

Connections 2012 Awards

The Spinal Cord Injury Network is pleased to support the attendance of the following individuals at *Connections 2012*. Our congratulations and best wishes to all *Connections 2012 Award* winners for a successful and enjoyable meeting.



Dr Carolyn Beaver (Burwood Academy of Independent Living, Christchurch, New Zealand)

I sustained a spinal cord injury (SCI) in 2006 while working as a veterinary surgeon in the UK. I am currently completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Rehabilitation through the Rehabilitation Teaching and Research Unit at the University of Otago. The *Connections* conference would be a brilliant opportunity to collaborate with other people involved in the area of SCI research. The program includes many topics, which are of interest to me and would also facilitate further learning and development of my knowledge in this area.



Perry Cross (Perry Cross Foundation, Gold Coast, Queensland)

The Foundation [We] would love to learn more about other opportunities available and the plans for research in the future in Australia and overseas, and feel *Connections 2012* will give us this opportunity. We also believe it would be an ideal networking opportunity for all of us to connect as part of the SCI Community in Australia.



Beatriz IR de Oliveira (Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia)

I am a PhD student at Curtin University and perform studies within the Spinal Cord Injury Physical Activity (SCIPA) program. Participation in this conference will be of great value for me as an international student to improve my network with professionals who work in this field and be aware of the latest findings in SCI. This is an excellent opportunity to engage various allied health professionals in our program and reach out to more people with SCI.



Sharron Neeson (ParaQuad SA, Adelaide, South Australia)

As the Manager of Support Services for Paraquad SA, I have been given the responsibility of becoming informed about current research opportunities in SCI and disseminating this information to our clients and their families as well as colleagues and sponsors. *Connections 2012* provides a significant opportunity for me to learn more about the future of SCI research in Australia, and I look forward particularly to discussions around pain and exercise in relation to SCI.



Dr Olivia Ong (Walk On Melbourne, Victoria)

I am currently a medical doctor training to be a rehabilitation physician in the field of SCI rehabilitation in Melbourne. As an individual who has been inflicted with a SCI, I am keen to attend this conference to improve my short term and long-term quality of life, and also network with other individuals with SCI, with the belief and hope that my story inspires them and their stories in turn will inspire me to persevere for the long haul.



Clayton Rumble (Canberra, ACT)

I am a paraplegic caused by a sleepwalking fall in 2007. I suffer extreme neuropathic pain. I am interested in learning more about recent advances in research for a cure for SCI, the status of current and future clinical trials... I am particularly interested in the talk by Professor Philip Siddall on "Where are we going with pain treatments?"



Jonathan Tang (Brisbane, Queensland)

My injury was sustained whilst I was studying medicine at the University of Sydney. I previously worked as a physiotherapist in a large public hospital. This will be my first conference since the injury. As a person with SCI I have experienced the positive and negative aspects of rehabilitation. My clinical knowledge has given me a unique skill to thoroughly articulate my symptoms and problem solve with my treating team to identify the most effective way to approach new challenges. It would be a pleasure to share my experiences with other researchers in this field.



Raelene West (Melbourne, Victoria)

I have a SCI myself... I feel both the [previous] *Connections* forums provided a unique opportunity to bring together a cross range of people involved in SCI to meet and discuss the current landscape, situation and issues of people with SCI... Further, I am now involved myself in research associated with SCI on the provision of disability services. Attending the conference in Sydney would provide an opportunity for me to hear about some of the experiences of receiving disability services and compensation by people in NSW with a SCI and give me an opportunity to compare and contrast issues. *Connections 2012* would provide me with an opportunity to again be a part of this unique forum and the current discussion in Australia and internationally on improving the quality of life for people with SCI.