What are the IKT Guiding Principles?

The IKT Guiding Principles were systematically co-developed to support IKT partnerships to conduct quality and ethical spinal cord injury (SCI) research that is relevant, useful, useable, and avoids tokenism.

These principles should be used by all partners – researchers, research users, and funders of SCI research – early and throughout the entire research process. Partners should regularly refer to these principles while reflecting on their approach, contributions, and commitment to the partnership and adjust as needed.

Data supporting the effectiveness of the IKT guiding principles are not yet available. For this reason, these are guiding principles and not guidelines.

For definitions and more information go to www.IKTprinciples.com

To engage more meaningfully in research that is relevant, useful, and/or useable, the IKT guiding principles are:

1. Partners develop and maintain relationships based on trust, respect, dignity, and transparency.

2. Partners share in decision-making.

3. Partners foster open, honest, and responsive communication.

4. Partners recognize, value, and share their diverse expertise and knowledge.

5. Partners are flexible and receptive in tailoring the research approach to match the aims and context of the project.

6. Partners can meaningfully benefit by participating in the partnership.

7. Partners address ethical considerations.

8. Partners respect the practical considerations and financial constraints of all partners.
The IKT Guiding Principles were co-developed by a multidisciplinary group of SCI researchers, clinicians, people with SCI, representatives from SCI community organizations, and funding agencies. The IKT Guiding Principles draw on research supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Want to know more? Visit us at www.IKTprinciples.com