1. 101 REGISTRANTS AT JUNE 21-24, 2005 11th ANNUAL NACC CONFERENCE ON ICF IN ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

One hundred and one persons registered for the 11th Annual North American Collaborating Center Conference on ICF in Rochester, Minnesota, and about 50 presentations were made. This was the first NACC ICF meeting with a focus on clinical practice; the first with an ICF coding training session, and the first to offer continuing education credits. It also was the second NACC ICF meeting to have a pre-conference tutorial; concurrent sessions; and poster sessions. Most registrants attended the June 21 pre-conference tutorial. Conference abstracts are currently posted on the web at www.icfconference.com. The science of mapping, advances enabling machine processing of clinical data, and uses of "mapped" clinical data for research and policy received emphasis in relation to the ICF. An executive summary is being prepared for posting in late August. The ICF is available in published form and on the WHO website at http://www.who.int/classification/icf.
2. ORDER THE ICF

If you are in the U.S. or Canada, you can order your ICF books from New York or Ottawa instead of Geneva.
ICF Hardback Book, 299 pages, $45 USD, #1152088 (English, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic, or Chinese)
ICF Pocket-sized book, 229 pages, small, soft cover $12.60 USD, #1153088 (English only)
MULTI-LINGUAL CD-ROM (6 languages, advanced search), $135 USD, #0990011. Contact: Q-Corporation,
WHO Publications Center, 49 Sheridan Ave., Albany, NY 12210, Tel 518-436-9686 x131 for Kathleen Arden, Fax 518-436-7433, qcorp@compuserve.com. There is a 30% discount for quantities of 30 or more, plus shipping, and orders must be prepaid. These books can also be purchased from a Canadian supplier. Contact the Canadian Public Health Association, 1565 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, K1Z 8R1, Ontario, Canada, tel 613-725-3769, fax 613-725-9972, www.cpha.ca/hrc.

3. WHERE ARE EARLIER CLEARINGHOUSE MESSAGES?


4. SPECIAL ICF ISSUE OF REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY

The March 2005 issue (Vol. 50, Number 2) of Rehabilitation Psychology marked yet another ICF milestone with five articles on implications of the ICF for the field of rehabilitation psychology. The articles are: 1) "Introduction to the Special Section on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health: Implications for Rehabilitation Psychology", by Susanne M. Bruyere and David B. Peterson; 2) "International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health: An Introduction for Rehabilitation Psychologists", by David B. Peterson; 3) "The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health: Contemporary Literature Overview" by Susanne M. Bruyere, Sara A. Van Looy, and David B. Peterson; 4) "Operationalizing the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health in Clinical Settings" by Geoffrey M. Reed, Jayne B. Lux, Lynn F. Bufka, Christine Trask, David B. Peterson, Susan Stark, Travis T. Threats, John W. Jacobson, and Judy A. Hawley; and 5) Assessing the Benefits of Assistive Technologies for Activities and Participation" by Marcia A. Scherer and Rob Glueckauf. Individual reprints of the articles can be obtained from the first authors: Susanne Bruyere smb23@cornell.edu, David Peterson peterson@iit.edu, Geoffrey M. Reed gmreed@apa.org, and Marcia Scherer IMPT97@aol.com. Dr. Reed has graciously agreed to send a full set of all reprints to those who email him their full mailing address with phone number.
5. OTHER SPECIAL ISSUES OF JOURNALS WITH ICF FOCUS

The Spring 2003 issue of Health Care Financing Review (Volume 24, Number 3) had a foreward plus six articles on the ICF and functional status. The June 17, 2003 issue of Disability and Rehabilitation (Volume 25, Numbers 11 and 12) had 15 articles on the ICF. These two sets of articles are still available as reprinted sets by sending an email with your full mailing address and phone number to Marjorie Greenberg at MSG1@cdc.gov. The 2004 issue of Advances in Speech-Language Pathology (Volume 6, Number 1) included six ICF papers, with Travis Threats as the organizer. Information on reprints is available from him at threatst@slu.edu.

