
Spinal cord injuries can have a devastating effect on the survivors’ quality of life. A small biotechnology company is interested in expanding its activities into the area of SCI repair and regeneration. As the future director of the planned SCI division, you are asked to develop the research plan for an SBIR proposal. You are authorized to consider material-based systems, cell-based systems, or combinations of the two. Your research plan should include the following:

1. A discussion of the background and significance of SCI including the various types and prognoses, and a consideration of the size of the potential market for repair systems.
2. A discussion of current treatment methods and their limitations.
3. A description of your proposed repair/regeneration system and the rationale behind your choice.
4. The goals and constraints of your system design, including a discussion of how these were developed.
5. A detailed discussion of your system, including discussion of how it builds upon previous research.
6. A detailed description of the testing regimen (including animal models) that you will implement in order to take your repair/regeneration system from the lab to clinical trials.