

APRIL, 2007
NORTH AMERICAN COLLABORATING CENTER
ICF NEWSLETTER

- 1) **APRIL 9th IS THE NEW ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE 2007 ICF CONFERENCE IN NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, JUNE 5-7.**
<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/icf/conference/abstracts.html>

 - 2) **WELCOME! BIENVENUE! PARTICIPATE IN THE 2007 ICF CONFERENCE IN NIAGARA FALLS: "SHARING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH THE ICF."**
WE ALSO INVITE YOU TO THE PRE-CONFERENCE CODING WORKSHOP!
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 - 3) **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN APPLICATIONS OF THE ICF IN HEALTH PROMOTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES?**
A NORTH AMERICAN COLLABORATION IS FORMING IN THOSE FIELDS.

 - 4) **SAVE THE DATE AND PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND: JOINT I.C.D.R. "STATE-OF-THE SCIENCE CONFERENCE" ON FEDERAL APPLICATIONS OF THE ICF, JULY 10-11, 2007 IN CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA.**
REGISTRATION WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE!

 - 5) **BRIEFLY NOTED: ICF NEWS OF INTEREST**
 - a) **Workshop at the 19th Annual IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion & Education: "The ICF: Promoting Health & Health Education"**

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 - **"Development of a Measure of Receptivity of the Physical Environment."**
 - **"Taming the Beast: Measuring Vision-Related Disability Using the International Classification of Functioning"**
 - **"International Spinal Cord Injury Core Data Set"**
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1) **APRIL 9th IS THE NEW ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE 2007 ICF CONFERENCE IN NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, JUNE 5-7.**

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The North American Collaborating Center (NACC) for the World Health Organization's Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC), is pleased to announce that the Abstract Submission Period for the upcoming 13th Annual NACC Conference on the ICF has been extended by an additional week, until **Monday, April 9, 2007**.

Authors and researchers interested in the ICF are invited to share your theoretical and applied work with other members of the North American ICF Community at this important conference, to be held in Niagara Falls, New York between June 5 and 7, 2007.

This year's NACC Conference on the ICF has been enhanced by the co-sponsorship of the Center for International Rehabilitation Research and Exchange (CIRRIE) at the University of Buffalo. Our CIRRIE colleagues have developed an outstanding web-based Abstract Submission procedure within the CIRRIE website. We welcome your participation!

The Abstract Submission guidelines can be reviewed on this web page:

<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/icf/conference/abstracts.html>

Submit your abstract electronically by following the instructions on this adjacent web page:

<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/icf/conference/form.php>

Researchers seeking to submit their abstract in an alternate format, or anyone who might need reasonable accommodations related to a prospective presentation at this year's ICF Conference, are invited to call John Hough at the CDC National Center for Health Statistics, (301) 458-4437, for more assistance. Authors of accepted papers will receive notification on or about April 15.

NACC and CIRRIE welcome your ICF Conference abstract submissions through **Monday, April 9, 2007**. Share YOUR Knowledge Through The ICF, at the ICF Conference!

2) **WELCOME! BIENVENUE! PARTICIPATE IN THE 2007 ICF CONFERENCE IN NIAGARA FALLS: "SHARING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH THE ICF."**

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Venir à la Conférence de CIF! The North American Collaborating Center (NACC) is pleased to announce the 2007 NACC Conference on the ICF, to be held in Niagara Falls, New York, between June 5-7, 2007. This year's theme will be "Sharing Knowledge Through The ICF."

Everyone is invited to participate in this year's ICF Conference, to learn more about applications of the ICF and to continue building our North American community of ICF researchers. This Conference will be your opportunity to learn --- and contribute to learning --- about the ICF!

The co-sponsors for the 2007 ICF Conference are each strong contributors to the North American Collaborating Center. From Canada, our partners at the Canadian Institute for Health Information, and Statistics Canada, have again contributed substantially to the success of this year's ICF Conference. From the U.S., this year the CDC National Center for Health Statistics has been joined by CIRRIE and the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) within the Department of Education as additional co-sponsors for this event.

As described above, the Abstract Submission period has been extended until **Monday, April 9**.

The theme "Sharing Knowledge Through The ICF" had been selected for its relevance to transferring and exchanging new knowledge about the disability and rehabilitation status of populations, which can be assisted by the ICF and the standardization that ICF induces.

This year's theme also brings to mind that in addition to sharing knowledge about population disability status, the ICF enables many different types of researchers, and people with many different types of disability, to utilize a common language for them to share and compare the results of many different types of disability studies and interventions.

