

# Preliminary Conference Overview



## interdependence 2012

Global advancement in accessible communities  
and spinal cord injury research for a cure

May 15-18, 2012  
Vancouver, Canada

[www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012](http://www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012)



Rick Hansen Institute  
Institut Rick Hansen

Rick Hansen  
Foundation





## Invitation from Rick Hansen

### HONORARY CHAIR OF INTERDEPENDENCE 2012

In 1985, with the dream of a more accessible and inclusive society, I set out on a journey – The Man In Motion World Tour – determined to make a positive and lasting difference in the world. For two years, two months and two days, I wheeled 40,000 km through 34 countries on four continents, raising \$26 million for spinal cord injury (SCI) and accessibility initiatives. Fuelled by a belief that “anything is possible”, it was the beginning of a life-long journey towards building an inclusive and global network in the areas of accessibility and SCI research for a cure.

Since my Tour, significant advancements have been made in the fields of accessibility and SCI research, treatment and care. But, there is still a long road ahead. Our efforts moving forward must be focused, visionary and collaborative to support the impact of the world’s shift in population age and subsequent rise in disability. We must think bigger and bolder than ever before to build a truly global language of harmonized standards and tools.

With this vision for the future, I am proud to announce Interdependence 2012, a global conference and exposition designed to accelerate progress toward a healthy and inclusive world through two distinct but complementary pillars: making communities accessible for all and furthering spinal cord injury research for a cure. This event will unite the world’s most progressive minds to explore best practices through such topics as effective partnerships; technology and information platforms; global systems and standards; and investment in innovations.

In addition, Interdependence 2012 will provide an opportunity to advance two technology tools that are integral to my vision: the Global Accessibility Initiative and the Rick Hansen Institute’s Global Research Platform.

This inaugural conference and exposition will be held over four days from May 15 – 18, 2012 in Vancouver, Canada. We expect over 2,500 delegates including international leaders and influencers, research and accessibility experts and policy decision-makers to come together in an explicit call to action.

Be part of a lasting legacy and join me for the next phase of my dream: to accelerate global progress toward a healthy and inclusive world for all. Together, anything is possible.

With sincere regards,

**Rick Hansen, C.C., O.B.C.**  
President and CEO  
Rick Hansen Foundation

**“Now is the time to build on the momentum gained over the last 25 years and join together for the future. Together we can share solutions, build ideas and accelerate progress on a global scale. No one individual or organization can achieve dreams alone; interdependence is key.”**

**- Rick Hansen**

# Interdependence 2012 Hosts

## THE RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION

The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is a registered charitable organization that provides leadership to create more accessible and inclusive communities and find a cure for spinal cord injury. Under Rick Hansen's leadership, the Foundation has functioned as a social innovator - finding collaborative solutions to challenges in the community and locating the resources necessary to implement those solutions. RHF has seen tremendous success having leveraged the original \$26 million raised during the Man In Motion World Tour to more than \$245 million to date.

Please visit [www.rickhansen.com](http://www.rickhansen.com) for more information.



## THE RICK HANSEN INSTITUTE

The Rick Hansen Institute (RHI) is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization committed to accelerating the translation of discoveries and best practices into improved treatments for people with spinal cord injuries (SCI). It does this by leading the collaboration of researchers, health care professionals and service providers across Canada and internationally. RHI works in three core program areas: the Rick Hansen Spinal Cord Injury Registry, which captures information and data to identify improved treatments for people with SCI and support multicentre clinical trials; the funding and sponsoring of translational research; and the implementation of best practices.

Please visit [www.rickhanseninstitute.org](http://www.rickhanseninstitute.org) for more information.



## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RHF AND RHI

Since his Man In Motion World Tour 25 years ago, Rick Hansen has nurtured a dream of true collaboration across the SCI-care field. That dream began to be realized in 2003 when RHF established the SCI Solutions Program through generous public funding and private donations. The program has since been named the Rick Hansen Institute (RHI), to honour the man whose vision and leadership sparked its creation, and now operates as an independent charitable organization.

