Mount sinai spinal cord injury community advisory BOARD meeting

# Monday, November 04,2024

**Meeting called to order at 11:00**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

* Attendees

Thomas Bryce, Chung-ying Tsai, Arianny Ramirez, Alfredo Tadatada, Angela Riccobono, Christopher Noel, Garrison Redd, Isha Asim, Jill Wecht, Noam Harel, Crystal Rivera, Debra Zeitlin, Debra Poli, Jennifer Lieberman, Vincent Leal, Lynda Murray, Joseph Herrera, Elaine Castelluccio, Lori Allen-Schneider, Phillip Gordon, Tabinda Syed, William Weinrauch, Rose-Marie Faotto, Melissa Gunning, Tiffany Keith, Eli Ramos, Victor Calise, Wei Zhao, Danniel Swatosh, Zachary Maters, Jose Hernandez, Tanjum Nusrat, Varsha Ganesh, Yesenia Torres

## **New updates**

* Updates from the Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance by Dr. Herrera:
  + Mount Sinai received CARF accreditation for the next 3 years, accreditation moving to Morningside
  + Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Program is ranked in this year’s News and World Report and Newsweek.
  + Quad gods premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and currently still streaming in HBO Max.
  + Dr. Anna Rozman representing worldwide at the 2024 Paris Paralympics and White House with US Paralympics team.
  + Increasing Manhattan Services:
    - Outpatient New Staff: Dr. Andrea Leyton-Mange, Spinal Cord Injury Specialist, Dr. Sophia Barchuk, Nuerorehab Consultations
    - New Outpatient location at 2875 Broadway
  + Our department is listed in the 2024 inaugural list of Rehabilitation Centers by CMS
    - Working close with CMS to be able to get inpatient robotics reimbursements
  + Synchron Study Updates: Mount Sinai Rehab was part of the Brain Machine Interface study.
    - First in human implantation in the US at Mount Sinai
    - 5 participants enrolled, enrollment opening up for SCI soon
  + AMP Lab: Helping patients find pain relief via virtual reality

## **SCI CLINICAL PROGRAMS**

* Number of Person with SCI admitted to acute rehabilitation has increased since numerous years.
* Mount Sinai moving to new state of the art rehab facility in Mount Sinai Morningside (MSM):
  + Formerly St. Luke’s
  + January 2025 anticipated move-in date
  + MSM is a 495 bed facility
  + The 40 brand-new acute inpatient rehabilitation (AIR) space has undergone a multi-million-dollar renovation.
  + Previously contained a 14 bed inpatient rehab facility
    - Patients previously served in this environment will likely be accepted at Mount Sinai West (formerly Roosevelt Hospital)
    - The new facility will house 40 beds total split between the SCI and TBI Model Systems Programs
    - There is dedicated clinical research space on the floor below.
    - Brand New Equipment!
      * Ceiling lifts in every room ​
      * Ceiling lifts in hallways and gym​
      * Zero G​
      * Hocoma Erigo tilt table​
      * Armeo Spring​
      * BITS​
      * FES bike RT300 ​
      * FES Excite
    - Massive Technological Improvements!
    - New Call Bell System
    - pCare – in-room entertainment, education, meal ordering, customized team list and daily schedules, language translation, video calls
    - Adaptive controls to access TV, lights
    - 14 private rooms and 13 semi private rooms
    - Ceiling lifts in every room
    - Ceiling lifts in all patient bathrooms
    - Accessible door entry to all treatment spaces

## **Weekly Virtual Groups**

* Meditation Group: 7 - 10 participants averaged per class
* Sitness Fitness Class: 15 – 20 participants averaged per class
* Transitions SCI Support Group: 20 -25 participants averaged per class
* Peer Support Class: 15 – 20 participants averaged per class
* Women on Wheels Support Group: 8 - 16 participants averaged per class
* Boxing Fitness Class: 10-15 participants averaged per class

## **In Person support group**

* Gun Violence Support Group: (Hybrid) 6 - 10 participants averaged per class
* Yoga Class: (in-patient only) 3 - 4 participants averaged per class

## **SCI Life Challenge Program Recent Events**

11 events in total were held in the last year. An average of 7-9 people participated in each event.

