

# 2022 IMPACT REPORT



**Improving the lives of people with spinal cord injury through research collaboration, capacity building, and consumer engagement.**



The Spinal Research Institute acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work, the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Cover: Professor David Berlowitz, Associate Professor Doug Brown AM, Dr Marnie Graco

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# A word from the Chair of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the Spinal Research Institute's (SRI) 2025 Impact Report. We are pleased to share the work we are doing to drive research collaboration, build capacity in the spinal cord injury (SCI) research field, and ensure the voice of lived experience is included in research to inform and enhance outcomes.

Highlights over the past year include the launch of a new iteration of SCoRH, the Spinal Cord Research Hub, improving functionality and user experience; awarding SCI Research Collaboration Grants to eight early career researchers; and the growth of the Consumer Engagement Program as we are increasingly engaged, both nationally and internationally, to advise on consumer involvement in research.

This year we farewelled **Associate Professor Doug Brown AM**, Director and Founder of the SRI, who retired after almost 40 years in the SCI field. We wish Doug all the very best in his retirement and honour his contributions to the SRI and the SCI field on the following page.

In the past 12 months, Directors **Nick Morris OAM** and **Michèle Whittle** (also Company Secretary) stepped down from the Board. We are sincerely grateful to Nick and Michèle for their contributions, and Nick continues with the SRI in an Ambassador role.

We also farewelled team members **Emma Peleg** and **Associate Professor Linda Barclay**. Our sincere thanks to Emma and Linda for their significant work and contributions to the SRI's programs.

As we said farewell we also welcomed **Cameron Brown** and **Charlie Heerey** to the Board, **Jenna Chambers** to the position of Company Secretary, and **Larnie Ball** and **Dr Glenn Cartwright** to the team.

Our work is only made possible through the loyalty and support of our donors and philanthropic partners, to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks.

We also thank and recognise the dedicated contributions of the SRI team and Board, our Patron Lady Southey AC, our Ambassadors, and Consumer Advisory Network.

Please enjoy reading this report and the impact we are creating to help improve health outcomes and quality of life for people with spinal cord injury.

**Fi Slaven, Chair & Kristine Hendry, CEO**  
Spinal Research Institute



**Back row:** Craig Macaulay, Professor Marc Ruitenberg, Michèle Whittle. **Middle row:** Fi Slaven, Frank Nigro, Deirdre Mori, Grant Norton, Kristine Hendry, Fiona Low, Emma Peleg, Associate Professor Doug Brown AM, Claire Backhouse, Dr Caroline McFarlane. **Front row:** Nick Morris OAM, Dr Mario D'Cruz, Antonio Vecchio (Photo taken at SRI Strategy Day in November 2024)



# Honouring our founder, Associate Professor Doug Brown AM

At the end of 2024, Associate Professor Doug Brown AM retired from the SRI Board.

Doug has worked in the spinal cord injury field for almost 40 years, since he was appointed as Director of the Spinal Injuries Unit at the Austin Hospital (now the Victorian Spinal Cord Service, Austin Health) in 1982. Over this time, Doug has made significant contributions to spinal cord injury treatment, care and research, both nationally and internationally.

Doug retired from the Directorship of the Victorian Spinal Cord Service in 2012, however his passion for the field of spinal cord injury continued. In 2011 Doug had co-founded the Spinal Research Institute. During Doug's 30 years of clinical care and research he recognised that research translation - from clinical trial to adoption in policy and clinical practice - was typically only achieved through multi-centre studies. Doug founded the SRI on the knowledge that collaborative research, spanning multiple centres, is necessary to bring about the translational research outcomes that will change healthcare policy and practice, and improve the health and quality of life of people with spinal cord injury.

Doug was also passionate about supporting early career researchers, to attract and retain them in the spinal cord injury field, and recognised a particular need to support those from low-resourced regions and countries. Further, Doug understood the importance of involving people with lived experience of spinal cord injury as active partners - not only as study participants - in the research process. These principles are embedded in the SRI's programs and key pillars of support today - research collaboration, early careers researchers, and consumer engagement.

In 2009 Doug received the International Spinal Cord Society Medal and in 2021 was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). These honors were in recognition of his significant service to medicine, particularly to treatment, care and research of spinal cord injuries. Doug has created an enduring legacy with the SRI, which will carry his vision and impact into the future.

You can read more about Doug's career [here](#).

Kristine Hendry, Associate Professor  
Doug Brown AM, Fi Slaven



# A word of thanks from our Patron, Lady Southe AC



Thank you for supporting the Patron's Program Future Leaders of SCI Research initiative over the last year. Our vision, when we launched this program in 2023

was to develop a cohort of dedicated early career researchers to advance the day-to-day health of young people and others living with spinal cord injury.

Your support of the program helped fund several SCI Research Collaboration Grants enabling our early career researchers to attend the 2024 International Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meeting. At the conference, they were exposed to the latest innovative health treatments in spinal cord injury. They also had the opportunity to share and promote their own studies on a global stage and build their professional networks. Helping our Future Leaders to become more engaged to contribute further to research as we have demonstrated in 2024 will, in turn, encourage other young researchers to follow and become involved in the field of spinal cord injury research.

We thank you for your support over the last two years of the Patron's Program Future Leaders initiative. Together, you have helped us inspire our Future Leaders by enabling 14 researchers to participate in this unique initiative to support their research journey. I hope you enjoy reading about our Future Leaders and their impactful research in this report.

Now in our third year of the program, we are motivated to continue to build momentum to support our early career researchers to thrive. I am proud of this exciting initiative that is building a cohort of future leaders in spinal cord injury research. This is very meaningful to me as it has the power to achieve the medical and healthcare breakthroughs of the future to change health outcomes for the many young people and others living with spinal cord injury in our community and elsewhere. It is my hope that we can continue to grow and expand this support into the future.

With sincerest thanks and deepest appreciation,

Lady Southe AC, SRI Patron



Left to right: Deirdre Mori, Lady Southe AC, Fi Slaven



# SCoRH, the Spinal Cord Research Hub

SCoRH, the Spinal Cord Research Hub, is a pioneering online platform developed by the Spinal Research Institute (SRI) to foster collaboration in spinal cord injury (SCI) research. SCoRH supports connection, resource-sharing, and innovation across disciplines and borders, providing a virtual space where researchers, clinicians, and people with lived experience of SCI can collaborate, form working groups, share knowledge, and solve challenges together.

SCoRH unites researchers, clinicians, and other professionals across the spinal cord injury continuum - from prevention to reintegration. In 2024, members brought expertise in rehabilitation medicine, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, neuroscience, public health, assistive technology, mental health and peer support, nutrition, urology, and data science. By connecting local contributors with global peers, SCoRH fosters shared learning and collaborative projects that extend far beyond national borders.

