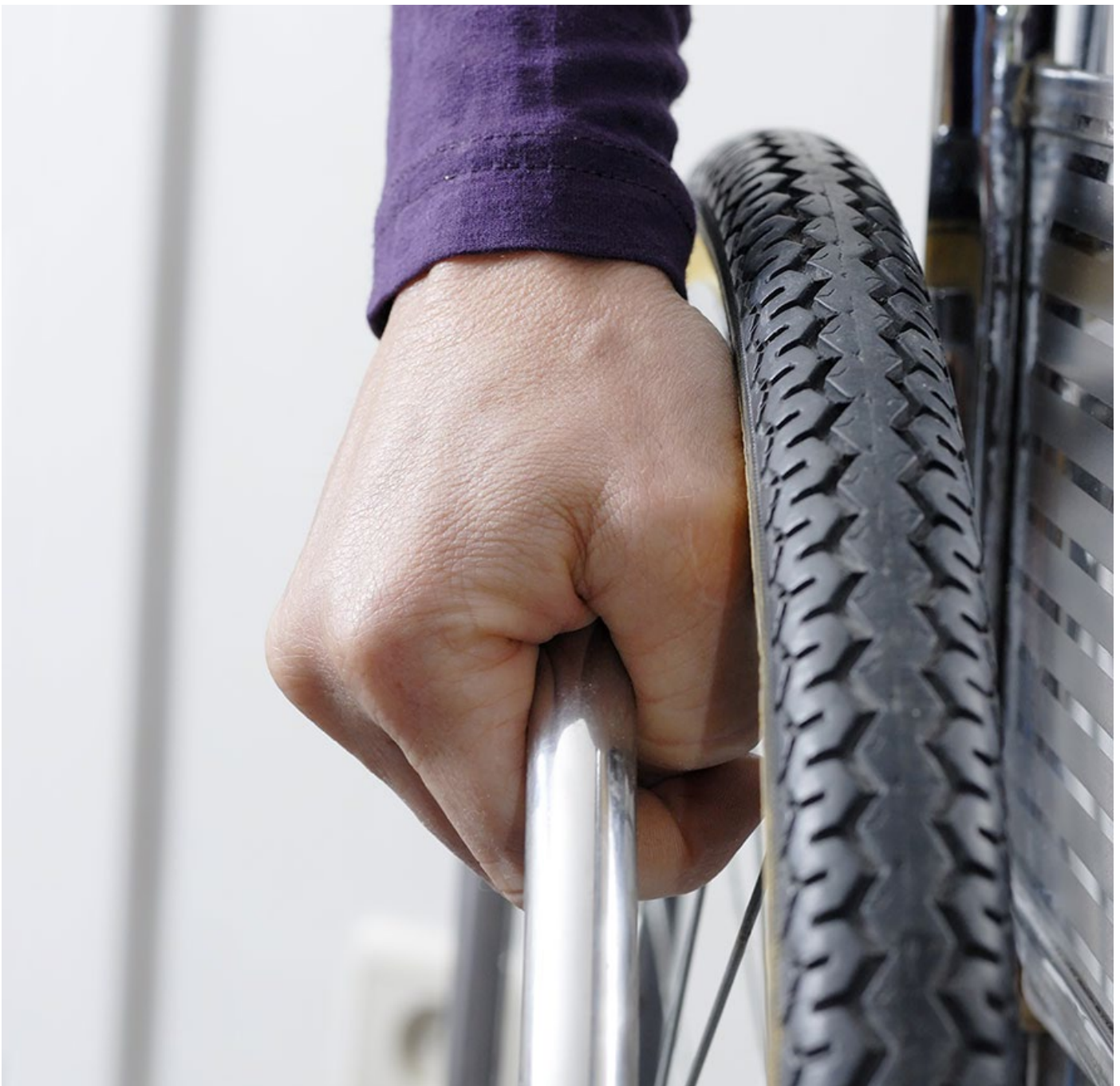


SCIA Bi-Annual Research Plan: 2022-2023



The Research Plan supports the Research Framework and identifies Research Priorities for a two-year period. The Plan outlines SCIA's contribution to research where SCIA forms a partnership or has a financial commitment. Research that is supported or promoted by SCIA is determined on an ongoing basis. The Plan was created by the Clinical Governance and Research Committee in accordance with the SCIA Research framework and endorsed by the Board of Directors.

