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### About Kessler Foundation Research Center:

- Kessler Foundation Research Center, the research division of Kessler Foundation, focuses on improving quality of life for people with **physical** and **cognitive** disabilities through a diverse program of rehabilitation research.
- Current grant funding for the laboratories includes: National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, New Jersey Brain Injury Commission, Kessler Foundation, and many more.
- Two federal Model System grants establish Kessler Foundation Research Center as a center of excellence for both traumatic brain injury (TBI) and spinal cord injury (SCI) research. Model Systems are comprehensive networks that promote independent and collaborative research that will improve the national standard of care for individuals with these devastating injuries. Model Systems are funded by large, multi-year grants sponsored by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. While there are 14 model SCI systems and 16 TBI model systems in the US, Kessler Foundation Research Center is one of only 7 centers to have dual model systems—Northern New Jersey SCI System and Northern New Jersey TBI System. These model systems are collaborative efforts with UMDNJ—University Hospital and Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation.
- Kessler Foundation Research Center is staffed by investigators with advanced degrees in a variety of disciplines including neuroscience, neuropsychology, neurology, bioengineering, and rehabilitation medicine. Research findings are reported at national and international meetings and in the medical and scientific literature. In 2010 alone, Kessler Foundation researchers published more than 60 articles in medical and scientific journals including *Stroke*, *International Journal of Health Psychology*, *Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*, *Brain & Cognition*, *Archives of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, *Neuropsychology*, *Cognitive & Behavioral Neurology*, *Journal of Biomechanics*, *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*, and *Disability and Rehabilitation*.

### The Research Laboratories:

Rehabilitation research is conducted in six specialized laboratories.

- **Human Performance and Engineering Laboratory:**
  - Research projects focus on helping people with weakness and paralysis caused by stroke or spinal cord injuries to regain their mobility by improving their ability to stand and walk and developing more efficient means of wheelchair locomotion. Research projects focus on applying engineering principles to devise better rehabilitation strategies for people with balance problems, joint abnormalities, and spasticity caused by brain injury, stroke, spinal injury, and arthritis.

- **Neuropsychology & Neuroscience Laboratory:**
  - Research projects focus on developing interventions for people whose cognition—the ability to think, learn, and remember—has been impaired by multiple sclerosis, stroke, or traumatic brain injury.
- **Outcomes & Assessment Research Laboratory:**
  - Outcomes and assessment research measures and evaluates factors that affect the everyday activities, health, and quality of life of persons with disabilities. This research establishes the evidence base that supports the development of effective rehabilitation interventions.
- **Spinal Cord Injury Research Laboratory:**
  - Research focuses on optimizing acute and chronic care for people with spinal cord injury, facilitating active community involvement and access to care, improving quality of life, and reducing the risk of secondary medical complications such as pressure ulcers, urinary tract infections, chronic pain, and cardiovascular disease.
- **Stroke Rehabilitation Research Laboratory:**
  - Research projects center on developing effective strategies for long-term rehabilitation for individuals with complications of stroke, including difficulties with speech, visual perception, cognition, and mobility.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury Research Laboratory:**
  - Research projects focus on rehabilitation needs of people who have disabilities caused by traumatic brain injury, including cognitive dysfunction, behavioral problems, spasticity, and deficits in motor function. A new focus is the use of genetic testing to tailor treatments for optimal outcomes.

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