

**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2006 NORTH AMERICAN COLLABORATING CENTER
ICF NEWSLETTER**

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1. ANNOUNCING THE 2007 ICF CONFERENCE IN NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, JUNE 5-7, 2007: "SHARING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH THE ICF"

The North American Collaborating Center (NACC) for the World Health Organization's Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) is pleased to announce the 2007 NACC Conference on the ICF, to be held in Niagara Falls, New York, between June 5-7, 2007.

The online Abstract Submission process will begin on or about February 1, 2007, with a Submission deadline of Sunday, April 1, 2007.

The theme of the 2007 ICF Conference will be "Sharing Knowledge Through The ICF." This theme has 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.

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 a "common language" are similarly increasing. ICF coding can satisfy some of those demands.

But how do we learn about applying the ICF? In what forum can we share knowledge about the ICF gained by scientists in other fields and apply it to our own field? In fact, where can we learn more about basic ICF coding? The 2007 NACC Conference on the ICF will be your opportunity to learn --- and contribute to learning --- about the ICF!

Abstracts for contributed papers and posters are especially solicited in (but not restricted to) the following Topical Areas for this year's ICF Conference:

- a. "Mapping, Mapping, and More Mapping": Issues and Techniques in ICF Mapping
- b. The 2007 revision of *Disability in America*, including Canadian "mirror views"
- c. ICF and "The Seven Principles of Universal Design"
- d. "How In The World Will I Ever Get My Staff To Use This?" --- Tools and Methods For Teaching About The ICF
- e. "My ICF AT IQ": What I Need to Know About the ICF and Assistive Technologies, and
- f. All The World's an ICF Stage: WHO-FIC, Pan American Health Organization, NACC and the other WHO Regions and Collaborating Centers.

This year's ICF Conference also will feature the increasingly-popular "Coding Workshop" as a full-fledged pre-conference workshop on Tuesday, June 5. As in the past, Faculty members will be drawn from professionals affiliated with the American Psychological Association's useful *Procedural Manual and Guide for a Standardized Application of the ICF: A Manual for Health Professionals* (2003 manuscript; APA). The main body of this year's ICF Conference will also feature a renewed instructional emphasis on ICF coding techniques.

Details about the ICF Conference will be released shortly on the following websites:

<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/icf/icfconference.html>

<http://www.icfconference.com>

In the meantime, the Executive Summary from the 2006 NACC Conference on the ICF, held in Vancouver, is now available on www.icfconference.com. At that website, you can click on *Final Conference Report Now Available* for the 22 page summary. It presents useful details about the daily plenaries, all concurrent sessions, and the poster sessions.

2. CONSOLIDATED HEALTH INFORMATICS (CHI) INITIATIVE DISABILITY WORKING GROUP (DWG) RECOMMENDED ICF AS A "CHI-ENDORSED VOCABULARY"

Editorial Note: An earlier version of this ICF Newsletter entry appeared in the September-October 2006 Newsletter edition, but not all Newsletter Subscribers received the copy of that edition containing the fullest information on this important CHI DWG topic. The following adapted entry describes subsequent action on the topic taken by the U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. Also, fuller documentation of this topic has now been posted on an Internet website, listed at the end of this Newsletter for your review.

Readers can review the September-October 2006 rendering of this Newsletter entry at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd9/Sept-Oct2006ICFCLEARINGHOUSEMESSAGE.pdf>

...then scroll down to pages 5-9.

Following several years of work, on October 11, 2006, the Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI) Initiative's Disability Work Group (DWG) delivered to a subcommittee of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) its recommendations related to standardizing the electronic exchange of functioning and disability content in the federal health enterprise, including functional information from patient or client assessments. The Work Group's recommendations, which had been unanimously endorsed by the CHI Council, also were unanimously supported by the NCVHS Subcommittee on Standards and Security.

In turn, during its November 28-29, 2006 meeting, the full NCVHS fully concurred with the recommendations submitted by that Subcommittee. Subsequently, the NCVHS transmitted these recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, for adoption.