Vision for Research

Based on SCIA's vision, the research supported by SCIA must contribute to a society without barriers for people with spinal cord injuries. This means that the aims of research developed within, or supported by, SCIA must be person-centred, without bias, promoting diversity and inclusion, and be readily translated to improve outcomes and quality of life for people in three key areas:

- Body function and Structure (signs, symptoms and impairments faced by those living with a SCI or similar neurological condition).
- Independence and Mobility
- Psychosocial (wider participation in the community).

Key 2022-23 Priorities

For the next two years the Clinical Governance and Research Committee recommends focussing on the following Key priority areas.

1. Support research aimed at improving outcomes for people living with an SCI in the acute, subacute or chronic phases in the areas of:
 - Body function and structure (impairments from SCI)
 - Activity limitations (mobility and accessibility)
 - Social Participation (work, leisure, well-being and quality of life)
2. Validation of SCIA services and measurement of its impact on the lives of people living with SCI or other neurological conditions.
 - Apply research methodology to gather and analyse quantitative and qualitative data on client-centred outcomes for SCIA programs for example NeuroMoves, Peer Support or EmployAbility.
 - Participate in quality assurance projects (small scale) to large randomised controlled trials.

Identified Focus Areas

The Committee is particularly encouraging enquiries with a focus on the areas below.

1. Research aimed at promoting independence, empowerment and greater control.
2. Better understanding of the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culturally and linguistically diverse people with Spinal and Neuro Conditions.
3. Ageing with an SCI or another disability.
4. Productive life roles following an SCI.
5. Staying in shape (maintaining overall health).
6. How insurance and healthcare systems can impact decisions.
7. How people to spend funding and the difference this makes to independence and quality of life.
8. Development of a measure to assess of wheelchairs / seated posture or know when a problem exists and refer.
9. Review of advice about use of manual vs power assist for shoulder and fitness maintenance.

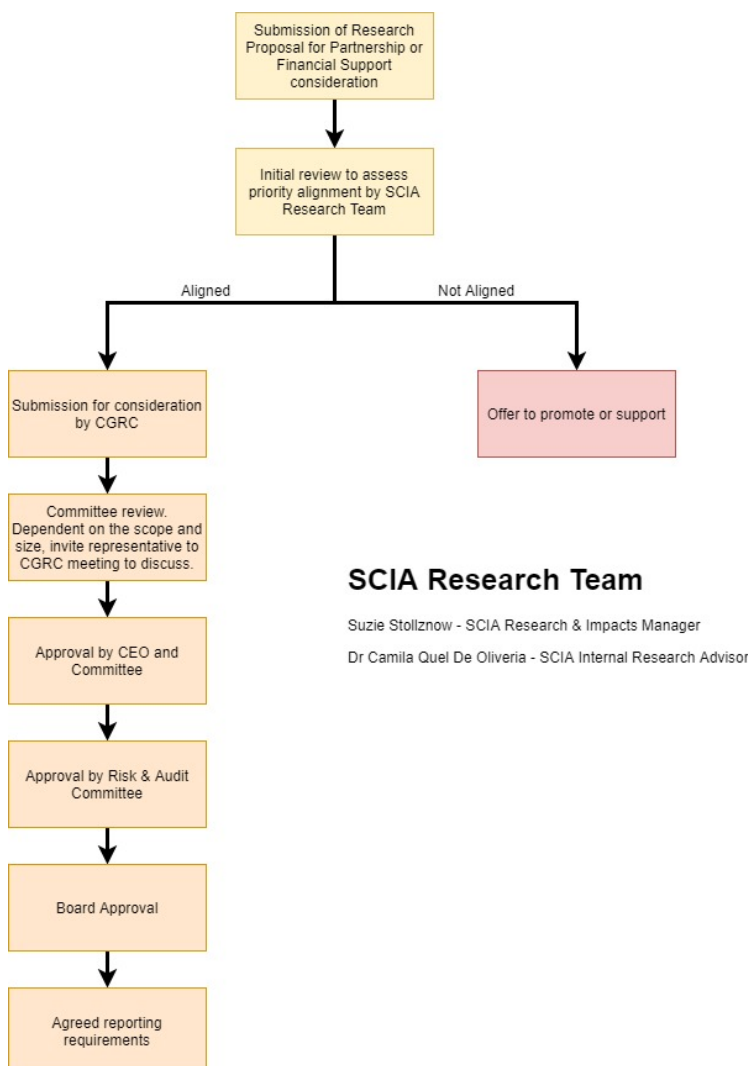
10. The need for greater qualitative research and how systems can modernize.
11. Environmental assessment of accessibility to public buildings across Australia.

