

## **How ICED can save the spine: Brisbane Research Showcase presents pioneering study to prevent spinal cord injury**

**Dr Peter Batchelor from Austin Health in Melbourne will be talking about the groundbreaking spinal cord injury research study 'ICED' at a Queensland Spinal Cord Injury Research Showcase, on Friday 15th November at the Translational Research Institute in Brisbane.**

As part of Spinal Injuries Awareness Week, the Spinal Cord Injury Network together with the Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service will host the event to showcase local research conducted into spinal cord injury as well as research on a new cooling and early decompression study called 'ICED'.

The overall objective of the ICED study is to determine if the combination of cooling, or hypothermia, and early decompression surgery improves injury outcomes in patients with cervical spinal cord injuries. The ICED trial will be the first randomised study assessing the combination of these two interventions.

"If lowering a patient's body temperature immediately after injury by just a few degrees has similar outcomes as in animal models, it could mean that it may be possible to reduce the damage caused to the spinal cord altogether," says Dr Batchelor.

Earlier this year, the Spinal Cord Injury Network's Clinical Trials Committee identified the potential of the ICED study to reduce the impact of spinal cord injuries and improve patient outcomes across Australia. The Network provided seed funding support to conduct preliminary work.

Subsequently, Dr Batchelor and colleagues have forged collaborative links across Australia with the majority of national spinal centres now involved in the ICED trial. Investigators have applied for major grant funding this year to conduct the ICED study throughout Australia. If successful, safety and feasibility studies will commence in 2014.

For details of the QLD Research Showcase programme visit [https://spinalnetwork.org.au/uploads/QLD\\_RESEARCH\\_SHOWCASE\\_flyerfinal.pdf](https://spinalnetwork.org.au/uploads/QLD_RESEARCH_SHOWCASE_flyerfinal.pdf)

One person sustains a spinal cord injury each day in Australia. The Spinal Cord Injury Network is an alliance of researchers, frontline clinicians, people with spinal cord injury and other key stakeholders working together to promote recovery from spinal cord injury.

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