These recommendations would provide a substantial boost toward utilizing the ICF every day across populations and in electronic health record systems.

The CHI has been operating under the auspices of the DHHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology as part of the federal government's eHealth Initiatives. During the CHI's deliberations in recent years, the domain of functional assessment and disability had been particularly challenging because of the lack of standardization in this area.

Throughout 2005 and 2006, the CHI's DWG endeavored to craft recommendations related to transmitting functional status data electronically, taking into account the fact that existing vocabularies poorly covered the full extent of the domain. The interagency DWG was chaired by Laurence Desi, M.D., M.P.H. from the Social Security Administration, and Ms. Jennie Harvell from the DHHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, and included representatives from about a dozen federal agencies. Ms. Beth Halley, representing the Federal Health Architecture initiative and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, spearheaded the Disability Working Group by providing outstanding coordination and support. Staff from the North American Collaborating Center participated in the effort and can attest that the degree of collaboration among the members of this interagency working group was impressive.

The DWG prepared the following Abstract to describe its overall activities and recommendations:

"To support implementation of a nationwide interoperable HIT [Health Information Technology] infrastructure, federally-required patient/client assessment and other functioning and disability content must be 'exchanged' and 're-used' by providers and the federal government in a standardized way. This [CHI DWG] recommendation supports HIT interoperability by: placing patient/client assessment questions and answers into a LOINC[®]-coded ["Logical Observation Identifiers and Codes"] representation; linking assessment questions and answers with 'usefully-related' and exact and synonymous matches to CHI-endorsed vocabulary terms; and using HL7 ["Health Level 7"] messages to transmit the patient/client assessment and other functioning and disability content. Endorsing ICF as a CHI standard for the functioning and disability content facilitates (i) inclusion of ICF into the UMLS ["Uniform Medical Language System"], (ii) mapping between ICF and SNOMED ["Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terms"], (iii) expanding the coded disability content available for use, and (iv) making ICF available for use by the federal partners in standardizing patient assessments and other functioning and disability content. Linking patient/client assessment instruments with HIT content and messaging standards removes known barriers to interoperability."

There were several conditions associated with the DWG's recommendations, focusing on developing web-based tools for making "usefully-related" matches more efficient and understandable, creating a new knowledge base in the UMLS Metathesaurus that would essentially represent the information on assessment forms and the content matches, and moving toward incorporating the ICF fully into the UMLS, which will require additional licensing negotiations between WHO and the National Library of Medicine.

You can review the NCVHS's correspondence, and the full 88-page documentation prepared by the CHI DWG for its formal presentations, at this NCVHS web page:

<http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/061128lt.pdf>

Within the pages of this NACC ICF Newsletter, we will keep you posted about the next steps involved with implementing CHI DWG's recommendations.

3. UPDATE: WHO-FIC NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING IN TUNISIA APPROVED THE ICF-CY, AND LAUNCHED THE NEW FUNCTIONING AND DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (FDRG)

Many activities related to the ICF transpired at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the World Health Organization's Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) Network, held in La Marsa, Tunisia, between October 29 and November 4. Pertinently, the official approval of the new ICF Children and Youth Version (ICF-CY) occurred, and a formal "roll-out" of the ICF-CY for worldwide application is expected during Fall, 2007. Moreover, a sizable number of relevant documents are now posted for public review on the WHO-FIC web pages, particularly those related to the newly-established Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG).

The WHO-FIC Network's mission involves revising, refining, and enhancing existing Classifications through a formal review and updating process and bringing new classifications into the Family. For example, associated with the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), a long-standing Mortality Reference Group has existed to receive requests from around the world for including newly-identified causes of death and new methods for accurately coding all mortalities. The WHO-FIC Network operates a set of formal Reference Groups for handling such tasks on an ongoing basis, and at the most recent annual meeting, several new Reference Groups were officially constituted. In addition to the FDRG, which will have direct relevance to the ICF, a new Morbidity Reference Group and a Terminology Reference Group have also been established; the purview of the latter will span all the respective Classifications including ICF.