Process for Collaboration

SCIA may engage in research in a variety of ways according to the Research Framework, which outlines the levels of support that SCIA may offer, including:

1. Promotion
2. Support (from SCIA’s members and employees)
3. Partnerships - Where a project falls within our Bi-Annual Research Plan and is assessed by the committee as a priority, a partnership with the research teams/University/ Organisations will be formed which may include:
 - a. in-kind support such as employee engagement or access to clients and members
 - b. fundraising or other contributions for the shared project
4. Financial Support - Where a project falls within our Bi-Annual Research Plan and is assessed by the committee as a priority, SCIA may fund or partially fund research.

Promotion and Support are internally approved. Partnership and Financial Support require approval by the Clinical Governance and Research Committee via the approval process outlined below.



Clinical Governance and Research Committee Membership

Professor Glen M Davis OAM (SCIA Board Member and Committee Co-Chair): Professor of Clinical Exercise Sciences in the Sydney School of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney, with clinical and research experience in exercise therapy and rehabilitation for people with neurological conditions, particularly spinal cord injury.

Leesa Addison (SCIA Board Member and Committee Co-Chair): A passionate change advocate currently working as a business and digital transformation consultant after 25 years working in technology and innovation as a CIO and senior executive. A lived experience advocate for systemic improvement of our health and community services sectors serving as a Non-Executive Director in disability and mental health.

Dianne Lucas (SCIA CEO): Experience as both the Deputy CEO and Acting CEO at St Vincent De Paul Society NSW, where she led several disability services. Dianne has also managed several organisational functions including organisational performance and development, information and communications technology, governance, fundraising and communications as well as human resources.

Judith Cross AM (Lived Experience Representative): 22 years' experience as a CEO working in health and community services with a particular interest in governance.

Dr Fiona Clay (Lived Experience Representative): Research experience in the field of medicine and community representative with a commitment to use skills to make change for others.

Jessica Comish (Lived Experience / Family Member Representative): Registered nurse, former personal care assistant, SCIA volunteer.

Professor Mary Galea AM FAHMS (Research Representative): Professorial Fellow, Department of Medicine, The University of Melbourne. A physiotherapist and neuroscientist, with clinical research experience in the rehabilitation of neurological conditions including stroke, MS and SCI.

Dr Jackie Reznik (Clinical Representative): Extensive national and international expertise as a clinical physiotherapist in neurological physiotherapy (SCI, Brain Injuries and other chronic/genetic neurological conditions) in adults and children. Also a researcher in the area of SCI and traumatic/non-traumatic brain injuries.

Gillian Garrett (Clinical Representative): Registered Nurse with 15 years experience in the field of inpatient SCI rehabilitation and clinical leadership.

Vacant (Clinical Representative Rural and Regional)

Dr Camila Quel De Oliveria (SCIA Internal Research Adviser): Lecturer in Physiotherapy at the University of Technology Sydney. Postgraduate clinical qualifications in Neurological Physiotherapy applied to the chronic and acute patient (adult and paediatric) populations.. Is an allied health researcher in neurological populations, with special interest in SCI, Camila is a SCIA representative member of the committee.

Submission of a Research Project

To submit a research project contact the Research and Impacts Manager stollznow@scia.org.au for a copy of the Research Proposal Template.