6. GREENBERG PRESENTS ICF TUTORIAL AT NCHS/CDC AT MONTHLY DISABILITY WORKGROUP MEETING

Marjorie Greenberg gave a tutorial on the ICF at the June 13, 2005 meeting of the new Disability Workgroup at the National Center for Health Statistics/Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Hyattsville. Her talk was entitled: "Improving the Population's Health Through Standards: The Case of the ICF". The purpose of the group is to discuss disability statistics and disability measurement issues. Barbara Altman heads the group, and she can be reached at BAltman@cdc.gov. The group is currently limited to NCHS employees. This was just the third monthly meeting of the group of over 20 interested persons. The group included persons working with data from the alphabet soup of NCHS surveys--the LSOA, the HHCS, the NHIS, the MCBS, the SLAITS, the JCUSH, and the NHANES. Their research interests include childhood mental health issues, predictors of nursing home use, health transitions, children with special health care needs, compression of morbidity, mental health per se, women's health and aging, life expectancy and statistical modeling, levels of disability among the aging, health care quality outcomes, injury which leads to disability, international comparisons with Canada, circumstances of the deaf and hard of hearing, measurement of disability in surveys, the WHO model and ICF, and secondary conditions among persons with disabilities.

7. NEW EDITED VOLUME ON HEALTH STATISTICS INCLUDES MENTION OF ICF

Oxford University Press has just published an edited volume on Health Statistics: Shaping policy and practice to improve the population’s health (2005), the first single book to cover the key elements in developing, using and improving health statistics. A chapter on “Standards and their use in health statistics”, co-authored by Marjorie Greenberg and R. Gibson Parrish, includes mention of the ICF as the international terminology standard for functional status.

8. SIX ICF PAPERS AT SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2005 CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SPINAL CORD INJURY PSYCHOLOGISTS AND SOCIAL WORKERS IN LAS VEGAS

The 19th Annual Conference of the AASCIPSW will be held September 6-8, 2008 in Las Vegas, and six ICF papers will be presented. A September 6th one and one-half hour
Concurrent Symposia moderated by Marcia J. Scherer includes: Scherer paper #108: "ICF: An Orientation with Practical Applications (Part 1); David B. Peterson paper #109: "ICF: An Orientation with Practical Applications (Part II)"; and Susanne Bruyere paper #110: "Current Rehabilitation-Related International Classification of Functioning Efforts". A September 7th one and one-half hour Concurrent Symposia moderated by Laura Cushman includes: Geoffrey M. Reed paper #209: "A Manual for Clinical Implementation of the ICF"; Nancy Hansen-Merbitz paper #210: "ICF and Health: An Orientation with Practical Applications"; and Robert L. Glueckauf paper #211: "ICF and Health: Synthesis and Future Directions". For more information on the sessions, contact: Marcia J. Scherer, PhD, MPH, FACRM, Institute for Matching Person & Technology, 486 Lake Road, Webster, NY 14580 USA 585-671-3461 (phone/fax), http://members.aol.com/IMPT97/MPT.html. Scherer is also Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Rochester Medical Center, 601 Elmwood Ave., P.O. Box 664, Rochester, NY 14642 USA, IMPT97@aol.com.

9. OWENS AND VALLUZZI DISCUSS ICF AT NIMH EXPERT MEETING

Drs. Pamela Owens and Jan Valluzzi of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) participated in the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) Expert Meeting on the Conceptualization and Measurement of Functioning in Children and Adolescents With or At-Risk for Mental Disorders held April 18-19, 2005. The purpose of the meeting was to (a) refine a conceptual framework on child and adolescent functioning and impairment in mental health and (b) develop a set of recommendations about key research issues and questions that could be used by NIMH to develop a research agenda and program announcement. Drs. Owens and Valluzzi provided reviews of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), the child and youth version of the classification system, and the potential uses of the ICF and ICF-CY with respect to mental health conditions. Preliminary recommendations from the meeting included encouragement of the use of the ICF to inform the measurement of functioning in children and adolescents with mental disorders and the participation of NIMH staff in ICF subcommittee meetings. For more information, contact: Pamela Owens, Ph.D., Center for Delivery, Organization and Markets, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 540 Gaither Road, Rockville, Maryland 20850, Phone: 301-427-1438 / Fax: 301-427-1430, powens@ahrq.gov

10. WANT AN ICF WORKSHOP? CALL MARJORIE

She and CDC retiree Paul Placek are in touch with a number of individuals who might be able to give an ICF tutorial to your group, agency, or institution. Contact her at MSG1@CDC.GOV or Paul at PJPLACEK@DMV.COM to discuss the possibilities. You might even get Marjorie or Paul to come!