The FDRG has been established under the chairmanship of Ms. Ros Madden from the Australian Collaborating Center, and Dr. Gerold Stucki from Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. The North American Collaborating Center nominated Diane Caulfeild, Janice Miller, Professor Jerome Bickenbach, Professor Rune Simeonson, and John Hough to serve as NACC representatives on the FDRG.

A compilation of the constitutive documents for the FDRG can be found at this WHO-FIC Network website: <http://www3.who.int/whofic/2006meeting/documentlist.html>, then scroll down to Document # R301, "Compilation of Papers for the Functioning and Disability Reference Group."

Readers of this NACC ICF Newsletter might also find it interesting to review other documents posted on that WHO-FIC Network website regarding the ICF. Point your Internet browser to the same website as above, and scroll down to any of the following documents that interest you:

- #P09 "Annual Report of the WHO Collaborating Center for the Family of International Classifications for North America"
- # P101 "12th NACC Conference on the ICF: Update"
- # P102 "Children's Rights and ICF-CY Documentation," prepared by Professor Rune Simeonsson
- # P107 "ICF-CY as a Universal Tool for Practice, Policy and Research," prepared by the ICF-CY Development Team
- # P109 "A Proposal on Qualifiers of Activity Based on Population Surveys: 'Limited Independence' as a Predictive Risk Factor for Declines of Functioning After Natural Disasters," prepared by Professors Satoshi Ueda and Yayoi Okawa from the Japanese Collaborating Center
- # P110 "A Proposal on Qualifiers of Activity Based on Population Surveys: 'Universal Independence' versus 'Limited Independence'," also prepared by Ueda and Okawa
- # P113 "Linked Libraries of ICF PowerPoint Presentations," prepared by John Hough and Marjorie Greenberg from the NACC
- # P114 "Optimizing and Leveraging Opportunities for ICF Education," also prepared by Hough and Greenberg
- # P115 "A Structured Collection of Information, Experiences and Comments on the ICF," prepared by Dr. Huib Ten Napel from the Dutch Collaborating Center, and
- # P116 "ICF in Health Outcome Evaluation: Review and Outlook of the use of the ICF in Clinical Practice," prepared by Drs. Gerold Stucki and Alarcos Cieza from the German Collaborating Center.

We will provide updates on the activities of the new FDRG in the pages of this NACC ICF Newsletter. NACC appreciates the many dedicated professionals from around the world who contribute to the WHO-FIC Network, and specifically to the advancement of the ICF internationally.

4. PROFESSOR CATHY BODINE PRESENTED PAPER ON ICF AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TOPICS DURING OCTOBER I.S.D.S. MEETING

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 11, members of the U.S. federal Interagency Subcommittee on Disability Statistics (ISDS) received a brief report on an important ICF topic. Dr. Cathy Bodine, Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, delivered a presentation entitled "Development of an

Assistive Technology Outcomes Measurement System: Utilizing the ICF to Bridge the Gap between Clinic and Research."

This study was a Field-Initiated Development Project partially supported by NIDRR. Its purpose was to develop a web-based assistive technology outcomes system to capture data enabling clinicians to measure and assess the effect that assistive technological devices and services have for persons with disabilities. For example, such an outcomes measurement system would need to comply with a variety of international standards pertaining to assistive technologies, such as the new International Wheelchair Seating Standard, and the International Standards Organization's ISO 9999 standard, titled "Technical Aids for Persons with Disabilities: Classification and Terminology." Assessing changes over time attributable to an assistive technology intervention among members of a cohort certainly invokes ICF coding for the Environmental Factors that are inherent in such interventions.

You can obtain a copy of Professor Bodine's October 11 ISDS presentation by sending her an E-Mail request at: Cathy.Bodine@UCHSC.edu.