As ICF moves from a research tool to a practical classification for describing the health and disability characteristics of individuals and populations, we need to know more about how to move, share, explain, and utilize data that involve ICF coding. As our requirements increase for adequately describing the functional status of individuals and populations, our demands for that "common language" are similarly increasing. ICF coding can satisfy some of those demands.

Some of the topical areas that will be discussed during this year's ICF Conference include:

- "Mapping, Mapping, and More Mapping": Issues and Techniques in ICF Mapping
- The 2007 revision of *Disability in America*, including Canadian "mirror views"
- ICF and "The Seven Principles of Universal Design"
- "How In The World Will I Ever Get My Staff To Use This?" --- Tools and Methods For Teaching About The ICF, and
- "My ICF AT IQ": What I Need to Know About the ICF and Assistive Technologies.

Nous vous invitons aussi à l'Atelier de Codage de Pré-Conférence! We also invite you to the **Pre-Conference Coding Workshop!** NACC is pleased to respond to the demand expressed by registrants at previous ICF Conferences for "providing more instruction about ICF coding." This year an outstanding faculty has worked with CIRRIE and NACC to prepare a full-day (6 contact-hour) intermediate-level ICF Coding Workshop, designed for any registrant but especially for clinicians, and teachers or professors of advanced students in the disability sciences.

Attending the Pre-Conference Workshop is NOT a pre-requisite for enjoying and understanding everything to be offered during the regular ICF Conference, but if you want or need advanced training in "How to Code Cases Using ICF Codes," this is the Workshop you'll want to attend.

The Workshop will identify the conceptual origins of the ICF; review the basic mechanisms for coding clinical encounters; investigate conceptual issues that can hinder ICF utilization by clinicians; describe the American Psychological Association's draft *Procedural Manual and Guide for a Standardized Application of the ICF*; and apply ICF codes to clinical case examples using both the ICF and the *APA Procedural Manual*.

There is a separate registration charge for the Pre-Conference Workshop (\$80.00), for which the registrant will receive lunch, workshop materials, and a hard copy of the ICF "Red Book." The Workshop also features general Continuing Education credits for registrants seeking them.

Here is the website address for the CIRRIE page that describes the Pre-Conference Coding Workshop, including advice on "Who Should Attend" and the workshop objectives:

<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/icf/conference/workshop.html>

You can register for the Pre-Conference Coding Workshop at the regular Registration Site:

http://www.ubevents.org/regengine/event_page.php

We will look forward to seeing you in Niagara Falls in early June!

**3) ARE YOU INTERESTED IN APPLICATIONS OF THE ICF IN HEALTH PROMOTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES?
A NORTH AMERICAN COLLABORATION IS FORMING IN THOSE FIELDS.**

As the ICF matures, and researchers and practitioners discern new ways and settings in which to apply ICF coding, a variety of investigators from the Health Promotion and Health Education disciplines have expressed the need for those fields to be more thoroughly represented in the scientific literature about ICF applications. In these fields, the ICF has direct relevance in both theories and applications, and in academic and practice settings.

In his book *A Dictionary of Epidemiology*, Dr. John Last, Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology and Community Medicine at the University of Ottawa, relied on the 1986 *Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion* to provide this useful definition of "health promotion":

"The process of enabling people to increase control over and improve their health. It involves the population as a whole in the context of their everyday lives, rather than focusing on people at risk for specific diseases, and is directed toward action on the determinants or causes of health" (1995, pg. 74).

Using this pithy definition, a suitable argument could be made representing the ICF as one tool or instrument by which "action on the determinants or causes of health" could be investigated, because applications of the ICF incorporate social and environmental factors, as well as disease factors, into any coded description of the health status among disabled people in populations. Identifying such factors can lead to genuinely health promoting interventions that enable disabled individuals and populations to gain or recover more control over their own health.

It has been said that "Health Promotion is a science for all of us, but promoting health is a responsibility for each of us."

If these issues interest or concern you, please note that a new North American collaboration has been forming that emphasizes applications of the ICF in Health Promotion and Health Education.

Among others, this collaboration has been spearheaded recently by Professor David Howard from the Indiana State University Department of Recreation and Sport Management, in Terre Haute, Indiana. In this nascent collaboration, Professor Howard has been joined by two long-time disability researchers: Patricia Saleeby, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, and Els Nieuwenhuijsen, Ph.D., M.P.H., O.T.R., currently an appointed member of the Ann Arbor (Michigan) Commission on Disability Issues. This North American Collaborating Center ICF Newsletter featured Professor Howard in the "Spotlight" feature of our November-December, 2006 edition. In addition to his doctoral training in Rehabilitation Science, Professor Howard also is an experienced clinical social worker and a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.