* Life Challenge Annual Ski Trip Feb 9-11 2024​
* Indoor Adaptive Sky Diving 03-14-2024​
* Cubs @ Mets May 2nd 05/10/2024​
* Adaptive Sailing 07/18/2024​
* Adaptive Sailing 07/25/2024​
* Mount Sinai at Brooklyn Aquarium 08/30/2024​
* USTA Meet and Greet 09/05/2024​
* Just Hands Racing 09/21/2024​
* Return of the Fun Run 09/25/2024​
* Halloween Haunted House "Blood Manor" 10/18/2024

## **Mount Sinai SCI planned Future Events**

* Just Hands Racing
* Fashion Show- Runway of Dreams
* Just Hands Racing
* Annual Lake George Trip
* Adaptive Gliding- With Freedom Wings International Flying For Persons With Disabilities
* Adaptive Skiing
* Adaptive Outdoor Skydiving- with Sky dive the ranch
* Adaptive WCMX
* Self-defense class
* Adaptive indoor Skydiving- at iFly
* Adaptive Cooking Class
* Adaptive Ski event- taking place at Pico Mountain in Vermont
* Adaptive Water Skiing
* Adaptive Surfing
* Halloween Haunted House

**Mount sinai adaptive sports**

* We have been awarded a Craig H. Neilsen Grant for Creating Opportunity & Independence to support this initiative.
* We are in the early stages of putting together an adaptive sports program for people with SCI.​
  + The objective of the program is to empower individuals to regain a sense of independence and confidence.​
  + We anticipate the program will foster community, inclusion, and emotional well-being for participants.
    - Wheelchair Tennis
    - Adaptive Skiing
    - Hand cycling
    - Wheelchair Rugby
    - Swimming

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH 2024**

* Mount Sinai SCI Educational Webinars for Lived Experience with SCI​ Completed in 2023-2024
* [Adaptive Clothing Webinar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3MYbZeO6O0)​
* [Dating With a Spinal Cord Injury](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W71xBE3J8qE)​
* [Let's Talk About Sex episode 1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1xsV2oUFsQ)​
* [Adaptive Sports for People with SCI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmgFRY2nTxU)​
* Adapt and Overcome: Life After Paralysis
* All can be accessed via our [MountSinaiSCI](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwVomnPxRwyRHiM1wSbi2ig) YouTube channel.
* Upcoming Planned Webinars
* Accessible Travel and Tips
* Exoskeleton Assisted Walking (EAW):What You Should Know​
* Preventing Fractures​
* Navigating the Healthcare System Post-Injury​
* Adaptive Gaming Options for People with Disabilities
* Mount Sinai SCI Educational Videos for people with Lived Experience with SCI Professionally developed SCI Educational Videos
  + - Created by Mount Sinai SCI Team and co-branded with MSKTC of SCIMS
    - Bladder Self-Catheterization by a Woman with Paraplegia- in progress\*
    - Script development- completed and has undergone multiple revisions after feedback by other Model Systems and people with lived experience
    - Filming session #1- completed and reviewed by other Model Systems  revision of script
    - Filming session #2- completed
    - Editing- ongoing 11/2024
    - Interdisciplinary development Team: Britne Salm, Juliana Sullivan, Thomas Bryce, Jonathan Levin, Lenaesha Cheatam, Madeline Deaddio, Marie Daniel, Gemma Bonitto

We welcome you all to collaborate with us for future webinar topics and themes. Contact Garrison or Arianny for planning or comments/suggestions.

**Factsheet on Robotic Exoskeletons**

* Factsheet on Robotic Exoskeletons for Overground Walking for People With Spinal Cord Injury
  + This factsheet gives an overview of robotic exoskeletons for walking among people with SCI. It also looks at the benefits and risks of using an exoskeleton. Finally, it includes the criteria for becoming an exoskeleton user.
  + Created the factsheet
  + Co-branded the factsheet with United Spinal
  + Revised it based on the comments from other SCI Model System centers
  + What have we still to:
    - Send the updated version to be reviewed by other centers and individuals with SCI again
    - Finalize the factsheet
    - Disseminate it
* Consumer Guide for Exoskeletal Assistive Walking for Individuals with SCI
  + We developed a user-friendly, visually appealing, engaging and easy to read and understand evidence-based consumer guide with caregiver and persons with lived experience of SCI input.
  + Now published and free to access online: <https://pva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/870_FinalConsumerGuide.pdf>

**Monthly Newsletter**

The online “The Spinal Connection” newsletter to provide persons with spinal cord injury (SCI) and their friends and families with current information on events, programs, new treatments, research developments, and other issues.