On a related subject, Professor Bodine and Dr. Marcia Scherer from the Institute For Matching Person and Technology, Inc., recently co-authored an important Workshop Summary stemming from the June, 2006 Conference on "Technology for Improving Cognitive Function," which had been held in Washington, D.C. under the auspices of the federal Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR). The ICDR is the parent committee to which the ISDS and other interagency subcommittees report. Their published article in the journal *Disability and Rehabilitation* summarizes the recommendations from the four working groups convened during the conference. The citation is as follows:

Bodine C, Scherer MJ. Technology for improving cognitive function: A workshop sponsored by the U.S. Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR): Reports from working groups. *Disability and Rehabilitation* 2006 (December); 28(24):1567-1571.

If you would like to receive regular announcements about the ISDS monthly meetings, send a request providing your own E-Mail address to Ms. Barbara Rosen at CESSI, Inc., at this E-Mail address: Brosen@cessi.net.

5. BRIEFLY NOTED: ICF NEWS OF INTEREST

a) Dr. Geoff Reed, American ICF Consultant, Has Relocated to Madrid, and is Conducting ICF Tutorials in South Africa

Dr. Geoff Reed has been a substantial contributor to the revision and application activities that have recently characterized the ICF. For example, Dr. Reed has

served as one of the authors of the draft document entitled *Procedural Manual and Guide for a Standardized Application of the ICF: A Manual for Health Professionals* (2003, manuscript, American Psychological Association), and Geoff is regularly called upon to serve as an instructor in ICF coding workshops, notably at several recent NACC Conferences on the ICF.

In 2006, Geoff has literally expanded his horizons in terms of latitude and longitude: he recently relocated to Madrid, Spain. Geoff has retained his opportunities to provide consulting services to APA and among its constituencies within the professional practice of psychology, while also expanding his opportunities to provide consultation and training resources on the ICF internationally. For example, during early 2007, Geoff has been retained to provide ICF training and coding instructional services in South Africa on a contractual basis on behalf of its Department of Health.

You can contact Dr. Geoff Reed at this E-Mail address:
gmreed@mac.com

b) Professor Jerome Bickenbach Will Deliver ICF Presentation at Rehabilitation Education Conference

Another long-time contributor to the revision and application of ICF, Professor Jerome Bickenbach from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, will deliver a detailed presentation on the ICF at the Seventh Annual National Rehabilitation Educators Conference, sponsored by the National Council of Rehabilitation Educators (NCRE). The meeting will be held February 22-25, 2007 in San Diego. Professor Bickenbach's presentation will be part of the NCRE's Pre-Conference Workshops, and it will be entitled "ICF on the International Scene: Ethical Issues in Application." The overall session, designed for Rehabilitation Educators, will be entitled "Ethics in Rehabilitation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives."

You can review a description of the Pre-Conference Workshop that includes Jerome's presentation at this website:
http://www.rehabeducators.org/docs/pdf/NCRE_2007_Pre_Conference_Flier.pdf
And you can review the full conference agenda, and find registration materials, at this website:
http://www.rehabeducators.org/docs/pdf/NCRE_2007_Brochure_final.pdf

You can contact Professor Bickenbach at this E-Mail address:
jerome.bickenbach@queensu.ca

Incidentally, Professor Bickenbach is currently fulfilling one of the most prestigious endowed research chairs among faculties at Canadian universities: Jerome is a Queen's Research Chairholder at Queen's University. These chairs are awarded for five-year terms among nominated faculty members. This research

program enables Queen's University "to recognize individuals with highly distinguished accomplishments who are maintaining an exceptional level of activity in their research and scholarly work, and have achieved international pre-eminence in their field." Professor Bickenbach maintains his appointments within the Department of Philosophy, the Faculty of Law, and the School of Rehabilitation Therapy, and continues to support the World Health Organization in a variety of efforts that broaden the application of ICF.

c) Check It Out: The Dutch Collaborating Center's "WHO-FIC Newsletter"

Our colleagues at the WHO Collaborating Center for the Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) in The Netherlands regularly produce an outstanding international and bilingual Newsletter, to which we direct your attention and readership. The Dutch Collaborating Center is located within the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (Dutch acronym "RIVM"). The Newsletter is available in either English or Dutch. The Collaborating Center Director is Dr. Marijke W. de Kleijn-de Vrankrijker, and she is assisted by Drs. Huib Ten Napel and Willem M. Hirs.

