

## Email regarding the SBS TV, Insight program. Doing my little bit in the world, to encourage conversation and interest around Spinal Cord Injuries, treatments and rehabilitation.

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Hi Monte

My name is Bryce Vissel. Garvan Institute (I run a lab studying neurodegenerative and spinal cord diseases including stem cell approaches) I am happy to provide an opinion to SBS. The answer is not simple but in my view **it is not about if, but when.**

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Monte Elissa <[REDACTED]> To: [REDACTED]@gmail.com, 13 Oct. 2008 at 7:54 pm

Hi again Bryce,

Thank you for the reply.

I am awaiting the response of a few more leading people, so I can send the comments to Amanda Collinge and the producers of the **Insight program** to have an initial discussion.

Is it ok for me to forward your details to the Insight program on a short list, so that they may contact you directly for further progressions/ discussions?

If you know anyone else worth contacting for comments on the question:

**Is it realistic to believe that most spinal cord (Catastrophic) injured people will walk again one day and what will it take or is this just false hope.**

..... that would be great.

The nature and gravity of the comments may set the tone for a possible Insight TV program. I feel that a few highly regarded comments would be beneficial. I am happy to receive any comments to forward onto SBS.

I have made contact either by phone, fax or email to people including:

Joanna Knott

David Prast

Perry Cross

John Maclean

Dr John Grant

Dr John Yeo

Dr James Middleton

Professor Terry Bartlett

Tony Abbott

It is my intention to bring people together for discussion.

Kind Regards,

Monte Elissa

--- On **Mon, 13/10/08**, Bryce Vissel <[REDACTED]@gmail.com> wrote: From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Subject: Re: SBS Insight program possibility-Comments request. Received: Monday, 13 October, 2008, 1:26 PM

The pace of research is rapid. The fundamental shift that has occurred in thinking is that the nervous system in mammals is highly plastic. This is a change in thinking from ten years ago where the nervous system was believe to be hard wired by adulthood. This change of **thinking is a paradigm shift** with extraordinary implications for understanding a treating disease and SCI. The idea now is that the nervous system can rewire so the scientific question that remains is 'why is this not happening' after SCI. We already have important hints and we are now as scientists working to understand this and overcome it. It is inevitable that this will lead to an outcome. It is a matter of when, not if.

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