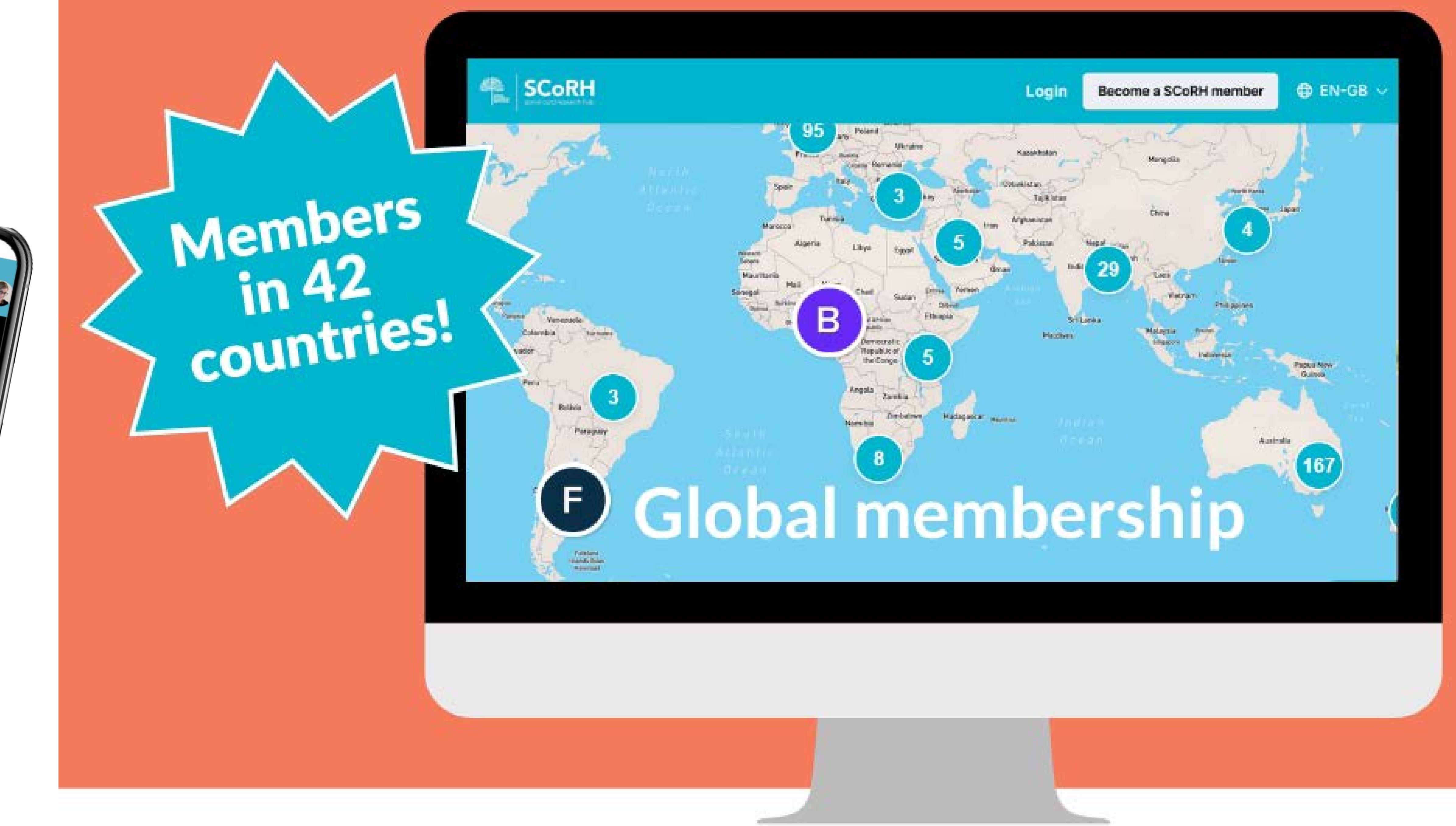
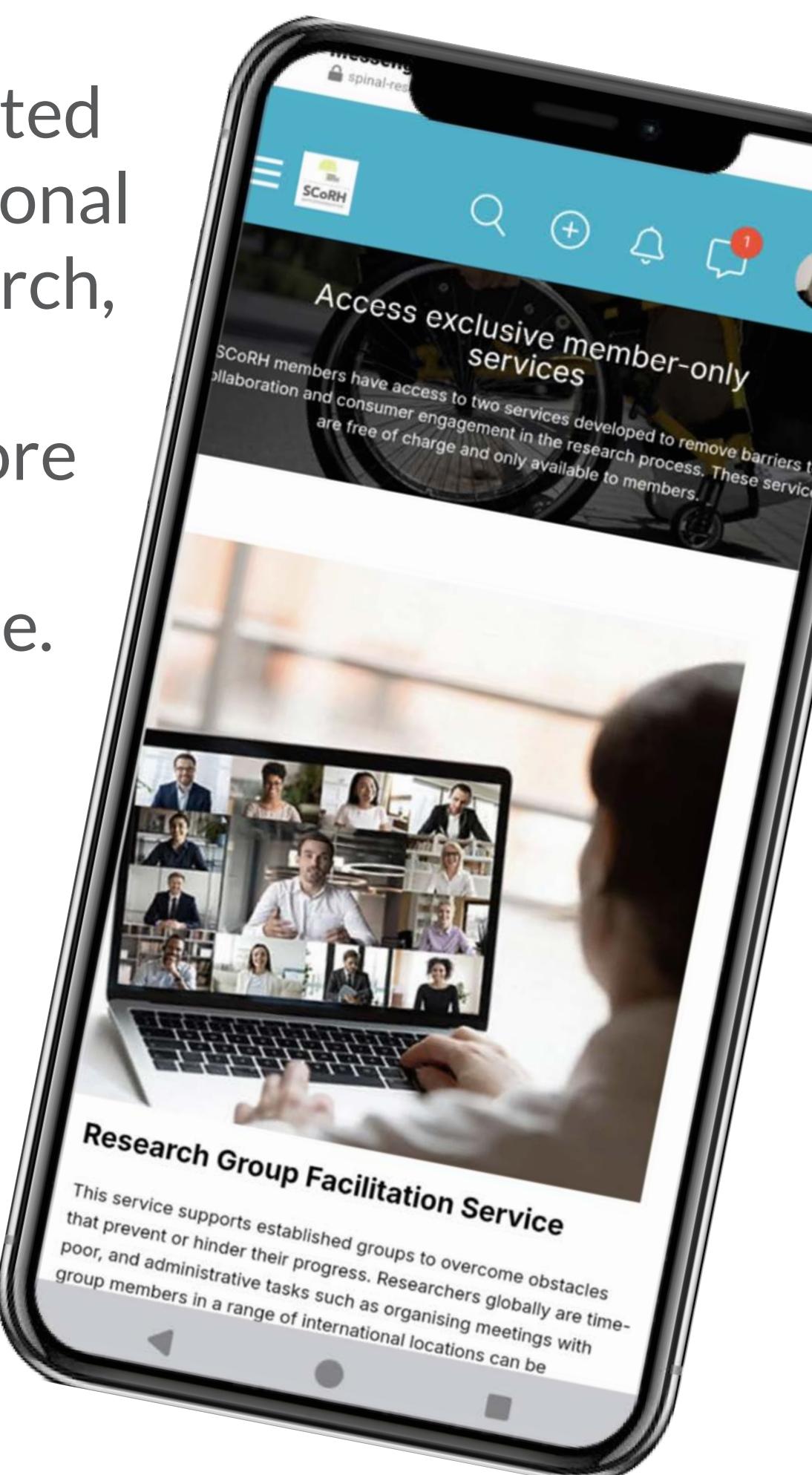
In 2024, SCoRH membership increased by 15.2%, reflecting steady growth in global interest and engagement with the platform. Also in 2024, SRI began a major upgrade of the SCoRH platform to better support its growing global community. While the first iteration of