A useful resource for such professionals to build this new collaboration is the ICF Community of Practice, an on-line "virtual community" featuring moderated, threaded discussions about many ICF-oriented conceptual issues. <http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/icf/cop/index.html>

For the future, Professor Howard and others involved in the collaboration have elicited a specific invitation to members of the North American ICF community to join them for a discussion about this new collaboration during the upcoming 13th Annual NACC Conference on the ICF, to be held in Niagara Falls, New York, June 5-7, 2007. Details will follow; watch this space.

In the meantime, for those interested in these subjects, contact Professor Howard directly at:

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4) SAVE THE DATE AND PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND: JOINT I.C.D.R. "STATE-OF-THE SCIENCE CONFERENCE" ON FEDERAL APPLICATIONS OF THE ICF, JULY 10-11, 2007 IN CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA.

REGISTRATION WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE!

All members of the North American ICF Community are invited to attend this year's Joint Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) "State-of-the-Science" Conference on Federal Applications of the ICF. Please save the date!

This *second* ICF Conference of the summer will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 10 and 11, 2007, at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia, which is just outside Washington, D.C. It will be jointly sponsored by two of the ICDR's federal subcommittees, the Interagency Subcommittee on Disability Statistics (ISDS) and the Interagency Subcommittee on the New Freedom Initiative (ISNFI).

As with previous ICDR State-of-the-Science conferences, registration will be free of charge.

This Sheraton Hotel is adjacent to the Metro Yellow and Blue lines for easy access by public transportation. For guests at the hotel, a special conference rate has been negotiated for a block of rooms that also includes a set of wheelchair-accessible guest rooms.

If you are interested in ICF applications in Electronic Health Records, this is the conference for you! The topic of this year's ISDS / ISNFI State-of-the-Science conference will be enhancing applications of the ICF in federal benefit or entitlement programs in which the functional status of their patients or clients influences descriptions of their clinical outcomes.

Imbedded in that topic are the issues of "making the ICF electronic" for transmitting large volumes of electronic health information related to functional status, and enabling the ICF to be mapped to other classifications and vocabularies, such as SNOMED-CT, that are already used by and among these federal agencies to transmit large volumes of diagnostic data.

You don't have to be a federal government employee or be involved in any federally-sponsored activities to attend this conference. In fact, the Subcommittees welcome both federal and non-federal participants, as well as researchers and practitioners from fields influenced by the ICF.

Details about the July 10-11 Joint ISDS / ISNFI State-of-the-Science Conference will be posted on this North American Collaborating Center ICF Newsletter, or within the List Serve distribution lists for the respective Subcommittees. If you would like to be a member of either Subcommittee List Serve to receive monthly announcements of the their activities, please send an E-Mail request to Ms. Barbara Rosen at CESSI, Incorporated (E-Mail address: brosen@cessi.net), or John Hough at NCHS (E-Mail address: jph7@cdc.gov).

Join us for this important ICDR State-of-the-Science Conference in Crystal City this July!

5) **BRIEFLY NOTED: ICF NEWS OF INTEREST**

a) **Workshop at the 19th Annual IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion & Education: “The ICF: Promoting Health & Health Education”**

Professor David Howard from the Indiana State University Department of Recreation and Sports Management informed the Editors of this ICF Newsletter that he and Professor Patricia Saleeby and Dr. Els Nieuwenhuijsen will participate in a 90-minute Symposium at the upcoming 19th Annual World Conference on Health Promotion and Education, in Vancouver, B.C., between June 10 and 15, 2007. Bravo!

This conference is sponsored by the International Union of Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE). The IUHPE is a worldwide organization whose members represent the diverse scientific backgrounds that provide the theoretical and applied foundations of Health Promotion and Health Education.

Their workshop during the Symposium will be entitled “The ICF: Promoting Health and Health Education.” The workshop’s Learning Objectives include:

- To name and define each of the primary components of the ICF.
- To illustrate the interrelationship between ICF components, health promotion, and health education.
- To list and describe the four types of ICF qualifiers related to human performance and capacity that apply to the measurement of activity and participation.
- To illustrate at least three examples of Environmental Factors that influence health and health promotion; and
- To describe at least two strategies for implementing the ICF, its language and conceptualization, into systematic community-based health promotion practice.

