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## FOREWORD

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It's my pleasure to introduce Version II of SCIRE (The Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Evidence).

The completion of the original SCIRE version in 2006 was a remarkable achievement. For the first time, a vast quantity of knowledge specific to spinal cord injury rehabilitation from around the globe was evaluated and, on the basis of its credibility, synthesized into a single document.

The result is a resource that clearly identifies best practices in SCI rehabilitation. Little wonder that it has become invaluable to a wide range of health professionals—from frontline clinicians to family doctors and medical students—seeking guidance when prescribing courses of treatment, as well as researchers and policy makers making difficult decisions about areas of focus and investment. And one can't underestimate SCIRE's value to people living with SCI who are becoming increasingly interested in taking an active role in maintaining and improving their health and quality of life.

The fact that SCIRE has been made freely available through the Internet has greatly contributed to its success. In two years, the SCIRE website ([www.icord.org/scire](http://www.icord.org/scire)) has had more than a quarter million hits. This is truly a testimonial to its value and global appeal.

SCIRE Version II builds on the success of the original version. All 22 chapters have been updated, and there are a number of welcome additions, including new chapters on assistive technology, aging with SCI, and physical activity. Finally, the chapter on community reintegration has been greatly expanded and enhanced to include successful strategies employed around the world.

Like the first version, SCIRE Version II represents a tremendous amount of work by a truly dedicated team of experts. Not only did team members review the literature in their respective areas of expertise, they worked hard to refine the necessary validation criteria. The entire team is to be commended for their contributions. In particular, the continuing efforts of Janice Eng, Robert Teasell, Bill Miller, Dalton Wolfe, Andrea Townson, Sandra Connolly and Jane Hsieh to lead the SCIRE project and drive version II to completion are important to recognize.

As well, the visionary financial support provided to the SCIRE project by ICORD, The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, and The Rick Hansen Foundation must be acknowledged.

One of the most important pieces of work that the newly formed SCI Solutions Network is committed to is the identification and promotion of best practices in SCI care. SCIRE Version II represents a huge leap forward in this work, and we're pleased to support this project—and any subsequent versions—in any way possible.



Eric Boyd, CEO  
SCI Solutions Network

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