the platform demonstrated the value of an international online hub for SCI research, the new version was designed to deliver a more dynamic, scalable, and inclusive user experience.

The transition to a new platform introduced several improvements, including

- enhanced member connection and messaging features,
- smarter group activity tracking and collaboration tools,
- simplified resource-sharing functionality,
- refreshed group dashboards for easier navigation, and
- greater flexibility for event coordination and customisation.

Implementation commenced in late 2024, with a soft launch in early 2025 and a full rollout to members completed in March. The new version of SCoRH is positioned to better support international collaboration, cross-disciplinary engagement, and meaningful involvement of people with lived experience in SCI research.



## SCoRH Online Networking Events

Three SCoRH online forums were held in 2024-25 for researchers and clinicians to connect, exchange ideas, and explore collaboration across SCI fields globally. Thirty-two participants across Australia and six other countries participated in these events.



Freemasons Foundation Victoria's support of our SCoRH program has been critical to achieving our milestones in 2024. Our sincerest thanks to the Foundation for believing in our vision to improve outcomes for people with spinal cord injury through increased collaboration on the Hub.



# Mentor program

The Spinal Research Institute's (SRI) Mentor Program continues to be a vital pathway for nurturing early-career researchers in the spinal cord injury (SCI) field, especially those working in low-resource settings. Since its pilot in 2019, and formal launch in 2021, the program has connected mentees from around the world with experienced SCI researchers to strengthen research capability, increase collaboration, and support career progression. Now in its sixth year, the program has demonstrated powerful outcomes through structured one-on-one mentoring relationships typically lasting between 12 and 24 months.

In 2025, SRI is reviewing all mentee feedback to date to further enhance the program's impact and relevance across diverse career stages and global contexts. Looking ahead, we are exploring opportunities to enhance the program's reach and value, including reviewing how the new SCoRH platform might be leveraged to support future connections.

## 2024 Program overview

The third full round of the SRI Mentor Program took place in 2024, with two mentees from South Korea and Kenya matched to two mentors from the

USA. Participants were selected from a competitive pool of early and mid-career researchers and paired with expert mentors based on shared research interests and developmental goals.

### 2024 Program highlights

#### *Dr Sungchul Huh, South Korea*

Dr Huh is a medical doctor and Director of the Spinal Cord Injury Program at Pusan National University Yangsan Hospital. With a PhD completed in 2022 and several SCI publications, Dr Huh was matched with a senior U.S.-based physician-scientist to strengthen clinical research practice and international collaboration in spinal cord medicine.

#### *Margaret Mungai, Kenya*

As Deputy Director of Nursing at Moi Teaching & Referral Hospital, Margaret focuses on the triad of skin integrity, continence, and SCI. She was matched with a U.S.-based clinician-researcher with a longstanding professional link to Africa. Their partnership is already supporting research design and implementation.

“The mentorship has been incredibly relevant. It helped me reframe how I involve consumers and align research with real-world needs.”  
Mentee

“This was a good experience. I noted the lack of resources impacting on the provision of care in various parts of the world.”  
Mentor

“The SRI Mentor Program is really a great platform for new researchers like me. I am so glad to be part of it and receive this support.”  
Mentee

“The program helped me a lot in communicating with other experts in this field and developed my perspective in the research.”  
Mentee

“This is an opportunity of immense support towards undertaking research. I was guided to focus on my research idea, write a good proposal that was approved and I’m currently collecting data. I am humbled to have had the opportunity.”  
Mentee

6

Mentor Program completions

8

countries represented

63%

mentees from low and middle income countries

100%

mentees would recommend the program

100%

reported improved research skills

40%

increase in mentees' connection to the field of SCI research

100%

reported increased confidence to progress their research



# SCI Research Collaboration Grants

Each year, the Spinal Research Institute (SRI) offers SCI Research Collaboration Grants to enable early and mid-career researchers to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS). In 2024, the meeting was held in Antwerp, Belgium, and the SRI supported eight researchers to attend. The 2024 recipients highlight the impact of their grant below.

*"This conference offered an invaluable international platform to showcase my PhD work, sparking many insightful discussions."*

**Srisankavi Sivasankar, Australia**

*"I strengthened existing connections and built new collaborations, which enriched my team's research and influenced adjustments to our next study's methodology."*

**Natalia Padua, Brazil**

*"The wide range of attendees across all medical specialties provided me with a deeper insight into the range of stakeholders involved in SCI care."*

**Ryan Dorrian, Australia**

*"I have begun sharing insights from the conference with my teammates in India, confident that they will enhance our approach to SCI treatment in India."*

**Kanishka Gambhir, India**

*"The knowledge gained about emerging practices in SCI care will directly inform my efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals with SCI."*

**Laura Stendell, Australia**

*"The knowledge gained from ISCoS is shaping my approach to improving SCI health outcomes, as I integrate novel insights into ongoing projects."*

**Maria Ribeiro-Cunha, Portugal**

*"I have already started incorporating knowledge gained from the ISCoS conference in the development of a resilience intervention."*

**Angela Hanks Philippus, USA**

*"Learning about global advancements in SCI research has been inspiring and will contribute to my work on spinal cord graft development."*

