

Research Project Details	
Title	Identifying Risk Factors for Developing Traumatic Psychological Injuries Following Work-Related Musculoskeletal Injuries
Investigator(s)	Dr. Doug Gross, University of Alberta
Funding Period	2020-2022
Budget	\$32,844.82
Issue/Rationale	<p>Musculoskeletal injury (MSI) are among the most common work-related disorders and often involve exposure to psychologically traumatic events or accidents. For this reason, MSI and TPI frequently co-occur. TPI is an umbrella term that includes posttraumatic and acute stress disorders, adjustment disorders, and other mood and somatoform disorders that may develop following exposure to psychologically traumatic events. Co-occurring MSI and TPI are associated with significantly worse return-to-work outcomes as well as impaired worker functioning, low job performance, and absenteeism. Relationships between MSI and TPI within workers' compensation settings are not well understood. Specifically, risk factors for developing TPI following MSI have not been clearly identified.</p>
Objective(s)	<p>Our research objectives are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify demographic, administrative/compensation-related, occupational, clinical/injury-related, and psychosocial factors associated with increased risk for developing TPI following work-related MSI in Albertan workers undergoing rehabilitation. 2) Examine the associations between risk factors and subsequent return-to-work outcomes in Alberta workers undergoing TPI rehabilitation following work-related MSI.
Anticipated Results/ Impact	<p>Research in this area has the potential to improve our ability to detect workers at risk of developing TPI following MSI, those at risk of unsuccessful or delayed return-to-work, and those who might benefit from early TPI interventions. Interventions targeted towards workers at risk may help to prevent development of TPI following work-related MSI, ultimately improving return-to-work outcomes.</p>
Keywords	Traumatic psychological injury, TPI, musculoskeletal injury, return-to-work, outcome, interventions