

SPOTLIGHT ON NANCY MAYO

Each month we put the "spotlight" on a professional who is "making a difference with the ICF". Nancy Mayo is a James McGill Professor in the Department of Medicine and the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, McGill University (Division of Geriatrics and Division of Clinical Epidemiology). She is also Research Scientist at the McGill University Hospital Center Research Institute where she is the head of the Health Outcomes Axis. Dr. Mayo is a Physical Therapist by training as well as an Epidemiologist and, thus, has a natural relationship with the ICF both as a model for rehabilitation and also as a method for classification of health outcomes relevant for health services and population health research. Her research program has focused on the evaluation of rehabilitation interventions targeted towards reducing impairment post-stroke, and improving activity, participation and quality of life. While her main interest is in stroke, including surveillance and health services optimization, she is also involved in projects involving women with breast cancer and in evaluating interventions to improve surgical outcomes in high risk groups, persons with cancer, the morbidly obese and the elderly. Methodologically Dr. Mayo's expertise lies in the conduct and analysis of clinical trials, longitudinal studies, and measurement studies. Dr. Mayo uses the ICF framework extensively in teaching and research on outcomes. Through her research activities around design and implementation of electronic health records, Dr. Mayo identified the ICF coding system as a feasible method of obtaining information on functional status indicators that could be used to monitor the health of clinical populations through clinical and administrative databases. However, to be feasible the ICF needs to be linked to clinical tests and measures that are routinely used rather than as a parallel system. She has published a "proof of concept" paper on mapping the SF-12 to the ICF in order to create functional status indicators which can be used to identify service needs for persons with stroke. She also has used the same procedure to illustrate how these functional status indicators can improve prediction of hospitalization, institutionalization and death in a cohort of elderly persons managed in the primary care setting, over and above standard case-mix adjustment variables of co-morbidity and medical visits. Dr. Mayo has been funded to carry out mapping of other outcome measures used in stroke, respiratory conditions, cardio-vascular disease and orthopaedics. The need to develop a standard way of doing this mapping or "cross-walking" between standard outcome measures and the ICF was highlighted recently at the NACC Conference on ICF in Halifax, in June 2004. Arising from this meeting was the development of a standard protocol applying mapping rules already developed by the Munich group of G Stucki, A Cieza et al. Dr. Mayo hopes to implement this protocol internationally to get as many outcome measures as possible mapped to the ICF. Originally from Ottawa, Dr. Mayo is a graduate of Queen's University in Physical Therapy and McGill University with a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Science and a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr. Mayo has 13 years of clinical experience in cities across Canada and has been involved with many aspects of rehabilitation including a specialization in the treatment of children with cerebral palsy and other types of neurological conditions. She has supervised 30 students in Rehabilitation

Science and Epidemiology and has over 75 life-time publications and more than 100 scientific presentations in Canada, North America and Europe. When not at work or at the hockey arena with her two children, aged 17 and 14, and her epidemiologist/hockey coach partner, Dr. Mark Goldberg, Dr Mayo can be found with her family on the golf course where her main goal is directed to reducing her "handicap". Dr. Mayo is speaking on "Standardizing Clinical Assessments to ICF" at the Mayo Clinic in the June 21, 2005 ICF Tutorial at the 11th Annual NACC Meeting on ICF in Rochester, Minnesota. Check out her latest ICF article at: Mayo NE, Poissant L, Finch L, Jaglal S, Salbach N, Ahmed S, Soicher J. Incorporating the international classification of functioning, disability and health (ICF) into an electronic health record to create indicators of function: Proof-of-concept using the SF-12. JAMIA, Aug 2004 (Pre-Publication). Contact her at nancy.mayo@mcgill.ca or tel 514-842-1231.