

Dear EMSCI colleagues,

due to the incalculable travel and contact restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic we have decided to offer the ISNCSCI instructional course once again as an interactive virtual training.

Despite the virtual training format, we hope to maintain active exchanges among participants and faculty in the usual manner.

The training is planned to be divided in two parts with 4 hours each, with a 2-week gap between each training block.

In the first part we will teach the basics of ISNCSCI examination and demonstrate the correct examination procedure on non-disabled subjects.

After the theory part of the course, participants will be asked to perform an ISNCSCI examination at least 2 patients with SCI on their own within one week. Participants are then requested to send us the (anonymized) completed worksheets electronically (annette.langpape-albert@med.uni-heidelberg.de) or by fax (+49 6221 5629234).

Two weeks after the first training block, a second part follows. In this part, after the basics of ISNCSCI classification have been taught, some of the cases sent by you will be presented and discussed with all participants.

In order to assess the quality of the training, we have been asking the participants for many years to answer a few questions before and after the training and to classify some example cases. We would like to keep this integral part of the previous hands-on ISNCSCI training courses also in the virtual format. You will receive more information about how to perform this test during the first training block.

The training will be held in English. The training materials are also in English. The number of participants is limited to 20 persons.

We regret that we have to charge a training fee of 250 € for participants from non-active EMSCI centers to compensate our expenses.

The online training is recognized by the State Medical Association/Landesärztekammer.

Please register no later than Wednesday 20 October by email to:

Annette.Langpape-Albert@med.uni-heidelberg.de

We know that the virtual training format cannot replace an in-person training in Heidelberg with hands-on examinations and informal discussions. However, based on our experience from the last online course we are convinced that the web-based training is an effective way to support the collection of high-quality ISNCSCI data within the EMSCI network.

We look forward to sharing this new training experience with you in strict compliance with COVID hygiene rules,

stay well,

with kind regards

Priv.-Doz. Dr.-Ing. Rüdiger Rupp