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November 14, 2008

Welcome to a unique workshop on **“Functional Recovery after Spinal Cord Injury: Implications of Different Spinal Injury Patterns and Distinct Therapeutic Targets on Clinical Trial Outcomes.”** The meeting provides a venue for representatives from industry, academia, professional societies, federal agencies, not for profit organizations, and the community of people living with a spinal cord injury (SCI). The purpose is to share knowledge and experiences so as to increase our understanding, as well as facilitate the development of objective paths for the valid conduct of spinal cord injury (SCI) clinical trials and human studies. This is an informational and educational opportunity involving a series of inter-linked sessions on: 1) various aspects of SCI that influence the outcomes of SCI clinical trials and human studies, and 2) how to best develop specific, accurate, sensitive, and reliable tools to validate whether a therapeutic intervention has provided improved functional outcomes and/or quality of life for people living with SCI.

The overall goal for today’s workshop is to discuss current knowledge by addressing these questions:

1. What is the degree and extent of spontaneous neurological recovery after SCI and what are the expected functional capacities for different levels and severities of SCI?
2. What animal models will be predictive of human outcomes after SCI and what preclinical evidence is sufficient to justify human testing?
3. What are the strengths and deficiencies of current outcome tools and how should they be improved?
4. How do we establish accurate clinical endpoints to identify a meaningful clinically important difference?
5. What adverse events or (dys)functions are most important to track in a SCI clinical trial?
6. What confounding factors distort the accurate interpretation of trial findings?

The format for today includes a series of sessions on a specific topic (please see program). Each session is led by a chair and will include selected short presentations to introduce participants to the issues for that session. These will be followed by an interactive discussion between the audience and a discussion panel having a diversity of perspectives and experiences. Everyone is encouraged to share their views and suggestions respectfully and with the understanding that we are not trying to achieve a consensus, but we are trying to educate each other to the various challenges we might face when trying to validate a treatment as meaningful.

SCOPE is most interested in your advice and comments on where and how we might focus some of our future activities. Thus, we encourage you to fill out the workshop evaluation form or contact me directly. Last, but not least, we are most grateful to the sponsors of this workshop and thank them for their support.