In the most recent edition from December, 2006, the Newsletter includes extensive coverage of the 2006 WHO-FIC Annual Meeting in Tunisia, focusing on the approval of the ICF-CY and the establishment of the Functioning and Disability Reference Group during that meeting. The RIVM WHO-FIC Newsletter consistently provides outstanding summaries of actions taken within the WHO-FIC environment, covering each of the Classifications. Other materials regularly seen in the Newsletter involve ICF-oriented activities around the world, clear summaries of the standard known as ISO 9999 ("Technical Aids for Persons with Disabilities: Classification and Terminology"), and an ongoing Bibliography of recent ICF-related publications.

You can subscribe to receive the RIVM WHO-FIC Newsletter by E-Mail at no charge, by contacting Dr. Willem Hirs at the Dutch Collaborating Center. His E-Mail address is: willem.hirs@rivm.nl. You can also request to subscribe to the hard-copy version of the Newsletter by postal mail, by contacting the RIVM Secretariat, Lummy Blomer, and providing your full postal address. Use this E-Mail address for that purpose: Lummy.Blomer@rivm.nl

You can also review the current and archived issues of the RIVM WHO-FIC Newsletter at the Dutch Collaborating Center's English-language home page: <http://www.rivm.nl/who-fic/index.html>

6. SPOTLIGHT ON PROFESSOR DAVID HOWARD

In our NACC ICF Newsletters, we occasionally spotlight North Americans who have “made a difference” using ICF. In this issue, we spotlight Dr. David Howard, in recognition for his work applying the ICF in the discipline of Recreation Therapy, both academically and professionally.

David Howard is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Recreation and Sport Management at Indiana State University (ISU). He earned his Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science at the University of Florida in 2004, and earned previous degrees at the University of Utah in clinical social work (1998) and recreation and leisure studies (1995).

Professionally, David is a member of both the National Therapeutic Recreation Society (NTRS) and the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA). These associations represent Recreation Therapy professionals who work in both hospital and clinic settings, as well as in specialized facilities like adult day care centers and other community facilities. ATRA has produced a web page entitled “Frequently Asked Questions About Recreational Therapy,” which is useful for learning more about this innovative profession. Visit the ATRA website at: <http://www.atra-tr.org/aboutfaq.htm> to view the set of informative FAQs.

ATRA itself is an important contributor to the ICF community. As we described in the January-February, 2006 edition of this ICF Newsletter, in 2005 ATRA adopted a position “support[ing] the use of ICF language and terminology in recreation therapy practice guidelines” and other attributes of its professional practice, and “acknowledge[d] the significance of the use of the ICF classification and coding system . . . to clarify and enhance practice and research in recreation therapy.” (The text of the position statement can be viewed at this ATRA website: <http://www.atra-tr.org/docs/ATRAICFstatementNewsrelease.pdf> Professor Howard was instrumental in ATRA adopting the position statement. In fact, between 2004 and 2006, he served as the Chair of ATRA’s Public Health – World Health Organization/ICF team.

David also has contributed to the ATRA Public Health – Healthy People 2010 Committee, advocating for Recreation Therapy professionals to become more involved in multidisciplinary health promotion efforts.

The National Therapeutic Recreation Society is a component of the National Recreation and Park Association. NTRS members specialize in providing therapeutic recreation services for persons with disabilities in clinical facilities and in the community. NTRS members include practitioners, administrators, educators, volunteers, students, and consumers. Within NTRS, David worked with committees related to practicing in correctional settings, and among at-risk youngsters.