# Interdependence 2012 Program Advisory Committees

## ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Ian Brodie – Canadian Standards Association, Canada
- Steve Estey – Canada
- Philip Fleming – Canada
- Nancy Lawand – Canada
- Nancy Milroy-Swainson – Office of Disability Issues – Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Canada
- Bruce Raber – Stantec Architecture, Canada
- Scott Rains – Tourism and Disability Consultant, RollingRains.com publisher, USA
- Apostolos Rigas – International Paralympic Committee, Germany
- Daryl Rock – Rick Hansen Foundation Global Accessibility Initiative (Chair), Canada
- Susan Scott-Parker – Employers' Forum on Disability, United Kingdom

## ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Ivor Ambrose – European Network for Accessible Tourism, Greece
- Gary Birch – Neil Squire Society, Canada
- Karen Braitmayer – Studio Pacifica Ltd., US Access Board member, USA
- Ray Cohen – Canadian Abilities Foundation, Canada
- Budsakayt Intarapasan – School of Architecture & Design – King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thailand
- Brad McCannell – Canadian Barrier Free Design Inc., Canada
- Nick Morris – Morris Goding Accessibility Consulting, Australia
- Carmelita Olivotto – Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Canada
- Sandra Rhodda – Access Tourism New Zealand, New Zealand
- Yuval Wagner – Access Israel, Israel

## RESEARCH PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chair: Michael Fehlings MD PhD FRCS FACS – Toronto Western Hospital, Canada

- Armin Curt, MD, FRCPC – Balgrist University Hospital, Switzerland
- James Fawcett, PhD – Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair, United Kingdom
- Robert G. Grossman, MD – The Methodist Hospital, USA
- James D. Guest MD, PhD, FRCS (C), FACS – The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, USA
- Andrei Krassioukov, MD, PhD, FRCPC – University of British Columbia, Canada
- Brian Kwon, MD, PhD, FRCS – University of British Columbia, Canada

## RESEARCH PROGRAM SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Susan Harkema, PhD – University of Louisville, USA
- Li Jianjun, BM, MSc – China Rehabilitation Research Center, China
- Colleen O'Connell, MD FRCPC – Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation, Canada



## Interdependence 2012 at a Glance

Interdependence 2012 is a conference and exposition with one vision – to accelerate global progress toward a healthy and inclusive world through two distinct but complementary pillars: making communities accessible for all and furthering spinal cord injury research for a cure.

Innovation leaders, corporate executives, NGOs, consumers and government policymakers from around the world, will gather in Vancouver, BC, Canada from May 15-18, 2012. Together, they will experience four days of thought-provoking sessions to examine cutting-edge innovations, share best practices, review the latest technology and findings and identify the agenda for future collaboration. Interdependence 2012 will also offer unparalleled networking opportunities with some of the world's most forward-thinking minds.

The award-winning Vancouver Convention Centre East sets the stage for the conference and exposition and provides the perfect location for Interdependence 2012 ancillary events and complementary meetings for delegates and their organizations.

The exposition will be open to the public for three days and will showcase the “Street of the Possible” – a real-life exhibit of five-star accessibility building design, products and services.

Visit [www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012](http://www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012) for more details.

**Globally there is a strong appetite and desire to come together in a truly global network, and that's what we're laying the foundation for. If we're going to accelerate progress on the long journey... then we have to magnify our collective efforts.”**

**– Rick Hansen**

# Conference Program

Interdependence 2012 will offer a progressive agenda in response to opportunities, challenges and developments in making communities accessible and pursuing a cure for SCI through research and a global clinical trials network.