* Spinal Connection e-Newsletter
  + 1,600+ Subscribers | [Newsletter Archive](https://icahn.mssm.edu/research/spinal-cord-injury/resources/newsletters)
  + 2023 -2024 Analytics: 10% Increase in Subscribers

**sOCIAL media outreach**

We are continuously expanding our social media presence with a focus on SCI-related content. Our goal is to increase exposure and engagement within the SCI communities.

* Instagram
  + [2,004 followers](https://www.instagram.com/mountsinaisci/)
* X (Formerly Twitter)
  + [583 followers](https://twitter.com/MountSinaiSCI)
* YouTube
  + [898 subscribers](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwVomnPxRwyRHiM1wSbi2ig)
* Facebook
  + Page Discontinued: Our Facebook page was suspended by Facebook administration with the explanation that it "goes against our Community Standards." This is the third time in 3 years that this has occurred, and we are seeking advice on what steps we can take moving forward. ​
  + Does anyone have any suggestions or insights on how to resolve this issue?
* 2023-2024 Analytics
  + Instagram
    - September 2023 (1622 Followers)- September 2024 (2,004 Followers)
    - 24% Increase in Followers
  + Twitter
    - September 2023 (487 Followers) - September 2024 (583 Followers)
    - 20% Increase in Followers
  + YouTube
    - September 2023 (861 Followers) - September 2024 (898 Followers)
    - 4% Increase in Followers
* Future Outreach Goals
  + - We continue to make significant strides in updating our website this year with several key improvements.
      * More user-friendly
      * embed educational videos
      * Link to our social media platforms and
      * Enhance accessibility and readability on mobile phones.
* We are nearing the completion of these updates and anticipate finishing all enhancements by the end of the year.
* Making our resources more accessible to the Spanish-speaking SCI community:
  + We are excited to announce that we are adding a Spanish Resources section to our Spinal Cord Injury Useful Resources Page on our website. [Useful Resources Page](https://labs.icahn.mssm.edu/brycelab/educational-resources/)

