

## 2013 GF Strong Rehab Research Day Abstract Submission

### Authors:

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**Title:** Modifiable factors associated with work and employment following spinal cord injury: A systematic review

**Objectives:** To systematically review factors that are consistently, independently associated with employment outcomes in individuals with SCI, and to understand the magnitude of their association.

**Data Sources:** Medline/PubMed, EMBASE, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Social Science Abstracts and Social Work Abstract databases were searched on December 13, 2012.

**Study Selection:** Any studies investigating factors associated with employment outcomes following SCI were eligible for inclusion. Exclusion criteria include: (1) reviews (2) studies not published in English (3) not controlling for potential confounders through a regression analysis, or (4) not providing an effect measure in the form of odds ratio, relative risk, or hazard ratio.

**Data Extraction:** Data were categorized based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) framework, with each ICF domain sub-categorized based on modifiability. The first author, year of publication, sample size, explanatory and outcome variables, and effect measures including odds ratio, relative risk, and hazard ratios, were extracted.

**Data Synthesis:** Thirty-five studies met the inclusion criteria. Nineteen modifiable and twelve non-modifiable factors have been investigated in the context of employment among individuals with SCI. Education, vocational rehabilitation, functional independence, social support and financial disincentives are modifiable factors that are consistently, independently associated with employment outcomes.

**Conclusions:** Modifiable factors identified here present viable targets for intervention, whereas non-modifiable factors here identifying individuals who may face the most (or least) challenges in gaining employment.