

Accelerating Innovation in Health Technologies

At Praxis Spinal Cord Institute, we focus on accelerating innovations including medical devices and diagnostics that can improve the lives of people with spinal cord injury.

Praxis brings together the best-in-class research, commercialization and consumer experts in spinal cord injury (SCI) to provide companies with the tools needed to scale and develop their innovations.

By partnering with local and international healthcare research, design and biomedical organizations, we support the development of innovations geared towards improving the lives of people with spinal cord injury. These innovations also have applications to a vast array of other health conditions and chronic diseases, making these technologies relevant to millions of people in Canada and around the world.

Our Commercialization Program was founded on the need to address the critical shortage in commercial, readily-available technologies. As part of an international ecosystem dedicated to knowledge translation and increasing access to innovation, Praxis is addressing the challenges by shortening the time to market, reducing costs to commercialize and providing access to funding.

From the Praxis Challenge Ideation.Clinic with the University of Toronto, to supporting early-stage companies in SCI Incubate and post-prototype in SCI Accelerate, Praxis advances practical solutions for people with spinal cord injury.

Our Funders

Praxis is proud to be supported by



Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie
de l'Ouest Canada



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

How We Help Innovators



Research excellence: We help identify your target market, generate scenarios and evaluate the feasibility of your project.



Access to expertise: Take advantage of our global network of healthcare leaders and individuals with spinal cord injuries.



Funding: We provide grant funding to support your commercialization objectives and help make valuable connections between you, key funding sources and investors.





Members of our **SCI Incubate** and **SCI Accelerate** programs are rapidly advancing their technologies to making a real difference in the lives of people with spinal cord injury and beyond.

Success Story: Rehabtronics

Praxis supported the development of unique IP using electrical stimulation technology to prevent pressure injuries. This technology, being developed by Canadian company, Rehabtronics, has been registered with the FDA and Health Canada with upcoming human testing at the Cleveland Clinic.

This move from lab research into active testing and commercialization could mean hundreds of patient lives saved from deadly pressure injuries that impact a broad set of patients including COVID-19, elderly and individuals with spinal cord injury.

The FDA recently cleared Rehabtronic's medical device, Preivia, protecting patients from pressure injuries at hospitals and care homes.

Proven Track Record: Spiderwort

Spiderwort is a global leader in 'cell scaffolding', a technology now well-known through the **TED talk** delivered by Senior Fellow Andrew Pelling, the co-founder of Spiderwort.

Spiderwort applies cell scaffolding for the spinal cord, supporting regeneration for acute and chronic SCI cases that will potentially help people with SCI regain mobility functions and activities of daily living.

As a recent graduate of the Praxis SCI Incubate program, Spiderwort significantly advanced their clinical trial process and their strategy to work towards health insurance and payment models in Canada, to make the technology accessible for people with SCI.

From Laboratory to Marketplace

At Praxis, we focus on research, innovation and implementation, with implementation being key to make sure that the ideas are put into use. The average healthcare innovation takes 17 years to reach the people who need it most. We support SCI innovation across the "valleys of death" to scale globally through our commercialization programs.

The Praxis **SCI Incubate** and **SCI Accelerate** programs are commercialization initiatives tailored to healthcare companies with products at various stages of readiness (TRL 2-4 and TRL 5-7) for market. For these programs, we are bringing together world leaders in SCI investment, research, market validation and direct consumer engagement to ensure health tech solutions reach global markets to make a positive impact on people's lives.

The Praxis SCI Challenge



Collaboration: The **Praxis SCI Challenge**, presented with the Ideation.Clinic at the University of Toronto, fills a unique niche in the health tech innovation ecosystem.



Roadmap: The challenge is a roadmap to help early designers develop commercializable ideas through an active learning curriculum, mentorship, financial milestone awards and prototyping support.



Investment: Opportunities to engage with potential investors, partners, clients and key opinion leaders gets concepts ready for investment.



Meet the passionate individuals driving our mission. Discover the Praxis Commercialization Team **online**.



Interested in learning more about accelerating research innovation? Talk with the Commercialization Team. Contact Arushi Raina araina@praxisinstitute.org.



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