11. ICF USER FORUM IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare plans to hold an ICF User Forum on February 6-7, 2006 in Sydney. The purpose of the forum will be to enable ICF users and
potential users to exchange information about their ICF experiences and, provide valuable feedback to the AIHW, as the Australian Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications. There will also be an opportunity to workshop some specific ICF implementation issues that will enhance the next edition of the ICF Australian User Guide. Dr. Bedirhan Üstün of the World Health Organization has accepted an invitation to attend as a keynote speaker. AIHW is keen to keep costs down to promote attendance and will probably finance any meeting venue costs, including food. Travel, dinner and accommodation would be at the expense of participants. If you have any suggestions please let them know. They would appreciate your response to Sally Bullock (sally.bullock@aihw.gov.au) by Friday July 15.

12. SPOTLIGHT ON DAVID W. KEER

David Keer joined the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) in 1997 as a program specialist. His portfolio at NIDRR includes work in the areas of the demographics of disability, independent living, multiple sclerosis, and other topics. In addition, he serves as Co-Chair of the Interagency Subcommittee on Disability Statistics (ISDS). Prior to joining NIDRR, David had worked in survey research and development, first at the University of Illinois Survey Research Lab and then at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Over the years, he has worked with national and international agencies and organizations to improve measurement of disabilities and the range of facilitators and barriers associated with participation at home, in the community, and when learning and working. David states: "Academic training and personal history have contributed to my interest in supporting the ICF. My own involvement with ICF goes back to my days at NCHS with Gerry Hendershot and Paul Placek. I participated in some of the earlier work but was pulled in other directions during the middle stage of the ICF development. My current thinking about ICF is easily summarized by a few sentences I had written for a request for funding NIDRR had in the field a couple of years ago:

'Lack of standard definitions, terminology, coding, classification, and measurement of disability and functioning often limits generalization of research findings. Extending use of research findings or population trends to inform policy or clinical interventions is limited due to the difficulty of extrapolating knowledge about disabilities that is gathered from a disparate range of data sources, classification and coding systems, and measures of disability. For example, it is important to estimate future potential demands on rehabilitation systems, but existing population data sources do not adequately provide for planning, development, and evaluation of rehabilitation services and population trends. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) allows one to assess disability as a dynamic interaction between the person and the environment. The ICF can assist with generating evidence-based policy, research, programs, and services. To extend the use of the ICF within the United States, a variety of measurement tools and data systems must be examined in addition to further evaluation of the implications of the classification system for U.S. populations. To better serve consumers, we must support the development, evaluation, and improvement of the ICF as it applies to participation of individuals with disabilities in society and the environments, systems, and policies that have the potential to affect their lives.'"
David's graduate work was in sociology at the University of Chicago, and his undergraduate studies were in philosophy and literature. David says these studies reflect his love of thought, language, and the wonder of social interaction. David says that his life has taken unexpected twists due to health and illness, a variety of difficulties that interrupted his academic career as well as the geography of his life when Chicago winters became too much. He moved to DC to work at NCHS, then worked on the NHIS-D, just as the MS was flaring up more strongly and other problems began. He sees the Capitol most mornings on his way to work. David says: “I try to stay away from the political heat. DC has sure been interesting and this is where I have built a nice life with my partner and friends. One of these days I will ICF code my life and figure it all out. Maybe later this year, on my 50th." David is long overdue to be in the ICF Spotlight. Here's how to contact him: David W. Keer, Program Specialist, Co-chair, Interagency Subcommittee on Disability Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-2550, voice: 202-245-7402, fax: 202-245-7323, David.Keer@ed.gov.