This inaugural event will unite international leaders and decision-makers with research and accessibility experts to explore best practices within such topics as: effective partnerships, technology and information platforms, global systems and standards, and investment in innovations. Attendees will also participate in separate specialized sessions, within the following areas:

## CREATING ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES

Business leaders, policy decision-makers and accessibility experts will explore best practices, innovations and solutions, while gaining insight on critical issues affecting the built environment in the following areas:

- Accessible and inclusive tourism
- Accessible community infrastructure and planning
- Legacies of major international sport events
- Information communication and technology
- Standards, systems and regulations
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## Conference Features:

- Plenary sessions lead by globally-recognized experts in the fields of SCI research and accessible communities
- Keynote speakers from leading-edge national and international organizations
- Concurrent specialized panel sessions and workshops
- Cross-disciplinary interaction and knowledge sharing in areas of common interest

## ADVANCING SCI RESEARCH FOR A CURE

Leading national and international experts in research and healthcare will share the most promising developments and best practices in:

- Acute and chronic SCI interventions
- SCI registries, data management and clinical trials
- Neuroregeneration
- Rehabilitation to improve treatment and care for individuals with SCI

# Creating Accessible Communities

## ACCELERATING GLOBAL PROGRESS TOWARD IMPROVED PHYSICAL ACCESS TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This inaugural event will become the nexus for global networking and thought leadership on the business of accessibility. Interdependence 2012 will serve as the ideal place to transform accessibility challenges into lucrative business opportunities, offering a bold agenda in response to unprecedented developments in international accessibility policies and practices.

By sharing international best practices, identifying industry-specific solutions and improving global collaboration, conference sessions will provide delegates with an opportunity to join the shift toward the new era of sustainable and accessible communities.

## THEMES WITHIN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

### The Changing Face of Tourism

Delegates will learn from business leaders and experts in accessible and inclusive tourism who will demonstrate how to build a competitive advantage in the untapped combined market of persons with a disability and the aging population.

### Sustainable Planning and Design: Blueprints for Accessible Public Spaces

Successful community planning not only considers land use, reduction of costs and environmental impacts, but liveability for all residents and visitors now, and into the future. Find out how improving physical accessibility can contribute to long term community sustainability and identify solutions to address the life span and use of public infrastructure and outdoor spaces.

## Collaboration and Consistency: Harmonizing Global Standards, Policies, Language and Systems

For a growing combined demographic of persons with a disability and the aging population, access to the built environment, as well as credible and consistent information about its level of physical accessibility can vary greatly around the world. Delegates will explore opportunities for international collaboration on accessibility standards and language, offering an impetus to improve access to the built environment and measure progress over time.

## International Sport Events as a Catalyst for Change

Large-scale international sport events provide an extraordinary opportunity to inspire progress toward more accessible and inclusive communities. Examine the lasting impacts of major events, such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships, and discover collaboration models, including past learnings, while setting an agenda for future organizing committees, host cities and other event stakeholders.

## The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

The UNCRPD marks an important paradigm shift in attitudes and approaches towards people with disabilities. The UNCRPD has made significant advances in making communities accessible for all, but there is still much work to be done. Learn from best practices and lessons learned in national implementation and participate in the global dialogue on practical measures that can be embraced to accelerate progress toward improved physical access to the built environment.

**“We have to think outside the box about new tourism markets and disability tourism is a significant opportunity.”**

– Peter Beattie, 36th Premier of Queensland, Australia

# Creating Accessible Communities

## Topics may include:

- The New Era: A business case for accessible and inclusive tourism
- Best practice design solutions for venues, buildings and outdoor spaces
- Moving toward a global consensus on language and standards
- Measuring the Difference: Major games and sport event impact studies
- The UNCRPD 5 Years Later: Best practices and lessons learned in national-level implementation
- The Accessibility Advantage: Emerging opportunities in communities and business
- Accessibility retrofitting and renovations
- People in Motion: Transport systems and terminal design
- Incentive-Driven Models: Motivation beyond the minimum standards and how it benefits business
- Investing in innovative technology to improve community access
- Reaching your market: Inclusive marketing and information technologies
- Life Span Design: Age-friendly cities and sustainable infrastructure



**“... Accessible tourism is not a niche market; it’s a demographic explosion and we will all feel the effects. We have to improve access now.”**

**- Lillian Müller, President,  
European Network for Accessible  
Tourism (ENAT)**

# SCI Research and Development

## ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD A CURE FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY (SCI) THROUGH A GLOBAL NETWORK

Incredible progress has been made in the past 25 years in the field of SCI research, treatment and care. The research to-date has led to improvements in the quality of life for those living with SCI and given hope to the search for a cure.

