# WELCOME

September 3-6, 2023

RIDING THE WAVES OF Excellence in SCI Care

# Telerehabilitation: Bringing Care for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury

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## DISCLOSURE

- Drs. Shem and Held's work was supported with the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) Award No. W81XWH-18-1-0254 as part of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program through the Department of Defense The contents of Shelley Wood's presentation were developed under a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant number 90SIMS0006). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this presentation do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, ACL, HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.
- Dr. Ifon's work is supported by the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development (RRD) under career development award (CDA-1), and her protocol is registered in ClinicalTrials.gov: No. NCT05008484.
- All presenters have no disclosures from any ineligible companies or other interests



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

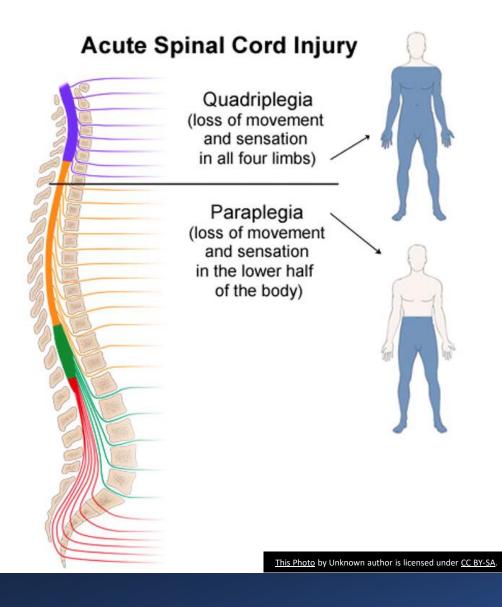
At the conclusion of this presentation, the learner will be able to:

- 1. Define telerehabilitation
- 2. Better understand criteria to establishing a telerehabilitation need
- 3. Describe the benefits and challenges of telerehabilitation
- 4. Identify safety considerations in telerehabilitation settings



### Telerehabilitation: Bringing Care to Persons with Spinal Cord Injury

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## Brief Overview of Telerehabilitation

#### Definitions

#### Rehabilitation

"A set of interventions designed to optimize functioning and reduce disability in individuals with health conditions in interaction with their environment" (WHO, 2023)

About 2.4 billion people worldwide currently have rehabilitation needs; number expected to grow (WHO, 2023)

#### Telerehabilitation

Delivering rehabilitation services to an individual at a distance from a Provider using various technological tools

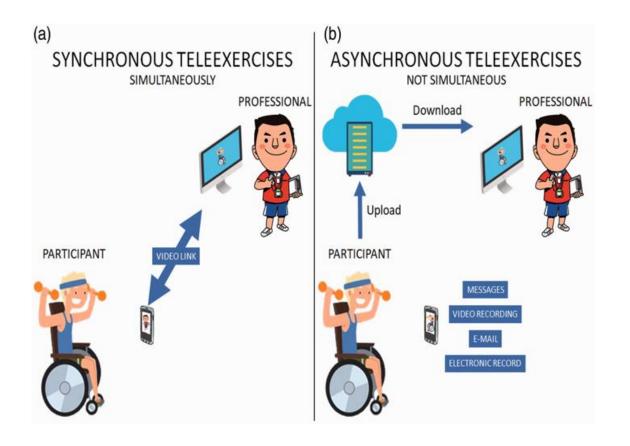
#### Brief history

Offshoot of Telemedicine; First recognized in 1959 (McCue et al., 2009) National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) funded the first Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers on Telerehabilitation in the late 1990s Burgeon during the COVID-19 pandemic (study found 93.5% of users felt it was convenient (Buabbas et al., 2022; )