For more information about the 19th Annual IUHPE World Conference, visit:

<http://www.iuhpeconference.org/>

For more information about their upcoming ICF Workshop, contact Professor Howard directly at: (E-Mail: DKH7LIVES@YAHOO.COM)

b) **Recently In The Literature**

- **“Development of a Measure of Receptivity of the Physical Environment”**

In this important article, the authors, from the Washington University School of Medicine, Program in Occupational Therapy, describe their development and validation of a new tool for measuring the influence of the environment on the performance exhibited by persons with disabilities in communities.

Stark, Hollingsworth, Morgan and Gray reported on the “Community Health Environment Checklist” (CHEC). A full explication of the CHEC is included in an Appendix to the article. They validated the CHEC in a community setting among persons with mobility impairments, assessing 63 “destinations” such as buildings, recreational areas or facilities commonly used by mobility-impaired participants. The theoretical underpinnings of the CHEC were derived directly from the ICF, specifically referencing the Environmental Factors domain.

Citation: Stark S, Hollingsworth HH, Morgan KA, Gray DB. Development of a measure of receptivity of the physical environment. *Disability and Rehabilitation* 2007 (January); 29(2):123-137.

Contact the Corresponding Author for copies: Professor Susan Stark, Washington University, E-Mail address: starksu@msnotes.wustl.edu

- **“Taming the Beast: Measuring Vision-Related Disability Using the International Classification of Functioning”**

As part of a thematic Special Supplement on Vision Loss and Public Health within the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*, these authors have contributed an important article on the usefulness of the ICF for interpreting nationally representative survey data on vision-related impairments in the United States. Their data sources included the National Health Interview Survey, the clinical assessment and the interview within the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, the Survey of Income and Program Participation, and the non-profit 1994 Lighthouse, Incorporated survey.

Hendershot, Placek and Goodman concluded that the ICF clarifies the purposes and applications of survey data related to blindness and low-vision. However, some national surveying activities exhibit fuller investment in conceptual frameworks derived from a fully medical model of disablement, which makes interpreting such population-level data difficult from an ICF perspective. They recommend, and are optimistic about, a more robust forthcoming alignment of surveying activities with the ICF conceptual framework.

Citation: Hendershot GE, Placek PJ, Goodman N. Taming the beast: Measuring vision-related disability using the International Classification of Functioning. *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness* 2006 (December); 100(12, Suppl.):806-823.

Contact the Corresponding Author for copies: Dr. Gerry Hendershot, Consultant on Disability and Health Statistics, E-Mail address: ghendershot@earthlink.net

Through the generosity of the American Foundation for the Blind with funding support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this Special Supplement of the *JVIB* is available free of charge on the Internet for all readers regardless of subscription status. The articles are available in both text and .PDF formats.

The Special Supplement's Table of Contents page is located at:

<http://www.afb.org/jvib/jvib0013toc.asp>

The text version of the Hendershot, *et al.* article is located at:

<http://www.afb.org/jvib/jvib001306.asp>

- **“International Spinal Cord Injury Core Data Set”**

This article is one of three consecutive Discussion Papers presented by members of the Executive Committee for the International Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Data Sets Committees, a collaboration of SCI clinicians and epidemiologists who have developed a set of ICF-derived Core Sets useful clinical care for persons with SCI.

The authors represent several large university- and hospital-based SCI rehabilitation facilities in the U.S., Canada, Switzerland and the Netherlands, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the ICF Research Branch at the German Collaborating Center for the WHO-FIC Network located at Maximilian University in Munich, and the WHO's Classification, Assessment and Terminology Team based in Geneva.

In the three articles, these international authors described the Structure and Terminology required of the International SCI Core Data Set, including a Basic Data Set and an Expanded Data Set, broadly covering the Body Functions and Structures Domain, the Activities and Participation Domain, and their unique “Quality of Life” Domain which incorporates perceived physical and mental health and happiness or life satisfaction.

Citations:

- Biering-Sørensen F, Charlifue SW, DeVivo M, Noonan V, Post M, Stripling T, Wing P. International spinal cord injury data sets. *Spinal Cord* 2006; 44:530-534.
- DeVivo M, Biering-Sørensen F, Charlifue SW, Noonan V, Post M, Stripling T, Wing P. International spinal cord injury core data set. *Spinal Cord* 2006; 44:535-540.
- Biering-Sørensen F, Scheuringer M, Baumberger M, Charlifue SW, Post MWM, Montero F, Kostanjsek N, Stucki G. Developing core sets for persons with spinal cord injuries based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health as a way to specify functioning. *Spinal Cord* 2006; 44:541-546.

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