Currently, there is no meeting in the world on SCI that truly appeals to clinical and translational researchers, spine surgeons, rehabilitation specialists, and allied health professionals. Interdependence 2012 offers a unique opportunity for international and cross-disciplinary interactions among the thought leaders in SCI research.

Captivating plenary-style sessions designed to explicitly encourage multidisciplinary discussion will be a catalyst for international collaboration on SCI research and build the foundation of a global clinical trials network for SCI.



## THEMES WITHIN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

### Acute SCI Intervention

Focusing on neuroprotection, delegates will explore current research trends and best practices in the intervention of acute SCI.

### Chronic SCI Intervention

There is a large unmet need in the care of those who have passed the immediate acute phase of SCI. As such, delegates will investigate research trends and strategies that will improve the lives of those living with chronic SCI.

### Rehabilitation

Delegates will discuss strategies for the management of the prevalent issues faced by those involved with the rehabilitation of an individual who has suffered a spinal cord injury, such as secondary complications.

### Neuroregeneration

Advances in the field of regenerative neuroscience, or neuroregeneration, are likely to lead to improvements in the lives of those who have suffered a spinal cord injury. Focusing on clinical translation, delegates will examine the current state of research surrounding the regeneration or repair of nervous tissues, cells or cell products as pertaining to SCI.

### Registries, Data Management and Clinical Trials

SCI registries and databases, such as the Rick Hansen Institute's Global Research Platform, provide researchers and clinicians with a powerful tool to better understand and improve the effectiveness of specific SCI treatments, practices or programs, and as a tool to perform multi-centre clinical trials. Delegates will discuss the data management issues surrounding the use of such tools, such as privacy and security standards.

**“The goals of the research program of Interdependence 2012 go beyond mere appeal to the different SCI research disciplines. Rather, Interdependence 2012 will explicitly enable cross-disciplinary interaction and knowledge-sharing among the different specialities in order to foster research collaboration and develop innovative solutions to the problems faced by those with SCI.”**

– Michael Fehlings, Chair, Interdependence 2012 Research Program Committee

# SCI Research and Development

## Topics may include:

- Evaluation of preclinical evidence in order to translate into clinical trials
- Lessons learned from past clinical trials in SCI
- Challenges of performing acute SCI clinical trials
- Cellular trials in SCI: Which patient? Which cell? Which outcomes?
- New technology development
- SCI Trial Statistics: Significant clinical finding or of minimal clinical importance?
- Examining the unmet needs of SCI research
- Building a global clinical trials network for SCI
- How can the different SCI networks collaborate?
- Advancing neuroregenerative innovations to clinical translation
- Commercialization of SCI Research: Perspectives from the private sector
- The business case for the benefits of investment into SCI research and care
- From Injury to Community Integration: How to establish global best practices



**“The economic burden of SCI is staggering and the incidence of SCI is expected to grow as our population ages. The aging of Canada’s population means more cases of SCI among people over 60 and the primary source of injuries will occur from falls rather than MVA [motor vehicle accidents]. This demographic trend will have significant implications for prevention and treatment policy as well as future research and care in Canada.”**

- DAVID BAXTER, Urban Futures Institute, Vancouver



## Exposition and “Street of the Possible”

In addition to the conference program, Interdependence 2012 will offer a large exposition with over 150 exhibitors, showcasing leading and innovative products and services designed to improve the quality of life for people with SCI and the combined demographic of people with disabilities and the aging population. Visit our international pavilions where you’ll meet global exhibitors showcasing best practices and developments in accessible, sustainable communities and SCI research, rehabilitation and care.