#### Models of Telerehabilitation

Synchronous vs. asynchronous Mobile Apps Remote monitoring

### Models of Telerehabilitation



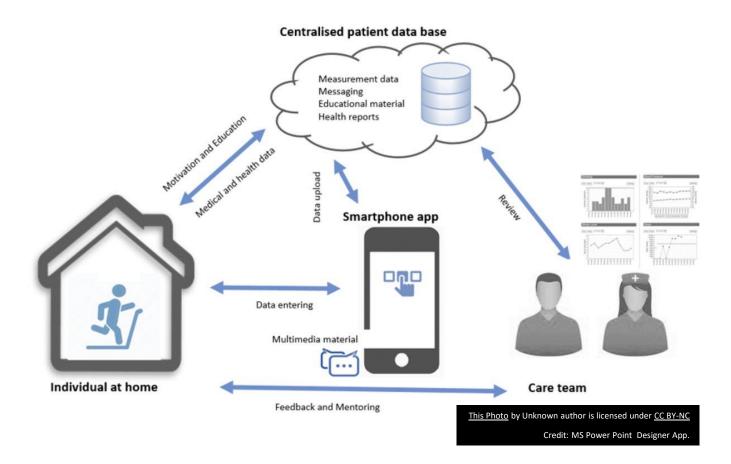
Synchronous - access happens in Real time

Asynchronous - recipient controls access (self-paced)

Wearables sensors (Cooper et al. 2001)

Mobile Apps

## Setting up a Telerehabilitation Program



- Establish a need
- Acquire Equipment
- Establish protocols
- Train Staff
- Evaluate and modify process
- Introduce concept to patient/caregiver
- Equipment acquisition or provision (patient/caregiver)
- Patient establishes account
- Patient/caregiver training/set-up
- Schedule appointment with provider

### Telehabilitation: Role in Research (Teleresearch) Current Application

#### ClinicalTrial.gov Registration

Notice to API users: Read about imminent changes impacting usage of the	ClinicalTrials.gov API				
NIH) U.S. National Library of Medicine ClinicalTrials.gov	Find Studies 🔻	About Studies 🔻	Submit Studies 🔻	Resources 🔻	About Site 🔻
Home > Search Results > Study Record Detail					

Effects of Electrical Stimulation and Vitamin D Supplementation on Bone Health Following Spinal Cord Injury.

The safety and scientific validity of this study is the responsibility of the study sponsor and investigators. Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. Know the risks and potential benefits of clinical studies and talk to your health care provider before participating. Read our disclaimer for details.

#### Sponsor:

VA Office of Research and Development

#### Collaborators:

Virginia Commonwealth University NYU Langone Health https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT05008484

#### Information provided by (Responsible Party):

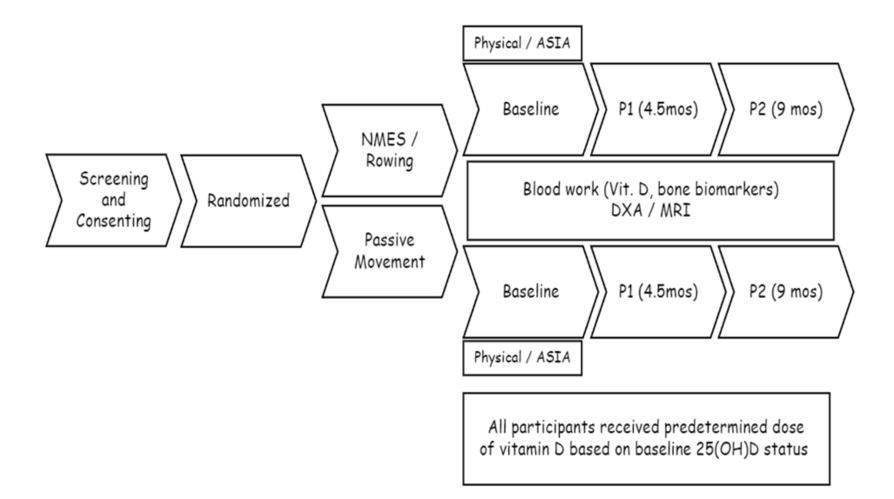
VA Office of Research and Development

#### Study Objective

Aims to determine the impact of homebased Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation-Resistant Training (NMES-RT) plus Vitamin D Supplementation compared to passive movement plus Vitamin D on bone microarchitectural properties in persons with SCI.

Hypothesis: NMES-RT + Vit. D will result in improved trabecular bone parameters in persons with chronic SCI.

