



## About Shepherd Center

Based in Atlanta, Shepherd Center is a private, not-for-profit hospital devoted to the medical care and rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injury and disease, acquired brain injury, multiple sclerosis and other neuromuscular problems.

By focusing on highly-specialized care, Shepherd Center has developed unique expertise and has become a nationally and internationally respected model for rehabilitation.

Shepherd Center supports basic and applied research efforts that are scientifically sound, safeguard the welfare of research participants, and have the potential to advance the field of rehabilitation medicine. Shepherd Center partners with business, industry and institutions of higher education to develop solutions for paralysis, impaired memory, spasticity and a variety of other neurological problems.

Until neural regeneration becomes a reality, Shepherd Center will continue to focus on preserving neurological function through prevention, increasing function through intervention, and setting the standard for independence and quality of life among individuals with spinal cord and brain injuries.



SHEPHERD  
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# SCIL

Spinal Cord Injury Lab

## Spinal Cord Injury Research Fellowship

*Creating Opportunity for  
Recovery of Function*



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# SCIL

Spinal Cord Injury Lab

2020 Peachtree Rd, NW

Atlanta, GA 30075

Phone: 404-352-2020

Fax: 404-350-7346

Email: [deborah\\_backus@shepherd.org](mailto:deborah_backus@shepherd.org)

[www.shepherd.org/research](http://www.shepherd.org/research)

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## Spinal Cord Injury Research Fellowship



Keith Tansey, MD, PhD

Shepherd Center is expanding its SCI Research Program with the addition of a new human laboratory, the Spinal Cord Injury Lab or SCIL. The lab will be led by new SCI Research Program Director, Keith Tansey, MD, PhD and Associate Director, Debbie Backus, PT, PhD and will focus on learning more about interventions that promote neural plasticity and functional recovery following SCI.



Debbie Backus, PhD, PT

Shepherd Center has a long tradition of carrying out SCI research as part of the Model Systems focusing on improving care for SCI patients and participating in clinical trials of therapeutic interventions. SCIL

will add to these efforts with more basic, preclinical human research aimed at understanding the neural mechanisms of functional recovery and how they can be enhanced by new therapeutic approaches. The lab will combine electrophysiological methods with robotic technology that can impose various experimental conditions to:

- Examine muscle activation patterns and reflex function
- Measure mechanical features of movements
- Train stepping or reaching and grasping movements
- Evaluate changes in the autonomic nervous system functions in response to different therapeutic interventions.

Shepherd Center's SCI Research Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for licensed physical and occupational therapists to develop or expand research skills, while also gaining experience in an expert clinical setting. SCI Research Fellows will work in SCIL, and are expected to become knowledgeable in SCI rehabilitation and research related to neural plasticity, as well as locomotor training, upper extremity rehabilitation, and translational research. These individuals will play an important role in advancing Shepherd Center's research agenda, as well as SCI rehabilitation and research in general.

The SCI Research Fellowship welcomes applications from all qualified individuals. Women, minorities, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Individuals with disabilities will be accommodated to provide the most successful experience possible.

### What SCI Research Fellows at Shepherd Receive

- Unique opportunity to develop both clinical and research skills at a leading US institution
- Research training that will apply to academic, advance degree and sophisticated clinical research opportunities
- 1 year award that includes a stipend
- Health benefits
- Opportunity for low cost housing
- No post-award service requirement, but the opportunity to continue either clinical or research practice at Shepherd Center

### Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Licensed Physical or Occupational Therapists

### To Apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply online at [www.shepherd.org](http://www.shepherd.org) (click on Employment).

- Curriculum vitae
- Two reference letters indicating any research experience
- A ONE PAGE statement of purpose in pursuing this opportunity.

If you have further questions, please email [deborah\\_backus@shepherd.org](mailto:deborah_backus@shepherd.org) or call 404-350-7599.

If you are eligible for this position, an employee of Shepherd Center will contact you.

