E-Poster

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Global Networking for Spinal Cord Injury Care: Advancing Collaboration, Research, and Rehabilitation Integration

Topic: Organizational Development (International Associations)

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BACKGROUND

Spinal cord injury (SCI) care requires a global, multidisciplinary approach to enhance patient outcomes and service delivery. The International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) has played a pivotal role in fostering international collaboration, advancing research, and integrating SCI services into broader healthcare frameworks. Since its foundation in 1961, ISCoS has established global partnerships, including its collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), to align SCI rehabilitation with the Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative. This initiative aims to integrate rehabilitation into universal health coverage, expand the workforce, and enhance data-driven decision-making.

METHODS

Networking efforts have led to the establishment of affiliated societies, regional symposiums, and collaborative projects worldwide. These initiatives strengthen knowledge exchange, improve service accessibility, and drive policy development in SCI care. However, disparities persist across different healthcare systems. Developed nations face fragmented care pathways and inconsistent rehabilitation incentives, while developing countries struggle with limited resources, inadequate policy implementation, and lack of integration into national health strategies.

RESULTS

Future directions emphasize expanding global collaboration, developing robust data registries, and fostering interprofessional rehabilitation training. By engaging key stakeholders and promoting evidence-based SCI management, the global SCI community can drive sustainable improvements in care quality and accessibility.

CONCLUSION

The call to action is clear: stakeholders, healthcare professionals, and policymakers must commit to strengthening SCI networks, advocating for systemic change, and ensuring long-term patient-centered outcomes. The impact of these efforts extends beyond SCI, influencing broader rehabilitation frameworks and improving the lives of individuals worldwide.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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