### Study Design/Protocol



### Participants' Demographic Characteristics

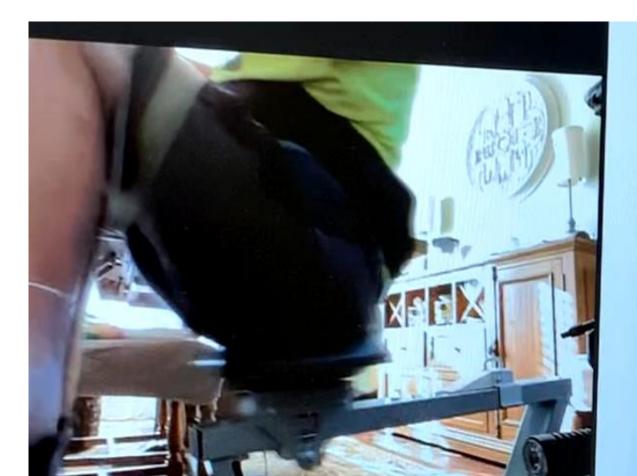
	Intervention Group NMES/Rowing (n = 4)	Control Group Passive Movement (n= 2)
Age (years)	46.8 ± 15.9	42.5 ± 20.5
Height (cm)	178.2 ± 10.7	172.7 ± 1.8
Weight (kg)	84.2 ± 10.5	94.8 ± 11.0
Gender (male, female), n	4/0	2/0
Race/ethnicity (Caucasian/AA)	1/3	1/1
Injury characteristics (paraplegia/Tetraplegia), n	3/1	2/0
ISNCSCI classification (A/B/), n	3/1	1/1
Time since injury (years)	16.5 ± 11.4	4.1 ± 4.1
BMI (kg/m²)	27.0 ± 6.1	30.4 ± 5.8

### Teleresearch: NMES/Rowing Exercise Training

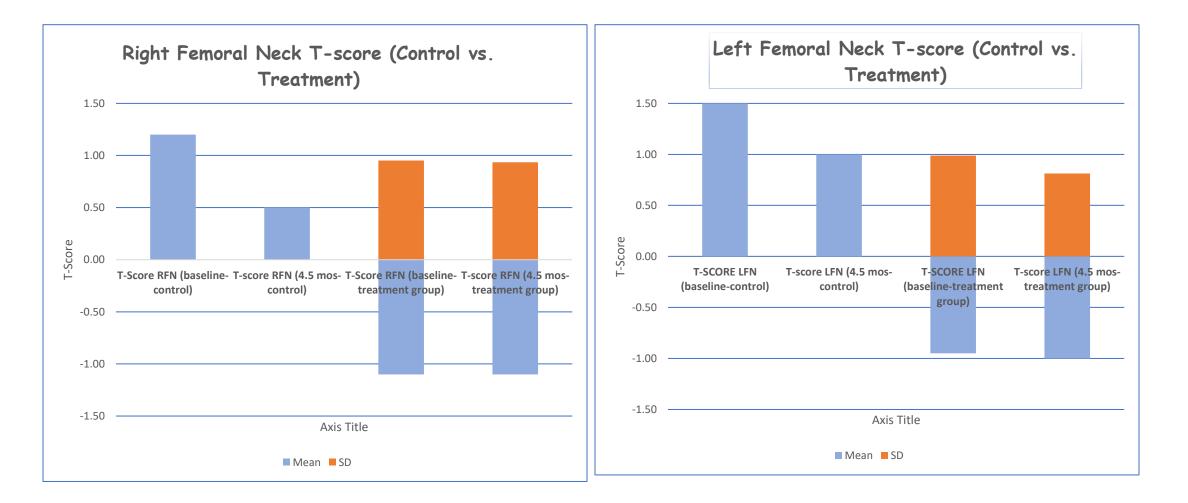
NMES with ankle weight training in a T4 AIS A



NMES with Rowing in a T4 AIS A



### NMES/Rowing vs. Passive Exercise: Preliminary Data



### Potential Benefits: Feedback From Study Participant.

- "The Title of the study was, "The Effects of Electrical Stimulation and Vitamin D Supplementation on Bone Health Following Spinal Cord Injury." Overall, I really enjoyed the study and felt it was beneficial to not only my physical health but my mental health as well."
- "Using the NMES and the rowing machine brought about improvement in my strength and conditioning. Also, after using the rowing machine, there was a noticeable improvement in my flexibility and balance."
- "Having to maintain a weekly dietary record, placed a spotlight on my nutrition and helped me make changes in my diet. I lost about twenty pounds during the study."
- "One of the best benefits of the entire study was I was able to do the exercise at home while the research study team monitored my movements via video conference. This was great because the training was scheduled according to my availability."

