

# Praxis Consumer Engagement

Engaging people with spinal cord injury (SCI) in clinical research and their own health decision-making is critical to achieving meaningful advances in SCI care.

## Translating Ideas Into Impact

At Praxis, we partner people living with spinal cord injury with researchers, care providers and innovators.

Engaging people with lived experience in our research helps ensure meaningful participation in decision-making, improves study design and adds confidence that our work is relevant and valuable to the SCI community.

The Consumer Engagement program partners with community organizations worldwide to facilitate collaboration between consumers, researchers, funders, policymakers, care providers and industry. We employ an integrated knowledge translation (IKT) approach, involving end-users of knowledge (consumers, clinicians, decision and policymakers) throughout the entire research continuum, increasing relevance and reducing costs.

We are recognized as a world leader in IKT and have advised major research organizations, including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the National Institutes of Health in the USA.

To view this world class approach, visit <https://ikt.ok.ubc.ca/>



**Consumer engagement** is founded on the understanding that those affected by a decision have a right to be a part of the decision-making process and that their input will influence that decision.<sup>1</sup>



**Spinal cord injury consumers** are individuals with lived experience, including people with SCI, their family and friends, as well as consumer-focused community organizations and advocacy groups. Engagement occurs when consumers have a meaningful and active role in decision-making, setting priorities, conducting research, and translating research knowledge for the benefit of its intended users.

<sup>1</sup> Public Participation Pillars, IAP2.

### Our Funders

Praxis is proud to be supported by



Western Economic  
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Diversification de l'économie  
de l'Ouest Canada



# Meet the Praxis Team

The Consumer Engagement Program includes five individuals living with SCI. It was created to engage the spinal cord injury community to become more involved in research, healthcare and advocacy.



**John Chernesky**  
Consumer Engagement  
Program Manager

With over 25 years of lived experience of SCI since being paralyzed, John has participated in dozens of research studies in addition to being a co-investigator on a number of research projects. He works closely with SCI consumers to ensure research is addressing their priorities. He is a recognized leader in engagement and integrated knowledge translation and has presented to researchers, clinicians and consumers around the world.



**Sam Douglas**  
Global Research Platform &  
BC Programs Support

Sam sustained a C5, AIS-D spinal cord injury in 2017 while working as an IRATA certified Level 1 rope access technician. After volunteering with both Spinal Cord Injury BC and BC Wheelchair Sports Association, Sam realized his greatest interest was rooted firmly in consumer engagement by supporting and influencing SCI research, care, and innovation.



**James Hektner**  
BC Interior Regional  
Community Liaison

James works to strengthen partnerships between the community, research and healthcare systems by engaging peers and networking with patient partner health initiatives and researchers. After a motor vehicle accident in 1997, James has nearly 25 years of lived experience with a T-6, AIS-A SCI.



**Chris Marks**  
Vancouver Island Regional  
Community Liaison

Chris has over a decade of experience advocating for inclusion and mobility at provincial, municipal and individual levels for BC. Chris has over 15 years of lived experience with a spinal cord injury after he was paralyzed as a passenger in a single-vehicle incident.



**Richard Peter**  
Indigenous Peoples'  
Liaison

Richard is a proud member of the Cowichan Tribes on Vancouver Island. He is a Paralympic athlete and a multi-Gold medalist representing Canada. With over 40 years of lived experience with a T10, AIS-B SCI, he has developed extensive connections through his longstanding community involvement within the Indigenous and spinal cord injury communities.



Learn more about the passionate individuals who drive our mission. Visit the Praxis Consumer Engagement Team [online](#) and find the [roadmap](#).



Interested in speaking opportunities with the Consumer Engagement Team? Contact John Chernesky [jchernesky@praxisinstitute.org](mailto:jchernesky@praxisinstitute.org).



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