The ATRA WHO/ICF Team was established in 2002, under the leadership of John Jacobson, CTRS. Members of this Team have worked with colleagues at the American Psychological Association in the development of the *Procedural Manual and Guide for a Standardized Application of the ICF: A Manual for Health Professionals*. Members of the ATRA WHO/ICF

Team also have presented more than a dozen conference sessions since 2002 about the applicability of ICF to Recreational Therapeutic practice. For example, during ATRA's 2003 Mid-Year Professional Issues Forum, John Jacobson presented the didactic session entitled "The World Health Organization's ICF: Its Emerging Role in Clinical Practice." Similarly, in 2006 David Howard participated in at least two ICF-oriented training sessions during ATRA meetings. During the association's March, 2006, Mid-Year Forum, David presented the session entitled "The WHO and the ICF: Advancing RT Practice, Research and Education." Then, during the association's annual meeting in September, David was joined by Dr. Marieke Van Puymbroeck from the Indiana University School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in delivering a three-hour training entitled "WHO and the ICF: Moving Our Profession Forward."

Over the years David has contributed substantially to the field's journal for practitioners, *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*. For example, in 2004 David and several co-authors contributed an article entitled "Healthy People 2010 and Therapeutic Recreation: Professional Opportunities to Promote Public Health."

In addition to his work with the ICF, as a researcher, currently David serves as the primary investigator in three studies:

- 1) Investigation of the effect of a dance and body movement intervention for women treated for breast cancer (with co-investigator Rhonda Nelson from Temple University);
- 2) Investigation of the impact of a quality-of-life and intimacy-based intervention (Ipsalu Tantra Kriya Yoga) for men treated for prostate cancer; and
- 3) A qualitative study of Reiki (a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing) as a form of "energy medicine," and the subjective experience of those who deliver and receive this healing modality.

At Indiana State University, David also serves as an affiliated faculty member within the University's Center for the Study of Health, Religion, and Spirituality, whose mission is "to promote . . . scholarship regarding the interrelationships between religion, spirituality, values, ethics, meaning making, and physical and emotional health and well-being." Within this Center, David's projects emphasize "disability and ability issues," spirituality and adjustment to living with cancer, and the spiritual life of incarcerated persons.

In his own leisure-time, David enjoys participating in many sports and recreation activities, including cultural events and festivals, traveling, cooking, pencil and charcoal drawing, drum circles, racquet sports, disc golf, and attending football and basketball games. David recently gave acting a try, appearing in a community-based production of an "Underground Railroad" re-enactment where he played the role of a "conductor," helping runaway American slaves escape to freedom in Canada in the 19th century. All this activity captures David's perspectives on ensuring balance in our lives. David passed along to us a salient quote that we can all appreciate, from Joseph Lee (1862-1937), "The Father of the Playground Movement," who wrote, "We do not cease playing because we are old; we grow old because we cease playing."

Here is David's contact information:

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7. A MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

The Editorial Team that compiles and distributes this ICF Newsletter would like to clarify that the version of the September-October 2006 edition of the Newsletter that we distributed in our E-Mail message on October 26, 2006 was an incomplete draft manuscript. We apologize for that miscommunication.

However, the fully updated version of that Newsletter edition has been posted on the NACC ICF web page within the National Center for Health Statistics website, for your review and reference. The photographs for Heather Porter, the subject of our September-October "Spotlight," and the new book co-edited by Porter and entitled *Recreational Therapy Handbook of Practice: ICF-Based Diagnosis and Treatment* (2006), are also posted on that web page for your viewing.

Point your browser to this web address to read the updated September-October ICF Newsletter:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd9/Sept-Oct2006ICFCLEARINGHOUSEMESSAGE.pdf>

. . . and view the accompanying photographs at the top of this web page:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/icd9/icfactivities_yr06.htm .