## Potential Challenges and Barriers





Getting key stakeholders to accept the concept

Lack of skilled professionals

State restrictions

Private insurance not always available

#### **Remote access**

Internet connectivity in remote areas

Upfront costs to users (smartphone, data fee, internet service-VA provides to eligible Veterans)

### Summary

Telerehabilitation is a process of delivering rehabilitation services

Can use multiple modalities

Convenient and time-saving

Lack of skilled providers and internet connectivity in remote areas are some of the challenges

Teleresearh is an emerging concept; can encourage individuals with mobility challenges to participate in research

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### Acknowledgements

- VA Office of Rehabilitation Research and Development for CDA-1 grant award
- Ashraf Gorgey, Ph.D., Director of Research, SCI&D Service, CVHCS, Richmond, VA (primary mentor).
- Timothy Lavis, MD, Chief, SCI&D Service, CVHCS, Richmond VA (secondary mentor).
- Teodoro Castillo, MD, Associate Chief, SCI&D service, Program Lead. VA SCI Telehealth Hub and Spokes Network, CVHC, (consultant).
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Telepsychology-Intervention for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury and Depression

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## Depression

- In the general population:
  - Twelve-month prevalence is estimated at 7% (American Psychiatric Association, 2013)
- In spinal cord injuries patients:
  - 22.2% prevalence estimate in a meta-analysis of 19 studies [95% Cl, 18.7%-26.3% (Williams & Murray 2015)]
    - One limitation noted was that time since injury was not reported in all the studies
  - 11.9% prevalence 1-year post-injury (Arango-Lasprilla et al., 2011)
  - 9.7% prevalence 5-year post-injury (Arango-Lasprilla et al., 2011)



## **Standard Treatment Options For Depression**

- Psychotherapy (Cuijpers, Berking, et al., 2013; Cuijpers, Sijbrandij, et al., 2013; Ekers, Richards, & Gilbody,2008; Malouff, Thorsteinsson, & Schutte, 2007)
- Pharmacological Options (Arroll et al., 2005; Cipriani et al., 2009; Thase, Trivedi, & Rush, 1995)
- Over the Counter (Linde et al. 1996)
- Peer Support (Pfeiffer, et al., 2011)
- Self-Help for subthreshold depressive symptoms (Morgan & Jorm, 2008)
- Transcranial magnetic stimulation (Holtzheimer, Russo, & Avery, 2001)
- Electroconvulsive therapy (Pagnin, de Queiroz, Pini, & Cassano, 2004)



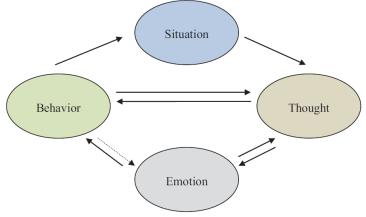
# Telepsychology

Telepsychology is defined as:

# Psychological services delivered by real-time videoconferencing



# **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)**



- Structured each sessions has an agenda and format
  - Emphasizes collaboration and active participation
- Time-limited set a certain amount of time to work through concerns
- Present-focused and goal-oriented
- Designed to develop strategies to uncover, evaluate, and modify:
  - Dysfunctional or unrealistic thinking patterns or cognitions (C)
  - Maladaptive behaviors (B)
- Aims to reduce relapse of symptoms

(Beck, 1995; Wenzel, Brown, & Karlin, 2011)



# **Telepsychology Study**

- Single center, single blinded, controlled, randomized, and intention to treat study
- Individuals with SCI and depressive symptoms as measured by the PHQ-9
- Assigned to an intervention group (target enrollment N=37) or usual care control group (target enrollment N=37) using computer-generated permuted randomized block design protocol
- Subjects assigned to the intervention group receive an iPad and four months cellular data plan upon discharge from the acute inpatient program. Control participants receive an iPad at 24 weeks post-baseline
- Outcome measures are conducted at 2 weeks post-discharge, 12 weeks post-baseline, and 24 weeks post-baseline
- Follow-up resource utilization is collected monthly (i.e. includes PHQ-9)
- The intervention group receive 10 CBT sessions over 12 weeks via Apple's FaceTime application
- "Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression in Veterans and Military Servicemembers: Therapist Manual" (Wenzel, Brown, & Karlin, 2011)



