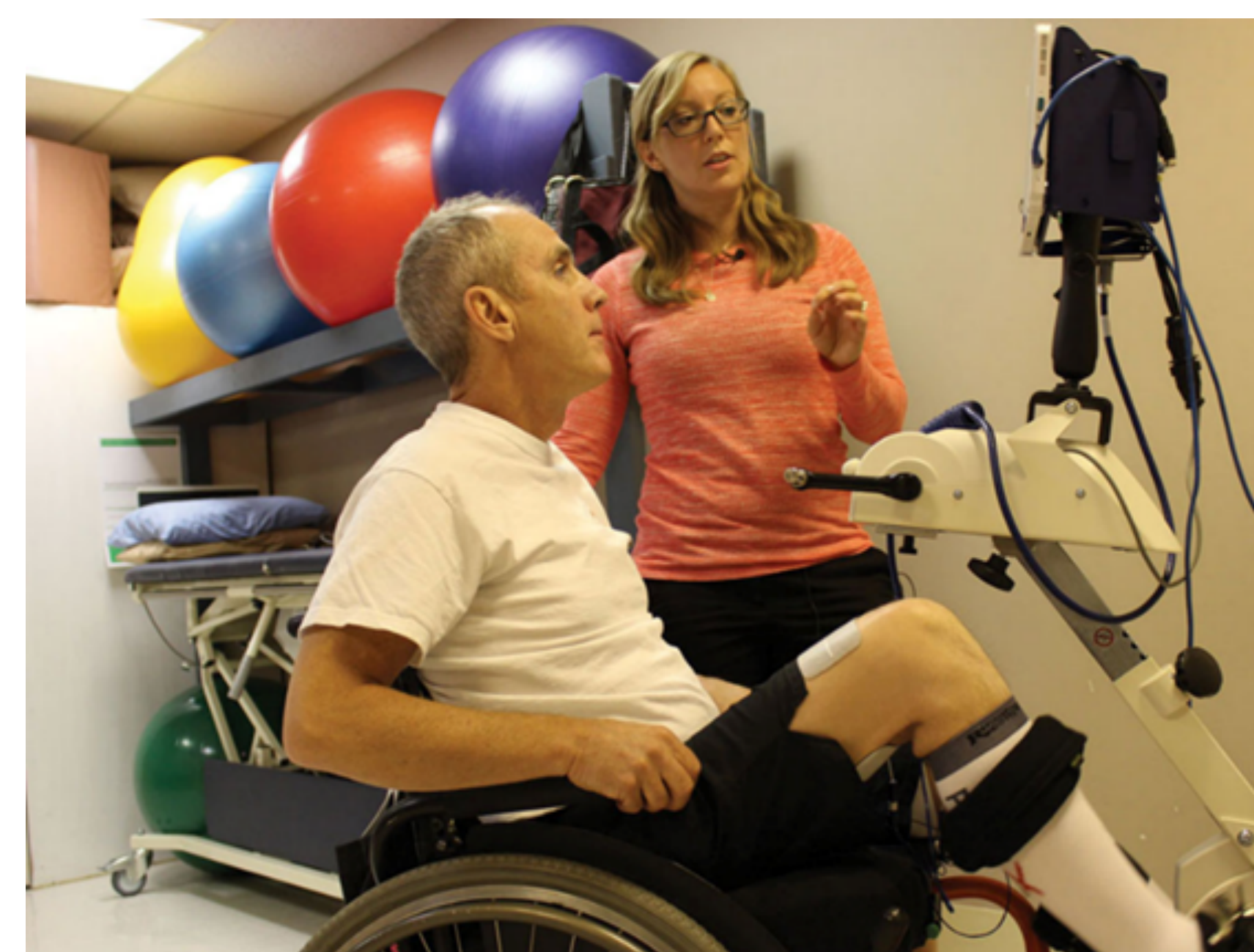


Background

The needs of Albertans with Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI)

- ~5,200 Albertans with SCI
- SCI leads to loss of motor, sensory, bowel and bladder control and autonomic functions, hence multiple medical complications and loss of daily functions
- Currently, there is no cure and recovery is variable
- The use of technologies may improve the functions, satisfaction and quality of life of people with SCI
- However, there has not been any consultation with the provincial stakeholders on how technologies may improve the live of Albertans with SCI
- Thus there is a need to consult with provincial stakeholders on this issue



Outcomes

- Total of 30 stakeholders attended, representing people with SCI, clinicians, researchers, administrators, engineers, community organization
- Institutions represented: Alberta Health Services, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, W21C, GRRIT, Spinal Cord Injury Alberta



The following technology priorities for Albertans with SCI were determined:

1. Provincial technology platform to facilitate standardization of knowledge, training and sharing of information and best practices
2. Network of information and resources for clients, caregivers and providers
3. Technologies (e.g. virtual health) to be incorporated in an accessible, integrated model of health services
4. The use of enabling technologies to support independence, employment and health

These priorities will be used by the provincial SCI stakeholders in future planning of the use of technologies for Albertans with SCI.

Next Steps

Two subsequent conference calls between W21C and GRITT, in order to identify collaborative opportunities. As a result, two collaborative opportunities have been initiated:

- Alberta Innovates Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) 2018 grant – an expression of interest has been submitted by the Team Lead (Chester Ho), in partnership with W21C and GRITT, including the use of technologies to connect healthcare providers and Albertans with SCI in both rural and metropolitan areas
- Development of a novel smart pressure redistribution wheelchair cushion using sensing technology to promote health and independence in people with SCI



2 Innovation Hubs in AB

1. **Ward of the 21st Century (W21C)**, a health services research and innovation program within the O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary
2. **Glenrose Rehabilitation Research, Innovation and Technology (GRRIT) Hub** in Edmonton, located in the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.

- Both innovation hubs have strong clinical and academic links and, are complementary in their areas of focus
- Opportunity to develop a province-wide approach to the development of innovations to support Albertans with SCI

Campus Alberta HOPH Meeting Grant

- This funding allowed 2 provincial meetings to be held in Calgary and Edmonton to consult with stakeholders on the use of technologies to improve the lives of Albertans with SCI
- Meetings held on February 21, 2018 (Edmonton) and February 26, 2018 (Calgary)



Benefits

This funding has allowed our team to host provincial meetings in both Edmonton and Calgary, bringing together the multidisciplinary stakeholders, who do not usually get together, to determine strategic priorities for Albertans with SCI. This has promoted provincial collaboration for the care of people with SCI with deliverable outcomes.