**Leena R Chaudhari, India**

## SCI Research Collaboration Grant statistics

**106**

total number of grants awarded since 2016

**46**

recipients from low and middle income countries

**64**

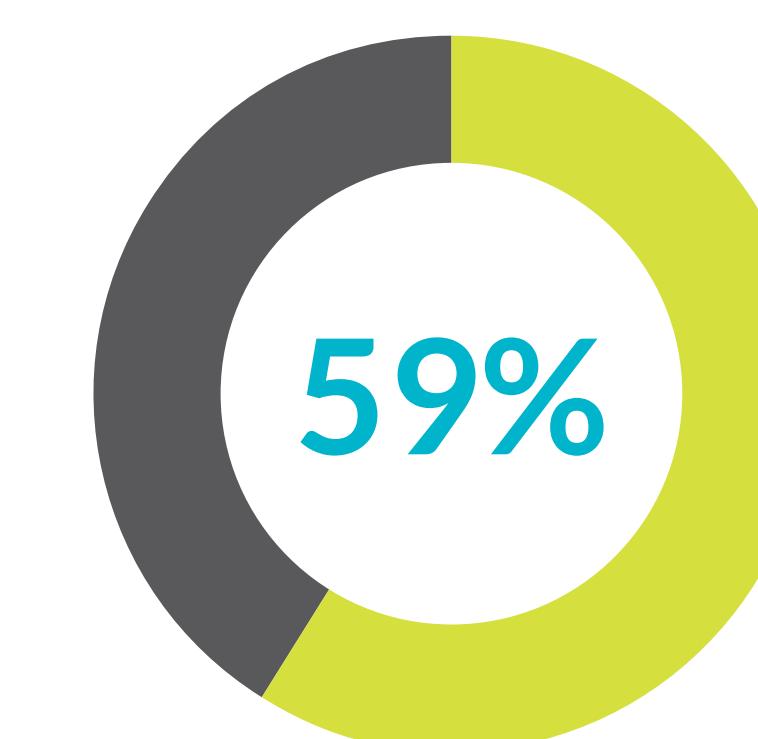
grants awarded to women since 2016

**26**

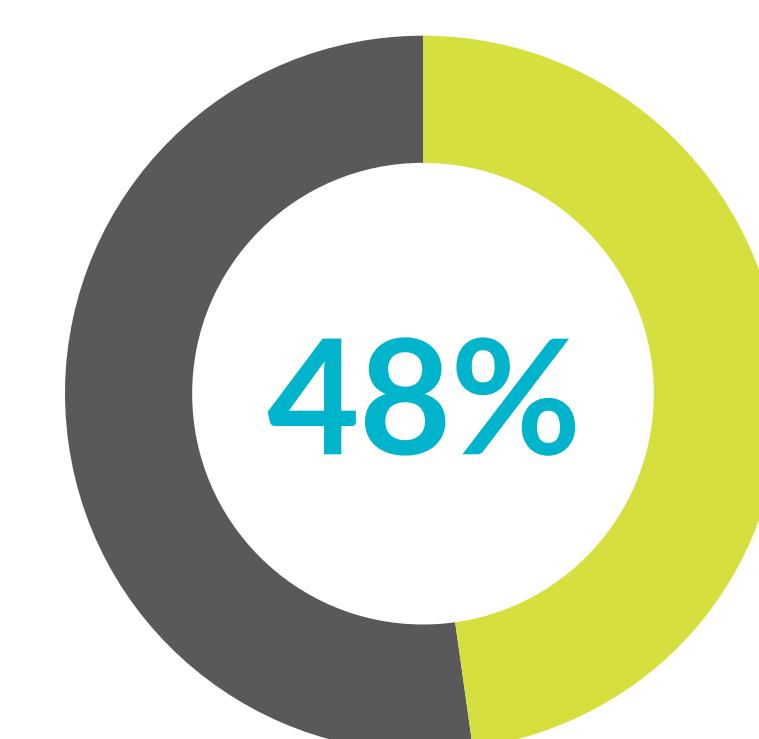
countries represented

Each year, the SRI seeks longer-term impact feedback via a survey sent to grant recipients three years after they received the grant. This report combines survey findings from grant recipients in 2016 through to 2022.

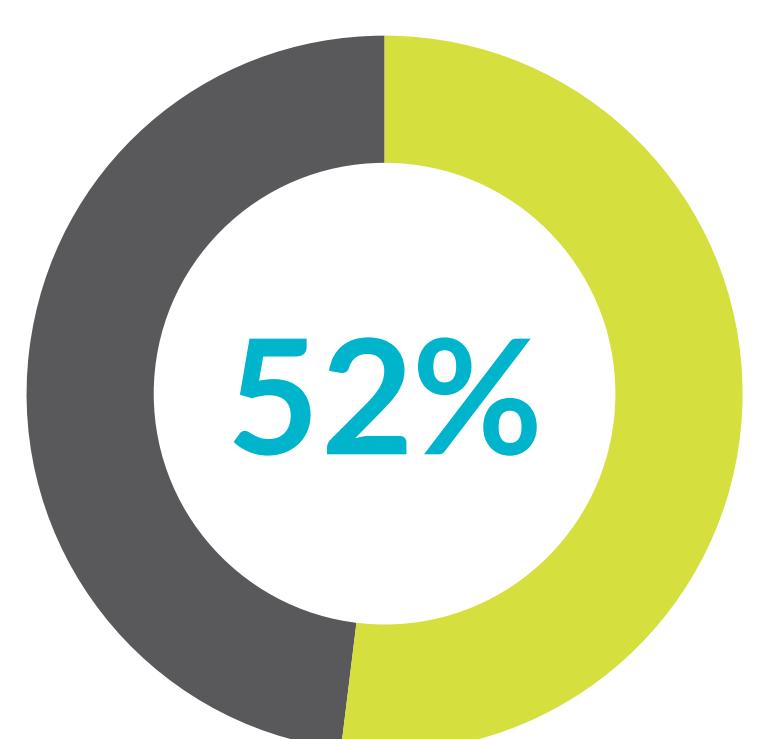
Survey respondents described how the opportunity enabled them to make new connections in other countries and within their own disciplines, generate new research ideas and directions, and form collaborative relationships.



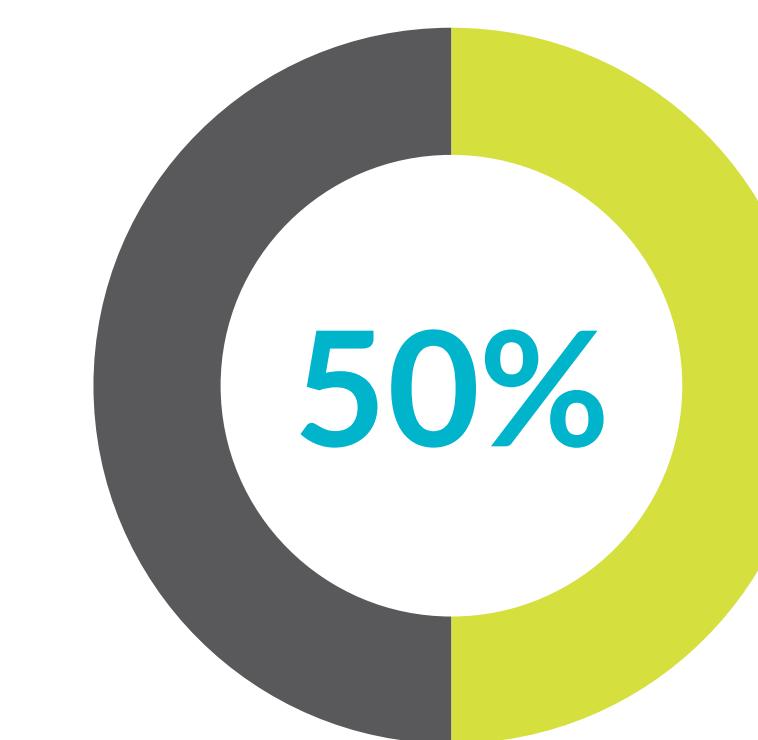
have progressed a research or project idea initiated at the ISCoS conference