#### Telepsychology Intervention for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury and Depressive Symptoms Study at SCVMC

- Hypothesis:
  - Individuals receiving CBT will have reduced depressive symptoms (as measured by the PHQ-9), reduced anxiety symptoms (as measured by the GAD-7), and increased quality of life (as measured by Satisfaction with Life Scale) at 12- and 24-weeks post-baseline compared to individuals receiving usual care
- Main Objective:
  - Reduce depressive symptoms, decrease associated symptoms of anxiety, and to improve satisfaction with life with CBT provided via iPad
- Secondary Objective:
  - Demonstrate efficacy of telepsychology in persons with SCI with depressive symptoms



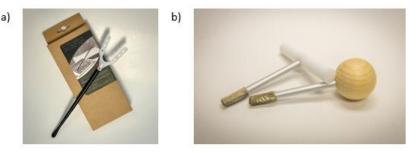
# **Potential Barriers to Telepsychology**

- Upper limb impairment impacting use of technology
- Low technology literacy or comfort
- Structural / environmental barriers
  - Lack of adaptive equipment
  - Caregiver support
  - Poor broadband infrastructure (Touchett et. al., 2022)



### **Reducing Potential Barriers**

- Connecting with a caregiver or contact
- Research assistant reviews the technology and adaptive equipment
- Participant is provided with needed adaptive equipment and/or referral to an Occupational Therapist (OT)
  - 8 participants have received an OT referral





- a) Telescoping mouthstick stylus
- b) Balltop and t-shaped hand styli
- c) Capacitive stylus
- d) U-cuff with detachable stylus
- e) iPad/tablet mounting system



# **Risk of Suicide**

Crude Annual Mortality Rate of Suicide within SCI population:

- 1973 1979: 91 per 100,000 persons
- 1980—1989: 69 per 100,000 persons
- 1990—1999: 46 per 100,000 persons
  - Decreased over the cohorts but is still 3 times higher than

the general population (Cao et al., 2014)



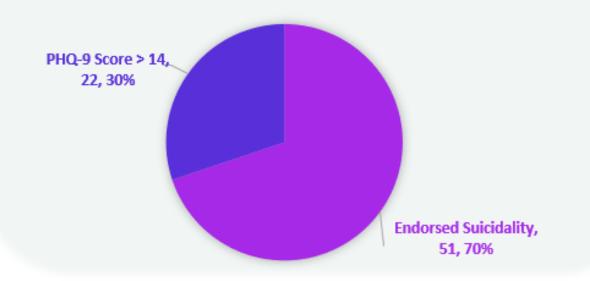
# Safety

- Initial screening phase
  - PHQ-9
  - Potential Risk Assessment
- Research Informed Consent and Intervention Informed Consent
  - Emergency Contact
  - Wellness Check

#### SCREENING PHASE

- 2 excluded from full study enrollment for endorsing suicidality
- 73 Risk Assessments completed

#### REASONS FOR RISK ASSESSMENT





# Safety

- Psychologist provides each participant with tailored written and verbal safety information
- Each session the psychologist verifies:
  - The participant's address
  - The participant's contact information
  - The participant's emergency contact
  - Emergency resources
    - National Hotline: 9-8-8
    - Santa Clara County Hotline: 1-855-278-4204.
    - Emergency Psychiatric Services: 871 Enborg Lane San Jose, CA 95128
- Mood monitoring with objective measures
- In session monitoring to assess appropriateness of continued telerehabilitation services
- Discharging with reminding of community resources