## **SCI research**

* Information on all our studies can be found on our website:
  + <https://icahn.mssm.edu/research/spinal-cord-injury/research/current-studies>
* Model systems for SCI
  + The Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SCIMS) program, established in 1970, is a network of 18 comprehensive SCI systems of care.
  + SCIMS study the course of recovery, health, and social outcomes beginning with the initial injury and extending throughout life.
* Awarded the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SCIMS) grant cycle 2021-2026
* Basic requirements:
  + Complete site-specific research project
  + Participate in collaborative modules with other centers
  + Educate consumers & professionals
* Inclusion criteria:
  + First rehab post-injury
  + SCI of traumatic etiology
* Participation includes Form I interview, Form II interview, and/or modular interviews
* Our coordinators do an excellent job at follow-up interviews and for the last cycle we received the highest percentage of obtaining these interviews.
* Current Cycle Site Specific Project
* Safety, Feasibility, and Efficacy of Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation (TSCS) on stabilizing Blood Pressure for Acute inpatients with SCI
  + We are studying if Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation (TSCS) or electrical stimulation of the spinal cord through the skin in newly injured individuals can control blood pressure.
    - Is it SAFE? Levels of pain, discomfort, and skin burns
    - Can we find a STANDARD approach? Factors that make it difficult, Factors that help it work
    - Is it EFFECTIVE? Better blood pressure control
  + Goal: Determine best positioning and stimulation parameters for each person, incorporate TSCS into daily physical therapy and Develop and teach others an easy-to-follow algorithm for customizing stimulation parameters for each individual
  + What have we done so far:
    - Number of people enrolled: 27 of those Tested: 8 are Female (30%) Higher than the average population, Age 46±19​(18-74 years)​,NLI​ C1-T12​, Cervical​ 23 (85%)​ AIS A​9 (33%)​ Days 79±97​(19-412 days)​Ethnicity: ​Black 12 (44%)​ Hispanic 5 (19%)​ White 9 (33%)​
    - Higher stimulation amplitudes did not necessarily lead to better blood pressure regulation.
* 2021 to 2026 SCIMS Module Project
  + Safety, feasibility, and efficacy of transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation on stabilizing blood pressure for acute inpatients with spinal cord injury (ISAFSCI)
    - We are studying a standardized assessment of the autonomic nervous system which controls the heart, lungs, bowel, bladder, sweating, and sex function called ISAFSCI
      * ISAFSCI measures include:
        + heart rates, blood pressures, body temperatures, respiratory capacities, and various questions related to bowel, bladder, and sexual function
      * Our study questions are:
        + Is it FEASIBLE to conduct?
        + Are there MISSING DATA?
        + Is it REPRODUCIBLE & RELIABLE?
        + Does it PREDICT other autonomic functions?
        + Are there associations between ISAFSCI score at discharge and self-reported levels of DEPRESSION, LIFE SATISFACTION AND PARTICIPATION at 12-months?
      * What have we done so far:
        + Number of people enrolled: 130 Number of people Discharge completed: 101 Clinician Survey completed: 80 Feasibility Survey completed: 83 12 Month Follow up completed: 19
* Lower Urinary and Gastrointestinal Tract Autonomic Function Survey (SCI-BCC-Q)
  + Recognizing the urgent need for an easily used, reliable, and valid measure of bladder and bowel function, is needed to track functional recovery based on a patient reported outcome (PRO)
  + The authors used the bowel and bladder questions from the ISAFSCI as a starting point to develop and test the feasibility, reliability, and construct validity of a PRO measure entitled:​ The SCI Bladder and Bowel Control Questionnaire (SCI-BBC-Q)
  + A team of SCI clinicians, researchers, and persons with SCI who have lived experience with autonomic dysfunction
  + A COGNITIVE INTERVIEW script was developed that was designed to assess: language appropriateness, concept simplicity, emotional and mental burden, content validity (if what was being interpreted by participants for all questions was equivalent to what was being asked of them)
  + ANALYSIS completed after the first 30 persons were enrolled.
  + FEASIBILITY, INTERNAL CONSISTENCY, TEST-RETEST RELIABILITY, and CONSTRUCT VALIDITY were assessed:
    - SCI-BBC-Q results are different among ISNCSCI AIS A/B, C, and D groups.
    - Association was found between baseline SCI-BBC-Q scores and ISNCSCI S4-5 sensory scores
    - Association was found between SCI-BBC-Q sensory component and ISNCSCI DAP
    - Associationwas found between SCI-BBC-Q motor component items and ISNCSCI VAC
    - Association was found between change in SCI-BBC-Q and ISNCSCI S4-5 sensory scores baseline to discharge
  + The SCI-BBC-Q is a reliable and valid PRO measure that can be effectively implemented in the acute inpatient rehabilitation setting to assess bladder and bowel sensory awareness and sphincter control.
  + SCI-BBC-Q scores reflect severity of SCI.
* Validity of an Interview and Online Version of the International Standards for the Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury
  + The International Standards for Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury (ISNCSCI) motor and sensory components are used in clinical and research settings to assess for neurological improvement and decline.
  + However, sometimes individuals are unable to come to the clinic to undergo an ISNCSCI examination. This can impact clinical care and research\* follow-up
  + (Telephone) interview and online patient-reported outcome (PRO) measures of the motor and sensory component impairments needed to classify SCI according to the ISNCSCI may allow full remote assessments neurological status whenever an ISNCSCI examination is not obtainable.
  + Recognizing the need for such, the authors used the ISNCSCI examination components as a basis to develop and test the feasibility, reliability, and validity of a PRO measure named the Online Neurological Exam for Spinal Cord Injury (One-SCI).
  + Once the initial questionnaire was developed, it underwent testing through two rounds of CI by a purposively recruited cohort of individuals with SCI with various levels of injury and completeness of injury.
  + After each round of CI, the questionnaire was revised ultimately resulting in One-SCI.
  + A second group of individuals with SCI who were English-speaking and aged 18 or older were recruited locally at one of two study sites, Mount Sinai and Kessler, through social media, advertisements, and clinician referral.
  + Purposive sampling  participants with neurological complete and incomplete injuries representing six different functional ranges of NLI: (C1-4, C5-6, C7-T1, T2-T6, T7-T12, and L1-S5).
  + Individuals were enrolled to undergo the testing of either One-SCI version twice (with a minimum of 1 week between each administration) and to receive an in-person ISNCSCI examination at least 14 days afterwards.
  + One-SCI responses and in-person ISNCSCI examination results were entered onto ISNCSCI worksheets to determine motor and sensory levels, NLI, completeness of injury, AIS grade, and ZPPs.
  + One-SCI most valid in determining AIS grade and determining the neurological levels in individuals who are not very incomplete (AIS-D).
  + One-SCI has excellent test-retest reliability.
  + It does take a significant amount of time to complete the PRO  limited use.
* ExaStim Upper Limb Pivotal Clinical Validation Study
  + We are working with a company, Aneuvo, to test their new surface spinal cord stimulation device, called ExaStim. ExaStim is a portable, non-invasive device that can stimulate the spinal cord in a way that is specific to each person.
  + Principal investigator: Chung-Ying Tsai
  + Type of study: Randomized control trial
  + Our questions are
    - Is the device safe?
    - Can the stimulation from the device help people with spinal cord injury move and feel better in their upper body, arms, and hands?
  + What have we done so far:
    - Total 86 Participants 14 sites
    - 1 more participant needed to complete enrollment at our site
    - 2 participant completed the study, 1 withdrew
    - 2 currently active
* Spinal Cord Injury Pain Evolution (SCIPE) Study
  + We are assessing people’s pain and unpleasant sensations at 1 month, 6 months, and 1 year after SCI with questionnaires and sensory testing.
  + PI: Thomas N. Bryce, MD. Term of Project: 09/30/19 – 08/07/24
  + Collaborators: Kessler, Rancho Los Amigos, Univ. Miami
  + Our questions are:
    - What kinds of pains and unpleasant sensations do people have at these various times?
    - How do these pains change and how do they relate to other psychological factors?
  + What have we done so far:
    - Interviewed and tested nearly 189 people at least once at one of the four sites (Mount Sinai-Lead, U Miami, Kessler, Rancho Los Amigos)
  + What do we still have to do:
    - Analyze data- explore relationship between unpleasant sensations and pain and other psychological factors
    - Disseminate the findings
* Biomarkers of Spinal Cord Injury Pain Evolution during Acute Rehabilitation (BioSPEAR)
  + The purpose of this research study is to investigate and better understand neuropathic pain (NeuP) following a spinal cord injury (SCI), during the acute inpatient rehabilitation (AIR) period.
  + We are assessing people’s pain and unpleasant sensations, treatments used for pain, and psychological state weekly during inpatient rehabilitation and at 6 months post injury with questionnaires. We will also be looking at possible blood markers of pain at admission and discharge.
  + Our questions are:
    - How does pain change week to week?
    - Are some treatments more effective than others?
    - Are there any blood markers that can help predict the course of pain?
  + What we done so far:
    - 26/50 Enrolled (52%) 6 month Follow up completed = 10 (55%)
  + What do we still have to do:
    - Continue enrolling participants and conduct weekly questionnaires during inpatient stays and at the 6-month follow-up.
    - Analyze data- explore relationship between pain and unpleasant sensations, treatments used for pain, and psychological state weekly during inpatient rehabilitation and at 6 months post injury.
    - Examine possible blood markers of pain at admission and discharge.
    - ​ ​Disseminate the findings

