



Dear Participants,

Welcome to The 2nd International Symposium on Autonomic Dysfunctions following Spinal Cord Injury (SCI).

For many years, motor and sensory abnormalities have been the main focus of SCI related research. However, SCI is also associated with various autonomic dysfunctions, including disordered cardiovascular control, bowel, bladder and sexual dysfunctions. On a daily basis, individuals with SCI experience these devastating conditions which limit their activities of daily living, participation in sport and frequently result in life-threatening medical emergencies.

Until recently, the impact of SCI on a person's neurological function was only evaluated through the use of the International Standards for the Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury (motor and sensory evaluation). Unfortunately, these standards do not provide information about the status of a person's autonomic function. As a result of an elaborate international process that included consultation and cooperation by members of the International Autonomic Committee, a joint collaboration between the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) & the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), the Autonomic Standards for documentation of remaining functions following SCI were created in 2009. However, these actions only mark the beginning of our process in standardizing clinical tools for evaluating complex and still poorly understood autonomic dysfunctions among individuals with SCI.

This unique symposium will address the latest basic science and clinical evidence in the field. The panel will include internationally renowned physiatrists, urologists, exercise physiologists, sexual health clinicians, and basic scientists. I hope that this day provides you with a better understanding of the autonomic dysfunctions associated with SCI, so that you will be able to implement this knowledge in your research or clinical practice.

Sincerely,

Andrei Krassioukov MD, PhD, FRCPC

Chair of Symposium Organizing Committee

Professor, Dep. Medicine, Div. Phys. Med. & Rehab.

Associate Director and Scientist, ICORD, University of British Columbia,

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