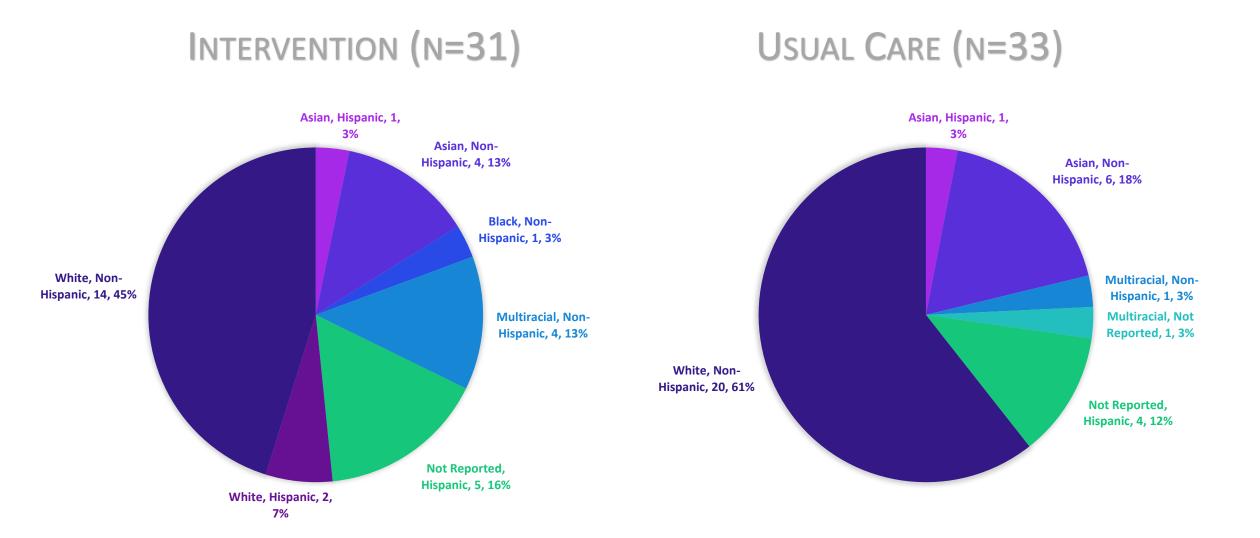
### **Enrolled Participants**

INTERVENTION (N=31)			USUAL CA	USUAL CARE (N=33)		
• 46.17 ( <i>SD</i> = 17.1) years		Age	• 39.70 ( <i>SD</i> = 17.63) years			
<ul><li>Female</li><li>Male</li></ul>	N= 15 (48.4%) N= 16 (51.6%)	Gender	• Female • Male	N= 7 (21.2%) N= 26 (78.8%)		
<ul><li>Tetraplegia</li><li>Paraplegia</li><li>Unknown</li></ul>	N= 13 (41.9%) N= 16 (51.6%) N= 2 (6.5%)	LOI	<ul><li>Tetraplegia</li><li>Paraplegia</li><li>Unknown</li></ul>	N= 17 (51.5%) N= 14 (42.4%) N= 2 (6.1%)		
<ul><li>Complete</li><li>Incomplete</li><li>Unknown</li></ul>	N= 10 (32.3%) N= 19 (61.3%) N= 2 (6.5%)	AIS	<ul><li>Complete</li><li>Incomplete</li><li>Unknown</li></ul>	N= 11 (33.3%) N= 20 (60.6%) N= 2 (6.1%)		
<ul> <li>Traumatic</li> <li>Non-Traumatic</li> </ul>	N=20 (64.5%) N=11 (35.5%)	Etiology	• Traumatic • Non-Traumatic	N=20 (60.6%) N=13 (39.4%)		

Many Minds. One Vision.

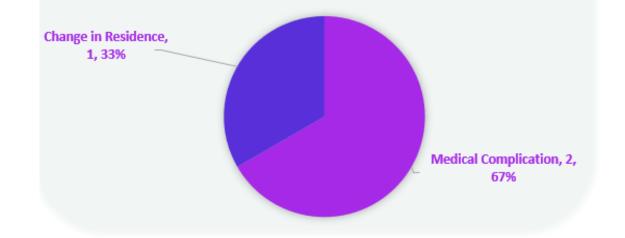
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## **Enrolled Participants**



#### FULL STUDY PHASE

- 1 withdrawn participant who was randomized to the intervention group
- 3 Discontinued participants who were randomized into the usual care group REASON FOR DISCONTINUED PARTICIPANTS



