

WHO ARE CONSUMERS?



SPINAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE | CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Spinal research plays a pivotal role in benefiting various members of the community in distinct ways. As consumers of this research, individuals with spinal cord injuries, their families and carers, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community-based organisations each derive unique advantages from the findings and advancements in this field. These varied groups consume the research outputs differently, tailoring them to meet specific needs and challenges within the spinal cord injury community.



Individuals with spinal cord injury: Research is crucial for these individuals, impacting their overall quality of life through the biopsychosocial model. It encompasses biological aspects (like new treatments and rehabilitation techniques), psychological factors (including mental health and coping strategies), and social elements (such as community integration and support systems). This holistic approach ensures a comprehensive improvement in their lives, addressing physical, mental, and social well-being.

Family members and carers: Family members and carers benefit greatly from spinal research, gaining vital knowledge and skills to provide effective support. This includes understanding the nuances of caregiving, managing emotional stress, and adapting to the complex needs of those with spinal cord injuries. Research informs them about best practices in care, mental health support for carers themselves, and strategies for maintaining a healthy family and care environment.

Policymakers and funding bodies: These groups use research findings to inform policy decisions and allocate resources appropriately. Their understanding of the spinal cord injury community's needs, as illuminated by research, is essential for developing effective and responsive healthcare policies.

Healthcare professionals: The integration of research into clinical practice enhances the care provided to spinal cord injury patients. Healthcare professionals apply the latest treatment and rehabilitation techniques, improving patient outcomes.

Community-based organisations: These organisations draw upon research to create and implement programs and services. They tailor their initiatives to meet the specific challenges faced by individuals with spinal cord injuries, informed by the latest research findings.

Spinal research serves as a vital resource across the community, advancing medical knowledge and improving the lives of those affected by spinal cord injuries. The contributions and benefits of each group in the spinal research ecosystem underscore the comprehensive nature of its impact.

Spinal Research Institute: thesri.org

Antonio Vecchio, Community & Consumer Engagement Manager: antonio.vecchio@thesri.org

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