## **SPINAL CORD DAMAGE RESEARCH CENTER**

* Information on all our studies can be found on our website:
  + <https://labs.icahn.mssm.edu/harellab/?pk_vid=0c8091b1025651a91732658349094ee8>
* Veterans and non-Veterans are eligible for our research studies.
  + Spinal Cord Associative Plasticity (SCAP)
    - Collaborators: James J Peters VAMC – Noam Y. Harel – PI
    - Spinal cord associative plasticity (SCAP) to enhance response to hand training in cervical SCI
      * Can synchronized pulses of brain and spinal cord stimulation increase neurotransmission to hand muscles?
      * 17 Participants enrolled
  + Spinal cord associative plasticity (SCAP) to enhance response to hand training in cervical SCI
    - * Can SCAP enhance the effectiveness of hand training exercises?
      * We're combining spinal cord stimulation with brain stimulation and we're trying to synchronize them, enhancing the response to hand and arm training exercises.
  + The role of pharmacological agents in restoring neuronal excitability after chronic SCI
    - Collaborators: James J Peters VAMC – Lynda M. Murray - PI
    - Can FDA-approved drugs from other conditions be used to restore excitability to the nervous system after SCI?
    - Hand training combination study, looking at 3 active FDA drugs, versus a placebo.
    - When combined with hand training, does that improve hand function?
  + The role of androgens in neurophysiological and autonomic function in male Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury
    - Collaborators: James J Peters VAMC – Jacob A. Goldsmith- PI
    - What are the associations between endogenous testosterone profiles, central nervous system excitability, and cardiovascular autonomic function in male Veterans with SCI?
    - What are the effects of intranasal testosterone replacement therapy on central nervous system excitability and cardiovascular autonomic function in hypogonadal male Veterans with SCI?
  + Romosozumab to Improve Bone Mineral Density and Architecture in Chronic SCI
    - Collaborators: James J. Peters VAMC – Christopher Cardozo - PI
    - Can FDA-approved bone density loss drugs reduce bone loss and improve bone density during chronic SCI?
    - Testing current FDA drugs that have been recently approved.
    - Can it rebuild bone on those with chronic SCI who have lost enough bone that would otherwise be unable to safely participate in walking activities?
  + Identification of New Biomarkers for Determining Risk of Lower Extremity Fracture during Exoskeleton-assisted Ambulation: Developing a Personal Rehabilitation Approach to Optimize Function after SCI
    - Collaborators: James J. Peters VAMC – Noam Y. Harel - PI
    - Can new evidence-based biomarkers identify people with SCI who are at the highest risk of a fragility fracture when participating in walking strategies?
    - Using next generation methods to determine the risk of bone fracture when you're bearing weight after chronic SCI.