#### Out of 190 sessions, 2 sessions were missed and not rescheduled.



# Preliminary Data (N=19)

	Session 1	Session 10	Difference
	10	11	1
	2	0	-2
	10	5	-5
	4	2	-2
	8	3	-5
	13	5	-8
	9	5	-4
	5	1	-4
	10	6	-4
	0	2	2
	6	0	-6
	7	0	-7
	4	0	-4
	5	3	-2
	12	11	-1
	3	4	1
	17	12	-5
	11	0	-11
	8	9	1
Average =	7.57	4.157894737	-3.421052632





#### PHQ-9 scores decreased 0.3 per session



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Telenutrition to Improve Cardiometabolic Health and Quality of Life Among Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury

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## TeleNutrition: Background

### Background

- Cardiovascular Disease Leading cause of death after SCI
- Risk Factors of Cardiometabolic Dysfunction (CMD)
  - Central obesity
  - Insulin resistance
  - Elevated inflammatory markers
  - Hypertension
  - Atherogenic dyslipidemia
  - Inadequate levels of physical activity, impairments with physical functioning
  - Poor nutrition
- CMD can increase:
  - Psychological distress, reduced QoL,
  - Societal cost, loss of productivity, burden on healthcare system

### Nutrition Intervention: Background

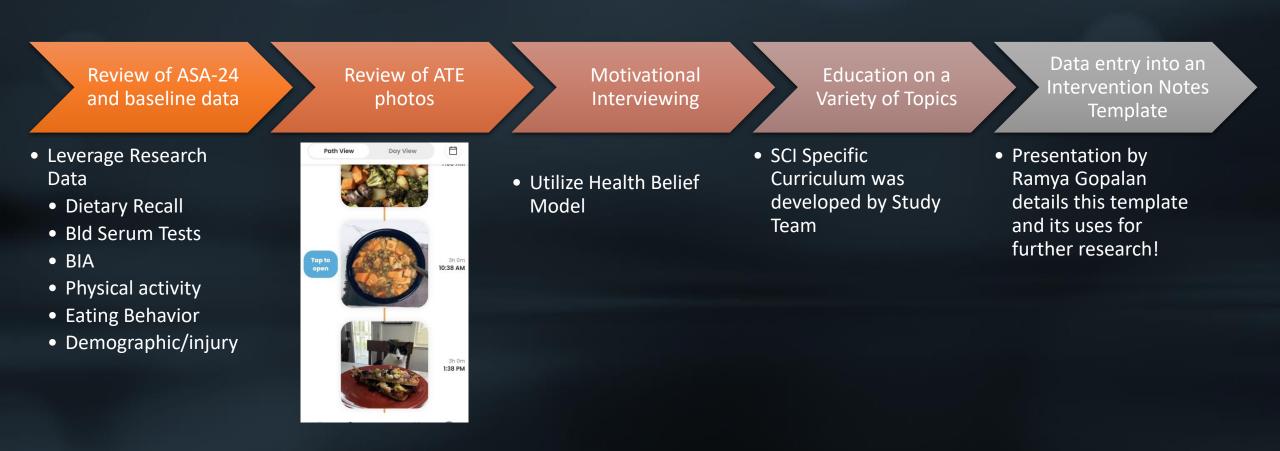
- Studies, guidelines, and consensus statements link good nutritional habits to disease prevention and amelioration in the able-bodied population.
- USDA Dietary Guidelines as standard clinical practice
  - SCI Specific recommendations for are available
    - AND SCI Nutrition Practice Guidelines
    - Consortium for Spinal Cord Medicine CPGs: CMD
    - Consortium for Spinal Cord Medicine CPGs: NBD
- More research is needed with regards to dietary interventions in the SCI population.

## TeleNutrition: Session Topics

### Medical Nutrition Therapy on an iPad

- Personalized discussion:
  - Nutrition requirements
  - Goals (SMART)
  - Beliefs and perceived barriers
  - Risks, including genetics
  - Role of fiber and nutrient-dense foods
  - Bowel program
  - Label reading