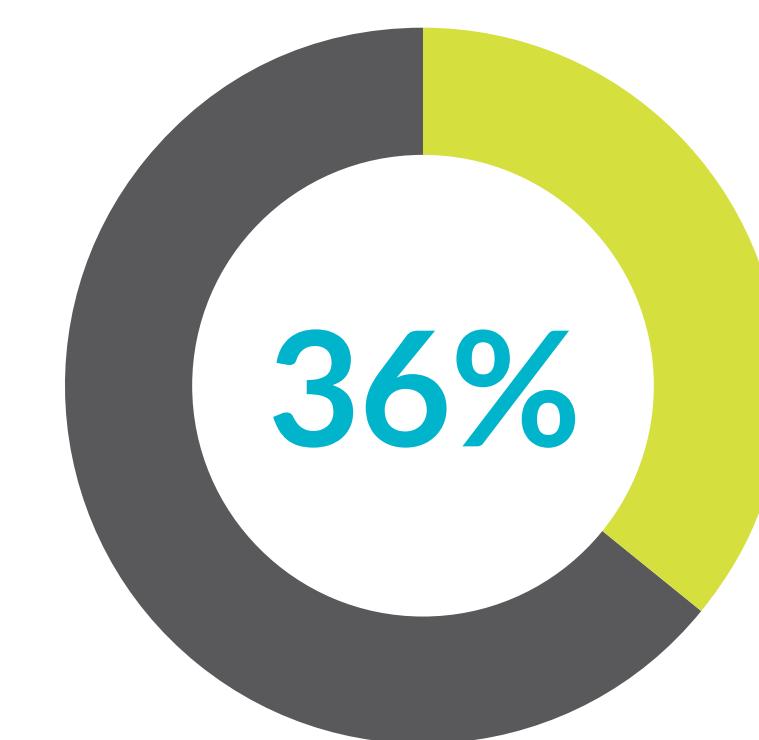
have applied skills and information they learned at the conference into their clinical practice



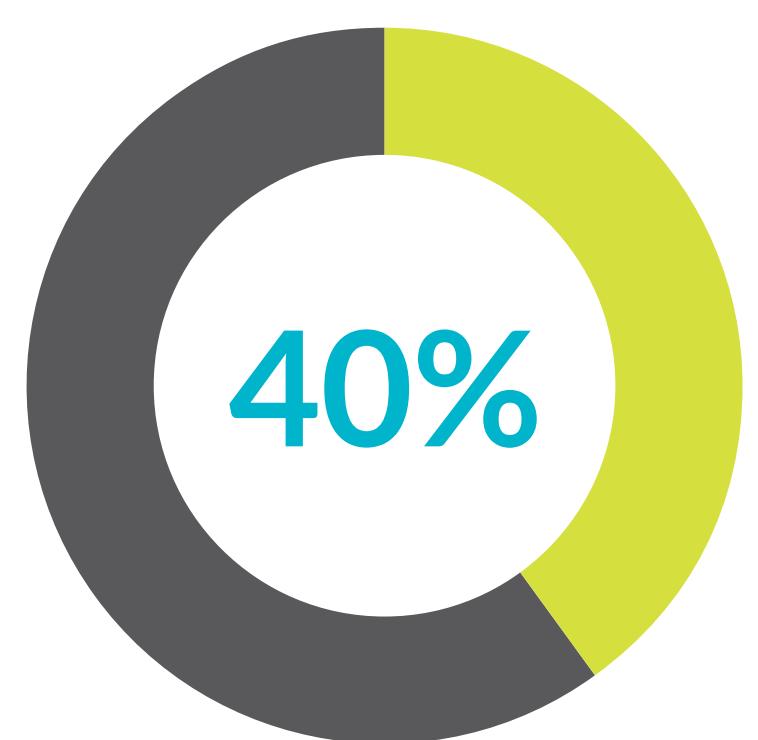
said their research has gained wider exposure as a result of conference attendance



formed collaborative relationships at the ISCoS conference



have been involved in collaborative research with people that they met at the conference



made 3-5 new networking connections at the conference and 20% made 6-10 new connections

The SCI Research Collaboration Grants program is supported by the Patron's Program for Future Leaders of SCI Research initiative.



# Consumer Engagement Program

The consumer engagement program is strengthening its impact in Australia and internationally by ensuring people with lived experience are central to spinal cord injury research. Through education, awareness, and collaboration, the program is changing how research is designed, delivered, and shared.

In Victoria, the program has deepened its partnership with the Victorian Spinal Cord Service through **regular education sessions for inpatients and families**. These sessions, supported by one-on-one discussions and involvement in the **What's Out There Days** and **Topic of the Week presentations** at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre, have given individuals the confidence to engage with research and see themselves as active contributors rather than passive participants.

The program has also expanded professional development opportunities. **Peer volunteers at AQA Victoria** have been supported to interpret and share knowledge about the research environment with their communities, thereby extending the program's impact through peer-to-peer networks. **Nursing staff and allied health researchers at Austin Health** have gained practical insights into consumer perspectives, helping embed lived experience into both patient care and research practice.

A major part of the impact continues to be **collaboration with researchers through consultation, and participation in research project steering committees**. The program has also helped researchers **connect with participants more effectively**. Through our newsletter and social media channels, the program supports researchers to promote their studies to recruit participants, to help ensure the studies are successful.

**Internationally, the program's influence continues to grow**, having presented on consumer engagement at both the Australian and New Zealand Spinal Cord Society and the International Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meetings, contributing to professional and scientific dialogue at the highest levels. An invitation to co-present a workshop for the German Medical Society for Paraplegia highlights the program's growing authority and creates new opportunities to extend the reach of lived experience in shaping global research practice.

We could not have achieved this impact without the vital support of The Brian M. Davis Charitable Foundation, The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust, and The William Angliss Charitable Fund.

## Expanding engagement with consumers and researchers in 2024-25

**20**

1:1 discussions with SCI inpatients & family members

**11**

research projects about consumer engagement

**3**

world-leading research projects

**30+**

peer support professionals



Education for nurses, allied health clinicians & pre-clinical researchers

**8**

'Topic of the Week' sessions at Royal Talbot

**10**

national & international organisations about co-design

**13**

research projects promoted to support participant recruitment



# SCI Research Writing Prize: Why Research Matters

The Spinal Research Institute's (SRI) Spinal Cord Injury Research Writing Prize asks entrants to write about their research in a compelling and creative way that will appeal to, and be easily understood by, a broad-ranging, non-scientific audience. Shortlisted entries are published in an annual anthology called *Why Research Matters*.