The Interdependence 2012 exposition is the ideal opportunity for businesses to tell brand stories, showcase innovative technologies and demonstrate current and emerging solutions to 2,500 delegates as well as the public.

An exposition highlight, the “Street of the Possible”, is a real-life exhibit showcasing five star building design, products and services. Delegates and the public will have the opportunity to experience a truly accessible and inclusive community infrastructure.

### **SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBIT INFORMATION**

Interdependence 2012 offers a tremendous opportunity to market to innovation leaders, corporate executives, NGOs, consumers and government policymakers. Over 2,500 delegates from around the world are expected to attend. Increase your visibility and organization’s profile by becoming a sponsor and/or exhibitor at this pivotal event.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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# Target Audience: Who should attend?

Interdependence 2012 is inviting innovation leaders, corporate executives, NGOs, consumers and government policymakers to this inaugural conference.

## ACCESSIBILITY

- Government
  - All levels
- Private Sector
  - Major corporations
  - Medium – large business
- People with a disability and organizations that represent them
- Tourism Industry
- Transportation Industry
- Building and Construction Industry
  - Designers, planners, architects
- Building and facility owners and managers
- Major sport event organizing committees, host and bid cities and associated stakeholders
- National/international organizations who impact and are impacted by the field of accessibility
- International Governing Bodies
- Standards Councils and Organizations

## SCI RESEARCH

- Translational and basic researchers
- Spine Surgeons
- Rehabilitation Specialists
- Allied health professionals
- Research funding agencies
- Government – relevant ministries, departments and agencies
- Private sector – investors
- People with a spinal cord injury and organizations that represent them
- National/international organizations who impact and are impacted by the field of SCI translational research
- Senior health care administrators
- International Governing Bodies

# Registration Information

A conference registration package will be available for distribution in June 2011. If you wish to receive a copy of the registration package along with a more complete description of the conference, please complete the “Join the Mailing List” form found at [www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012](http://www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012).

## REGISTRATION FEES (ALL FEES IN CAD DOLLARS)

	<b>Early</b> On or before January 16, 2012	<b>Regular</b> On or before May 1, 2012	<b>Late/On-site</b> After May 1, 2012
General Registration	\$750.00	\$875.00	\$975.00
Trainee/Resident/Research Technician	\$375.00	\$420.00	\$475.00
People with Disabilities/Full-time Student	\$375.00	\$420.00	\$475.00

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The Conference Secretariat (International Conference Services) is the official housing bureau for the Interdependence 2012 Conference and Exposition and will offer assistance with the coordination of housing requirements for the conference. Special room rates have been negotiated and are available to conference attendees only.

Hotel accommodation bookings can be made at the time of registration via the online form.

## CONFERENCE VENUE

The Vancouver Convention Centre, one of the world’s most striking convention settings, is famous for its picturesque Five Sails. It opened as the Canada Pavilion during the 1986 World’s Fair, and has twice received the AIPC Apex award as “World’s Best Convention Centre” in 2002 and 2008.

1055 Canada Place  
Vancouver, Canada  
[www.vancouverconventioncentre.com](http://www.vancouverconventioncentre.com)





## General City Information

### OVERVIEW

Vancouver is consistently ranked as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is a city of stunning natural beauty nestled between the snow-capped Coastal Mountains and the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean, as well as being a cosmopolitan city bustling with activity.

To enhance your stay, Vancouver presents a dazzling array of attractions to entertain, excite and inform visitors. Bring a camera to capture the breathtaking panoramic views while walking along the Seawall, relaxing in Stanley Park, or taking a boat ride to Granville Island. Families will find exceptional facilities that their children will thoroughly enjoy.

# Interdependence 2012

## Conference Secretariat Contact Information

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### **WEBSITE**

[www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012](http://www.rickhansen.com/interdependence2012)