## TeleNutrition: Session format



# ASA-24: Dietary Recall

#### Total Calorie Consumption

ACHIEVED EATEN EATEN EATEN EATEN EATEN CALORIES 3.4 oz 2.1 c 1.9 c 1.2 c 7.6 oz 6.0 oz 2.0 c 3.0 c 2.5 c 5.5 oz TARGET TARGET TARGET TARGET TARGET EATEN CARBOHYDRATE FAT SUBGROUPS EATEN SUBGROUPS EATEN SUBGROUPS EATEN SUBGROUPS EATEN SUBGROUPS EATEN Whole grains (e.g. whole Fruits Milk and Soy Milk Dark Green vegetables Meat, Poultry and Eggs 38% 43% wheat bread) 2.1 c 0.1 c 0.0 c 0.0 oz 3.4 oz TARGET RANGE TARGET RANGE Juices Yogurt Red and Orange Seafood 45-65% 20-35% Refined grains (e.g. vegetables 0.0 c 0.0 c 0.0 oz white bread) 2000 0.0 c Cheese Nuts, Seeds, Soy and PROTEIN ALCOHOL 0.0 oz Legumes (e.g. beans and Legumes 1.0 c 18% 0% peas) 7.6 oz 0.4 c TARGET RANGE TARGET RANGE Starchy vegetables (e.g. 10-35% Limit Intake potatoes, corn) 0.0 c Other vegetables (e.g.

GRAINS

FRUITS

DAIRY

VEGETABLES

celery and onions) 0.8 c **PROTEIN FOODS** 

## ASA 24: Dietary Recall



Saturated Fat

EATEN

18 g

LIMIT

22 g







EATEN

LIMIT



# ATE App

Capture	Path View	Day View	Ë
ADD PAST MEALS			7.00 AM
ADD NEW		and h	
REFLECTIONS BEVERAGES	Tap to open		3h 0m <b>10:38 AM</b>
MOVEMENT NOTE			
MEASUREMENTS Private			
Meal via photo			3h 0m <b>1:38 PM</b>

# Benefits of TeleNutrition

**Benefits may include:** 

Reduced loss of time and money relate to commuting

Improved access to specialized care

Improved compliance

Family and caregiver connection

Comfort

Convenience

Access to kitchen and food labels

TeleNutrition Outcome Variables and Challenges

- Blood serum assessments
  - Full lipid panel
  - Hgb A1C
  - CRP
  - Total Vitamin D
- Waist circumference
- BMI
- Bioelectrical Impendence Analysis
- Nutrition-Focused Physical Exam
- Face to Face Contact
- Connectivity

TeleNutrition – Current SCIMS Site Specific Project

### Goal:

- Reduced CVD risk with medical nutrition therapy
- To add to the evergrowing body of nutrition-related research in the SCI population

Project Aim: To offset the risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD) in those with SCI

### TeleNutrition: Participant Data

Pt_ID	Timepoint	TotalCholest	Triglycerid	HDL	LDL	non-HDL	AverageGlucose	HbA1C	Weight (lb	BMI_corr	WC(cm)
1	Baseline	173.00	151	30	113	143	120	5.8	192.9	29.54	122.00
	3-Month	166.00	110	29	137	137	108	5.4	187.4	28.70	116.84
	6-Month	159	116.00	30	106	129	117	5.7	194	29.71	116.00
2	Baseline	144	54	44	89	100	100	5.1	212	34.21	99.50
	3-Month	156	59.00	42	102	114	94	4.9	205.9	33.23	103.12
	6-Month	146	59	45	89	101	97	5	212	34.21	104.14
3	Baseline	174	302	25	89.00	149	123	5.9	241.41	38.96	118.62
	3-Month	169	153	25	113	144	126	6	239	38.57	129.54
	6-Month	187	272	26	107	161	105	5.3	241.1	38.91	128.00
5	Baseline	155	119	37	94	118	91	4.8	200	30.23	96.50
	3-Month	184	110	42	120	142	91	4.8	181.8	27.48	93.98
6	Baseline	137	71	44	79	93	94	4.9	208.3	37.13	120.65
	3-Month	123	72	40	69	83	88	4.7	218.2	38.89	119.00
	6-Month	136	69	48	74	88	103	5.2	240.8	42.92	118.11
12	Baseline	164	91	36	110	128	97	5	209.9	37.18	114.00
	3-Month	143	91	30	95	113	94	4.9	197.2	34.93	112.00
14	Baseline	135	86	30	88	105	143	<mark>6.6</mark>	272.2	41.38	115.57
	3-Month	103	71	28	61	75	108	5.4	232.3	35.32	114.30

## THANK YOU!

Speaker Name Affiliation & Contact information

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