The 2024 entries from Australia and five other countries covered topics ranging from urological outcomes in India, to balance training using virtual reality, to the surprising and increasing choice for colostomy following SCI. The written pieces showcased the wide range of current research in the SCI field.

To increase the impact for emerging researchers, all those who had their writing published in *Why Research Matters* also received as part of their prize a place in a workshop called *Creating, Capturing and Communicating Research Impact*. This online workshop is facilitated by the highly regarded Australian course provider Research Impact Academy and explores and teaches the skills of research translation and impact communication.

5  
number of years the SCI Research Writing Prize has been held

56  
total number of authors published in *Why Research Matters*

11  
average number of written pieces published each year

19  
countries represented across the five publications

21%  
authors in Australia

7  
low and middle income countries represented

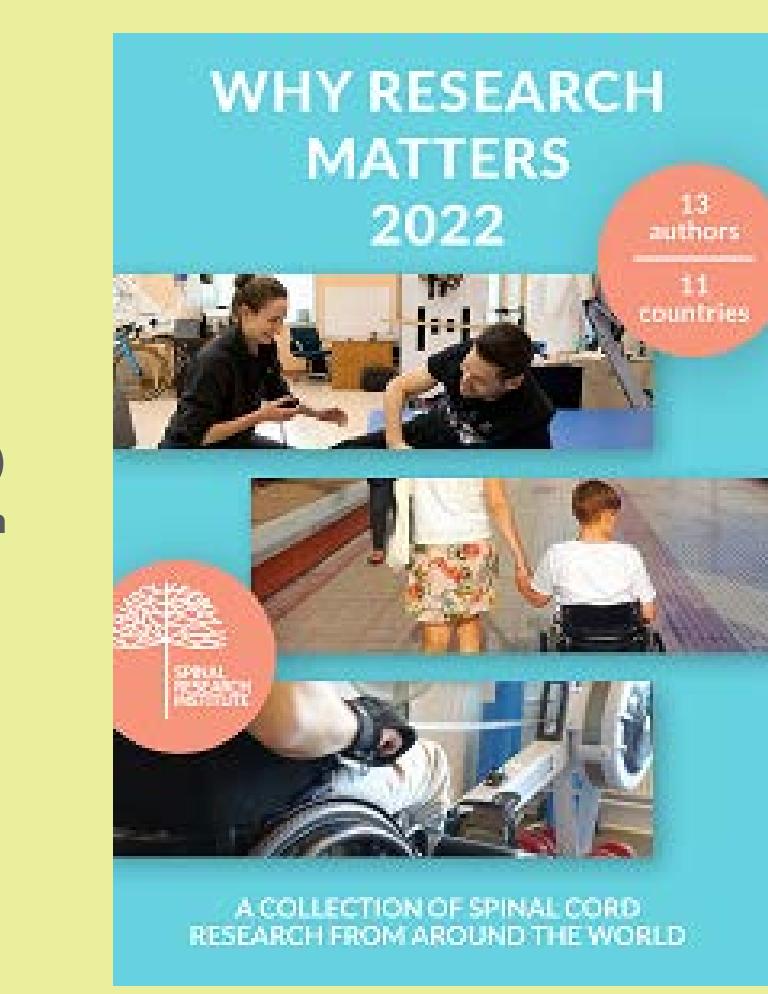
2020



2021



2022



2023



# WHY RESEARCH MATTERS 2024



SPINAL CORD RESEARCH FROM AROUND THE WORLD



# Spreading the word

## International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) partnership

Since 2021, the Spinal Research Institute (SRI) has partnered with the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS). This partnership enables streamlined facilitation of the SCI Research Collaboration Grants, cross-promotion of a range of activities, and sharing of resources relating to spinal cord injury research. Partnering with ISCoS provides an opportunity to add more value to the conference experience for our SCI Research Collaboration Grant recipients.



## Conferences

The SRI presented at four conferences in 2024:

- International Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meeting - a workshop, an instructional course, and four posters
- Australia and New Zealand Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meeting - a workshop, an oral presentation, and a poster
- Australasian Neurotrauma Symposium - an oral presentation
- Austin Health ResearchFest - one poster

## World SCI Day Chemist Warehouse partnership

To coincide with World SCI Day on 5 September 2024, the SRI partnered with Chemist Warehouse to include a piece in the printed in-store publication *Wellness+*. The piece featured Georgina Fiorentino, a person with lived experience of spinal cord injury, and Dr Gillean Hilton, 2017 recipient of the SCI Research Collaboration Grant and SRI Ambassador. Paralympian and SRI Board Director Nick Morris OAM was also interviewed on *Wellness* radio to mark World SCI Day. [Listen to the interview](#) (5 mins).



## Social media

The SRI is active across LinkedIn, Facebook and X, and regularly runs campaigns that have achieved strong engagement. There has been continued growth over the past year and our increased presence has been beneficial in

- contributing to a higher number of quality applications for our programs,
- gaining more exposure for researchers participating in our programs,
- increasing the number of submissions to our research promotion program,
- increasing the SRI's visibility through partnerships with ISCoS and ANZSCoS, and
- improving brand recognition and awareness for the SRI.

## Plexus newsletter

Plexus is the Spinal Research Institute's (SRI) quarterly newsletter. It has a subscription list that includes researchers, clinicians, people with lived experience of spinal cord injury, our supporters, and interested members of the public. In this newsletter, we provide updates about our programs, share success stories, and share studies and projects that are currently recruiting participants.

## Social media

**15%**

### Newsletter subscription

Newsletter subscription grew by 17% across the SRI's three mailing lists.

**17%**

### Conference presentations

The SRI presented 11 times across four conferences.

**11**

### ISCoS partnership

The SRI has partnered with ISCoS since 2021, or four years.

**4 years**



# Team and Board

The Spinal Research Institute team members (below) and Board (right). To view the individual profile for each team and Board member, please visit the [Spinal Research Institute's website](#).



**Kristine Hendry**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Deirdre Mori**  
Development Manager



**Larnie Ball**  
International Research Collaborations Manager



**Fiona Low**  
Office Administrator and Program Support



**Dr Glenn Cartwright**  
Research Program Officer



**Antonio Vecchio**  
Community and Consumer Engagement Manager



**Claire Backhouse**  
Marketing and Communications Manager



**Fi Slaven**  
Director & Chair



**Jenna Chambers**  
Company Secretary



**Cameron Brown**  
Director



**Dr Mario D'Cruz**  
Director



**Craig Macaulay**  
Director



**Charlie Heerey**  
Director



**Grant Norton**  
Director



**Professor Marc Ruitenberg**  
Director



**Dr Caroline McFarlane**  
Director



**Frank Nigro**  
Director



# Ambassadors

The Spinal Research Institute (SRI) is fortunate to work with a group of Ambassadors who champion our cause in the spinal cord injury community and beyond. Being able to draw on the diverse and rich lived experiences of our Ambassadors, in a range of settings, has enabled us to talk about the impact of our work in meaningful ways.

