve the functional outcomes and quality of life for people living with a SCI. It is primarily intended as a guide for professionals in the areas of SCI health care and community care. It should also prove useful to SCI researchers, public policy makers, and people with SCI and their families. The goal is to provide everyone with the necessary objective information to make better-informed decisions as to the strength and validity of current rehabilitation programs and emerging strategies, as well as to identify gaps in our knowledge and possible research priorities.

A knowledge translation project as large as SCIRE requires clearly identified validation criteria and the coordinated efforts of a large number of individuals. The more than 40 invited reviewers from across Canada have long-standing expertise on the topics they reviewed. Drs. Janice Eng, Robert Teasell and William Miller provided the vision, framework and critical leadership for SCIRE and the ensuing team work between the Vancouver and London sites. Their tireless efforts ensured the timely release of this first version. Version 1 is just the beginning of SCIRE activities. In the years to come, we can anticipate revised versions of SCIRE, as new SCI research evidence comes to light and future best practices in SCI rehabilitation are validated. In addition, this compilation can form a basis for activities such as the development of clinical practice guidelines and identification of disparities between current practice and best practice.

On behalf of ICORD, The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, and The Rick Hansen Foundation, we offer thanks and congratulations to everyone who contributed to the successful launch of SCIRE.



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