## **Spinal Cord Injury Medicine (SCIM) Fellowship for Physicians**

* 1 year fellowship duration- completed after residency
  + 2 positions this year for 2024-2025
  + - Phillip Gordon, MD
  + - Tabinda Syed, DO

Intense clinical and research training and education

* Weekly lectures, journal club, interdisciplinary conferences
* Past alumni include
  + Miguel Escalon, MD- Mount Sinai
  + Vincent Huang, MD- Mount Sinai
  + Jennifer Chui, MD – Hackensack Meridian JFK
  + Tariq Rajnarine, MD- Moss Rehabilitation
  + Tiffany Wong, MD- NYU Langone
  + Matthias Linke, MD- Barrow Neurological Institute
  + Audrey Chun, MD- Indiana University
  + Rachael Santiago, MD- Sunnyview Rehabilitation

## **Nancy A. LIEBERMAN BACK to Life Center at Mount Sinai**

* Nancy Lieberman was a beacon of courage who led with determination and inspired us all. After her spinal cord injury, she was determined to get “back to life” and live it to its fullest.
* However, Nancy understood that not everyone could figure out how to go forward after such a traumatic injury. She often expressed frustration that so many people with spinal cord injuries never returned to work, school, or travel and lived unnecessarily limited lives.
* Vision: Provide comprehensive services to facilitate a personalized path forward for individuals with SCI by helping them identify barriers to independence, access existing augmentative and adaptive technologies to overcome those barriers and enjoy more independence and empowerment in their daily life.
* Launching in 2025
  + An inpatient assistive technology lab and loan bank​
  + A dedicated outpatient assistive technology lab
  + Back to work and/or school services​
  + Leisure and recreation programs
  + Steve Spohn (AbleGamers Founder), Inaugural Director will build out center from vision to functional center
  + Fundraising Begun: <https://giving.mountsinai.org/site/TR/DIY/General?px=2250992&pg=personal&fr_id=1092>
  + Open to fundraising ideas

## **Open Discussion**

* The conversation began with Joe Herrera, the chair of the department, expressing his pride in the spinal cord injury program led by Dr. Bryce.
* Arianny to investigate solutions for the suspended Facebook page issue.
* Arianny to update the spinal cord injury website with Spanish resources by February
* Garrison to coordinate with Access Project about potentially renting their facility for exercise classes. The team agreed to continue the conversation about these ideas.
* Zachary asked about the availability of equipment storage and transportation for sporting events, to which Garrison responded that these would be discussed on a case-by-case basis
* Dr. Bryce proposed the idea of organizing a conference or event where consumer groups and peer mentoring organizations could share their experiences and provide feedback. He suggested this could be a useful initiative, especially for those with spinal cord injuries.
* Zachary asked about the impact of adding Dr. Layton to their faculty practice on outpatient services, to which Dr. Bryce explained that it would increase capacity and reduce waiting times for follow-ups. The team also discussed the potential for a new facility to handle a higher load of people for outpatient services.
* Zachary to provide Dr. Riccobono with information on potential assistive technology partnerships.
* Victor adds that he can assist on building a relationship with Google and Microsoft disability units and possible opportunities with Access-VR funding.
* Tiffany from the office of Diversity of Inclusion office brings up ideas to spread the work across the Mount Sinai system and utilizing our employment resource group more for possible collaborations in the future.
* Victor suggests getting an executive sponsor to highlight the importance of disability and highlighted the things Rehab is doing.

**Meeting adjourned at 1300.**