The SRI thanks all of our Ambassadors for the work they have done in promoting our work and raising awareness of the importance of collaboration and consumer engagement in research.



Jason Ellery



Dr Mario D'Cruz



Dr Gillean Hilton



Max Di Paolo



Stefania Di Paolo



Marc Brew



Nick Morris OAM



Lachie O'Brien



Martin Heng



Christine Tripp



Dr Leanne Rees



Ben Gruter



Campbell Message

## Consumer Advisory Network

The Spinal Research Institute's (SRI) Consumer Advisory Network was established to inform and help shape our Consumer Engagement Program. It plays an important role in identifying key research knowledge gaps, helping us to improve our education and awareness resources. The Network also plays an important role in the evaluation of our Consumer Engagement Program to ensure that it meets the needs and priorities of the spinal cord injury community.

We are grateful to have a Consumer Advisory Network that is engaged, diverse and committed to improving levels of consumer engagement in research.



# Acknowledgements

The Spinal Research Institute (SRI) relies on external expertise to ensure our program selection processes are robust and transparent. We would like to thank all of our reviewers and judges for their generosity in providing their time, guidance and knowledge. We would also like to thank the researchers who have shared their experience and insight as mentors in the Mentor Program.

## SCI Research Collaboration Grants reviewers

- Dr Andrei Krassioukov, University of British Columbia, Canada
- Mr Campbell Message PLY, Paralympics Australia, Australia
- Dr Colleen O'Connell, Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation, Canada

## Mentor Program mentors

- Dr Marnie Graco, Austin Health, Australia
- Professor Graham Creasey, Stanford University, USA
- Dr Priya Iyer, University of Sydney, Australia
- Dr Steven Kirshblum, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, USA

## SCI Research Writing Prize judges

- Dr Johnny Bourke, The University of Sydney, Australia (pictured right)
- Ms Brooke Wadsworth, Queensland Health, Australia

## We also thank

- Mrs Susan Morgan OAM for her support of the SCI Research Writing Prize
- Ms Georgina Fiorentino for featuring in the SRI's World SCI Day 2024 campaign
- Allens Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys for the generous pro bono assistance they provided to the SRI this year.



Dr Johnny Bourke was a member of the 2024 judging panel for the SCI Research Writing Prize.



# Celebrating the vision of our donors and supporters

Our philanthropic success in 2024/25 was a collective effort. It demonstrates the shared vision of our philanthropic partners who recognise the need to support the three pillars of our work: collaborative research, consumer engagement, and support of our early career researchers.

Our Patron, Lady Southey AC, played an important role in providing inspirational philanthropic leadership through her generous giving, advocacy work and commitment to the Future Leaders initiative so that generations of future leaders in spinal cord injury research may thrive.

The SRI's Strategy and Revenue Committee, chaired by Director Grant Norton, has also played a supportive role by facilitating introductions across their networks. Supported by the SRI Chair and Board, their efforts throughout the year were deeply appreciated.

Our programs are all focused on the ultimate beneficiaries of our work, the spinal cord injury community, and the pressing need to improve treatment and care so that community members may experience

improved quality of life. These programs are made possible by our inspired and passionate supporters and individual donors, enabling us to achieve ever greater program outcomes and impact. Once again, it has been a pleasure and privilege to work with you throughout 2024/25.

Sincerest thanks,  
Deirdre Mori, Development Manager

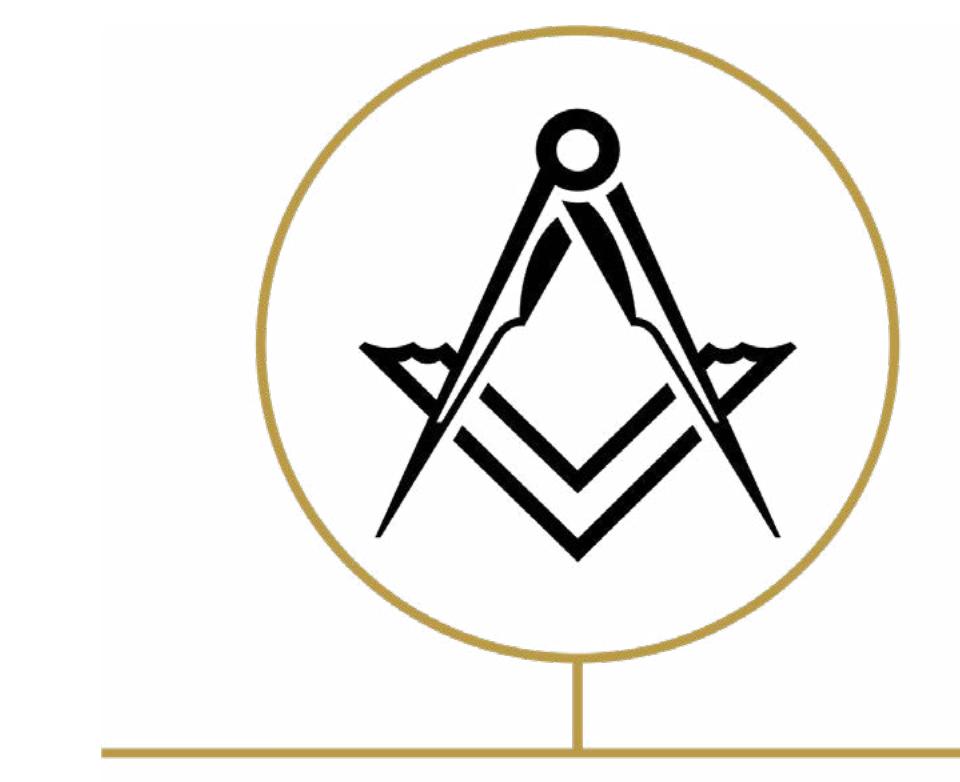
The SRI is an Australian Registered Charity.

