

SPOTLIGHT ON MARCIA SCHERER, Ph.D.

Each month we try to "spotlight" someone who is making a difference with ICF. Marcia Scherer directs the ICF part of the "Cornell ICF Project" (the NIDRR-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center [RRTC] on Disability Demographics and Statistics directed by Dr. Andrew Houtenville). She is also Editor of the journal *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, an official journal of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM). We would not be surprised at all to see a future issue of this prestigious journal devoted to the ICF!

Marcia was also honored this spring with the invitation to serve on the National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research, the officially chartered body advising the directors of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR), National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on scientific matters and policies related to NCMRR's programs. Appointment to this Advisory Board is indicative of all the members' substantial credentials as leaders in the various rehabilitation fields, including Assistive Technology (AT) in Professor Scherer's case.

Professor Scherer has earned fellowships in several important disciplines. She is a Fellow of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. Moreover, within the American Psychological Association (APA), she is a Fellow of the APA in Rehabilitation Psychology; and a Fellow of the APA in Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology.

Marcia is a collaborator on the NIDRR-funded Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) for the Advancement of Cognitive Technologies, based at the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. She regularly works with teams of rehabilitation professionals in Australia, England, Ireland and Italy on assistive technology assessments and services.

Marcia writes: "The ultimate focus of the ICF is on the whole person in a social context. The ICF is based on the *biopsychosocial model*, an integration of medical and social models. This has great appeal to me since the University of Rochester is the home of the biopsychosocial model! – it all started here with George Engel, M.D., psychiatry, in the 1970's."

Marcia points out that even though ICF codes pertaining to AT are located in the Environmental Factors domain, in a category labeled *Products and Technology*, the overall value of AT resources are ultimately determined by their impact on daily activities and participation in community life, as well as on such personal factors as coping styles, education, profession, and current experience. For individuals with disabilities, ATDs (Assistive Technology Devices) can facilitate independence in accomplishing *activities* (i.e., the capacity or capability to execute tasks or actions such as reading, writing, walking or moving, dressing, and eating). She views ATDs as valuable facilitators of activity performance and participation in a wide variety of life situations.

The evaluation of the impact of assistive technologies on daily activities and community participation, and measurement strategies for assessing these outcomes, represent important areas of AT research.

Marcia's ICF-specific publications include the following:

- 1) Scherer MJ, Sax C, Vanbiervliet A, Cushman LA, Scherer JV. Predictors of assistive technology use: The importance of personal and psychosocial factors. *Disability & Rehabilitation* 2005; 27(21):1321-1331.
- 2) Scherer MJ, Sax CL, Glueckauf RL. Activities and participation: The need to include assistive technology in rehabilitation counselor education. *Rehabilitation Education* 2005; 19(2-3):177-190.
- 3) Scherer MJ. Assessing the benefits of using assistive technologies and other supports for thinking, remembering and learning. *Disability and Rehabilitation* 2005; 27(13):731-739.
- 4) Scherer MJ, Glueckauf R. Assessing the benefits of assistive technologies for activities and participation. *Rehabilitation Psychology* 2005; 50(2):132-141.
- 5) Scherer MJ. Enhancing assistive technology selection and use: Connecting the ICF and ISO9999. (Newsletter entry.) *RIVM Newsletter on the WHO-FIC* (Bilthoven, The Netherlands: National Institute of Public Health and the Environment [RIVM]) 2004 (September); 2(1):10-11. Available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.rivm.nl/who-fic/newsletter/newsletter2004-1.pdf>

Marcia's ICF-specific presentations include the following:

- 1) Federici S, Scherer M, Micangeli A, Lombardo C, Olivetti Belardinelli, M. A cross-cultural analysis of relationships between disability self-evaluation and individual predisposition to use assistive technology. In Craddock GM, McCormack LP, Reilly RB, and Knops HTP (eds.), *Assistive Technology: Shaping the Future, AAATE'03 August 31 – September 3, 2003, Dublin, Ireland. (Conference Proceedings.)* Amsterdam: IOS Press, 2003, pp. 941-946.
- 2) Scherer MJ, Sax C. Cross-walking the ICF to a Measure of Assistive Technology Predisposition and Use. Oral presentation at the 11th Annual North American Collaborating Center (NACC) Conference on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), June 22-24, Rochester, MN. Presented June 22, 2005.

- 3) Ruiz-Quintanilla A, Scherer MJ, Houtenville A. Barriers to Data Integration Among Various U.S. Rehabilitation Agencies. Oral presentation at the 11th Annual North American Collaborating Center (NACC) Conference on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), June 22-24, Rochester, MN. Presented June 22, 2005.
- 4) Scherer MJ, Cushman LA, Federici S. Measuring Participation and the Disability Experience with the "Assistive Technology Device Predisposition Assessment." Oral presentation at the 10th Annual North American Collaborating Center (NACC) Conference on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), June 1-4, 2004, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Presented June 2, 2004.
- 5) Scherer MJ. Relationships Between ICF Activity Domains and Individual Predisposition to Use Assistive Technology. Oral presentation in the Symposium entitled "International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health---Rehabilitation Psychology Implications," conducted at the 112th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI. Presented July 29, 2004.
- 6) Scherer M, Demers L, Jutai J, Fuhrer M, DeRuyter F. (2004, June 2-4). Application of the ICF in Assistive Technology Outcomes Measurement. Poster presentation at the 10th Annual North American Collaborating Center (NACC) Conference on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), June 1-4, 2004, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Presented June 3, 2004.

Dr. Scherer reports that her favorite hobby is "extreme rock hounding." Several times a year she can be found in Colorado or Utah digging around in the mountains and looking for minerals and fossils. Her favorite? Petrified wood from the Jurassic or Triassic periods.

Here is Professor Scherer's contact information:

Marcia J. Scherer, Ph.D., M.P.H., FACRM
President
Institute for Matching Person and Technology
486 Lake Road
Webster, NY 14580
Phone: (585) 671-3461
E-Mail: Marcia.IMPT97@aol.com
Website: <http://members.aol.com/IMPT97/MPT.html>

And, her faculty address is:

Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

University of Rochester Medical Center
601 Elmwood Ave., P.O. Box 664
Rochester, NY 14642

Website: <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/smd/pmr/fac/scherer.html>

And, her journal editorial board address website is:

Editor, *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1748-3107&linktype=5>