[Donate](#)

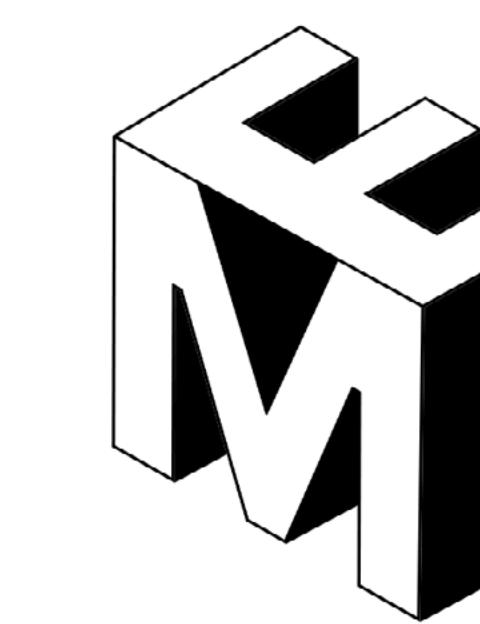


REGISTERED CHARITY  
acnc.gov.au/charityregister

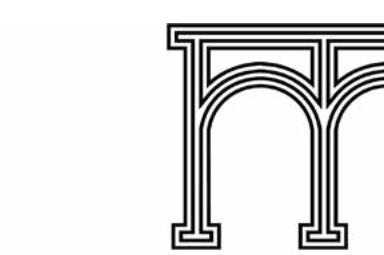
The  
Shine On  
Foundation



**Freemasons**  
Foundation Victoria



**The Marian &  
E.H. Flack Trust**



**MUTUAL TRUST**



Rotary Club of  
Brunswick-Tullamarine  
Rotary Club of Kew

**Austin**  
HEALTH



**ARCHITECTURE & ACCESS**  
Creating environments, transforming lives.

**BORDO**  
INDUSTRIAL TOOLS

**Brian M.  
Davis**  
Charitable  
Foundation



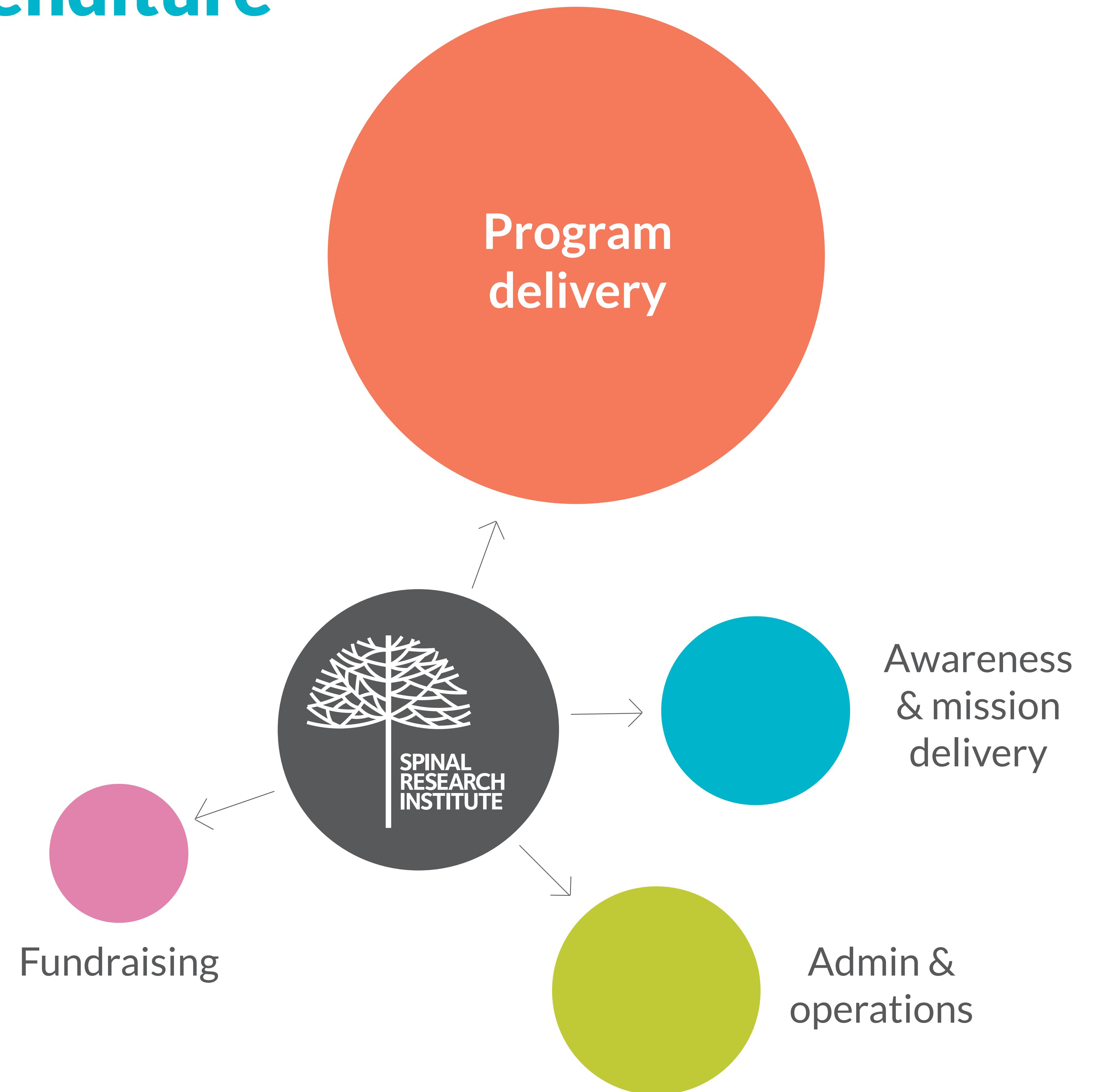
**THE MYER  
FOUNDATION**



## Funding sources



## Expenditure



This information is based on figures from the 2024 financial year.

Our financial reports can be found on the [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission website](#).



# Where to next?

While this report has focused on the recent achievements and impact of the Spinal Research Institute (SRI) there are also many exciting things planned for the coming year.

In October, members of the SRI team travelled to Gothenburg, Sweden, to attend the 64th International Spinal Cord Society Annual Scientific Meeting. The team presented posters and workshops, met with the eleven recipients of the 2025 SCI Research Collaboration Grants (who you will meet in next year's Impact Report), established new relationships, and reconnected with international colleagues.

In addition to our continued support for early career researchers through our SCI Research Collaboration Grants and Mentor Program, in October we launched a new grant to support an Australian-based student undertaking PhD research within the spinal cord injury field. We look forward to profiling the successful recipient in the 2026 Impact Report.

Following the redevelopment of SCoRH, the Spinal Cord Research Hub, early this year, we are excited to see our members engaging on the new platform. We have enhanced existing SCoRH components and introduced new features, providing researchers and clinicians

working in the field of SCI even greater opportunities to connect and collaborate with colleagues around the world.

With increasing demand for consumer engagement in research, we are looking forward to helping more researchers embed co-design principles into their research projects, and to partner on projects in a consumer advisory capacity. As we grow our database of consumers who have an interest in participating and partnering in research, we will develop additional resources to support them in these roles.

Year on year we are increasing our impact, helping us achieve our goal of improving health outcomes and quality of life for people with spinal cord injury.

If you want to hear about these developments as they happen, follow us on social media or subscribe to our Plexus mailing list.

# Stay in touch

## Contact details

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