1. BE SURE TO REGISTER FOR THE JUNE 1-4 MEETING ON ICF IN HALIFAX

A record number (over 50) abstracts have been submitted for consideration, and those which best meet the criteria of "Advancing a Research Agenda for ICF" will be selected. Furthermore, we have received confirmation that about 16 manuscripts will be selected for Volume 3 in the Disability and Health book series published by Nova Science Publishers. At the Thursday evening Wheelchair lab, we will see the iBot wheelchair (which stands up, goes up stairs, etc.) demonstrated. Please reserve your
hotel rooms early by contacting the Westin Nova Scotian at 1-877-993-7846. A group block of hotel rooms has been reserved at a special rate of $159 Cdn. /night, plus applicable taxes and levies. This rate is for single or double occupancy. When booking this special conference rate, please reference “CIHI” or “CIHI North American Collaborating Centre Meeting”. Rooms are on a first-come, first-serve basis for this special rate. Be sure to register at icfconference.com soon! Look for a complete program on the website next month.

2. SCHERER NCMRR/NICHD/NIH GRANT ON TECHNOLOGY

Scherer's research was funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, through grant number HD38220 to The Institute for Matching Person & Technology, Inc. This research addresses subjective quality of life in the context of the ICF domains of activity and participation. Address correspondence to: Marcia J. Scherer, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Matching Person & Technology, Inc., 486 Lake Road, Webster, NY 14580 USA. Tel: (585) 671-3461; Fax: (585) 671-3461; E-mail: IMPT97@aol.com

3. NIDRR TBI GRANT CITES ICF: COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PRIORITIES DUE APRIL 27

Proposed Priority 1 for a new RRTC on TBI states: "Measuring Rehabilitation Outcomes and Effectiveness: Evolving disability classification frameworks such as the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) emphasize the importance of participation in a wide variety of life situations. In order to apply such frameworks to medical rehabilitation services and research, it is necessary to develop measurement tools that can assess participation and link this outcome to interventions in the rehabilitation setting. Improved measurement tools that incorporate consumer perspectives to assess long-term community integration outcomes within a comprehensive model for evaluating rehabilitation effectiveness, such as the ICF…” (more excerpts quoted…go to website for full text) "The Assistant Secretary proposes to fund three RRTCs that will focus on improved outcomes measures, health status, and rehabilitation of persons with traumatic brain injury to facilitate the ability of individuals with disabilities to live in the community. [Federal Register: March 25, 2004 (Volume 69, Number 58)][Page 15305-15308]From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access

[wais.access.gpo.gov][DOCID:fr25mr04-40] DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RIN 1820 ZA37. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research; Notice of Proposed Priorities AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education. ACTION: Notice of proposed priorities for health and function outcomes for individuals with disabilities. SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services proposes priorities under the Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC) Program for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). The Assistant Secretary may use one or more of these priorities for competitions in fiscal
year (FY) 2004 and later years. DATES: We must receive your comments on or before April 27, 2004. ADDRESSES: Address all comments about these proposed priorities to Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3412, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2645. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: donna.nangle@ed.gov Telephone: (202) 205-5880. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the TDD number at (202) 205-4475. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette). Note: This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use these proposed priorities, we invite applications through a notice published in the Federal Register. Note: NIDRR supports the goals of President Bush’s New Freedom Initiative (NFI). The NFI can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/freedominitiative/freedominitiative.html
These proposed priorities are in concert with NIDRR’s 1999-2003 Long-Range Plan http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/index.html

4. OFFICE ON DISABILITY FORMS ICF SUBCOMMITTEE

March 25 was the kickoff date for the first meeting of the New Freedom Initiative Workgroup ICF Subcommittee sponsored by the Office on Disability. The meeting was chaired by Margaret Giannini, M.D., F.A.A.P., Director, Office on Disability. Participating in person and on the phone were representatives from ASPE, SAMHSA, AHRQ, AoA, NIDCD, NCMRR, NCBDDD/CDC, HRSA, and ACF. Marjorie Greenberg, as Head of the North American Collaborating Center for the Family of International Classifications made a presentation entitled "Improving Disability Policy: The Promise of ICF". Drs. Paul Placek of NCHS/CDC (with a part-time detail to OD) and Dr. David Gray of Washington University will serve as Facilitators of future meetings. The New Freedom Initiative Committee <http://www.hhs.gov/newfreedom/> was established by the Office on Disability/HHS to monitor and promote activities of the NFI, which has these goals: increase access to assistive and universally designed technologies; expand educational opportunities; promote homeownership; integrate Americans with disabilities into the workforce; expand transportation options; promote full access to community life; and support sound health care policy for people with disabilities. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) captures many of these features,
including: the use of assistive technologies; participation in educational endeavors; acquiring a place to live; engaging in work; using transportation; participation in community activities; self-care; and care by others and institutions. The ICF Subcommittee was established by the Office on Disability to explore ways in which the ICF can possibly improve our understanding of progress towards NFI goals and to consider other ICF applications within DHHS programs.

5. YODER COMPLETES ICF CURRICULUM GUIDE

Evangeline Yoder, PT, DHSc, has completed an ICF Curriculum Guide as a component of the documents required to complete the DHSc degree at the University of St. Augustine, FL. Her oral defense was March 8, 2004 and she defended successfully. The title of her Thesis is: "A Curriculum Design for Physical Therapist Education Using ICF, ICD-10 & The APTA Guide to Physical Therapist Practice". Her Product Demonstrating Excellence (PDE) is a Curriculum Guide: "Healthcare Management of Persons with Musculoskeletal Health Conditions". So that's Doctor Evangeline Yoder now! Her email address is EYoder007@aol.com.

6. FORMER NIDRR DIRECTOR SEELMAN GIVES ICF TALKS

On April 8, Dr. Kate Seelman spoke on “U.S. Disability Policy: Medicare and Assistive Technology” at the Health Policy Institute, Georgetown University, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Last fall, she keynoted the 26th Annual World Health Organization Collaborating Center Rehabilitation Conference at the National Center for Persons with Disabilities in Japan. In both presentations, ICF was presented as an emerging "integrative" model. Dr. Seelman is formerly the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). For more information, contact: Katherine D. Seelman, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Disability Programs, Professor of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, 5036 Forbes Tower, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, Phone: 412-383-6727, Fax: 412-383-6597, E-mail: kds31@pitt.edu http://www.shrs.pitt.edu.

7. SIX THREATS AND OTHER ICF PAPERS IN ADVANCES IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Dr. Threats had the lead article in the Clinical Forum of the international speech-language pathology journal Advances in Speech-Language Pathology, and the reference for that article is - Threats, T. & Worrall, L. (2004). Classifying communication disability using the ICF. Advances in speech-language pathology, 6 (1), 53-62. This journal also invited four prominent scholars in the field to write commentaries of his lead article and the references for these four published articles are as follows: (1) Duchan, J. F. (2004) Where is the person in the ICF? Advances in speech-language pathology, 6, 1, 63-65; (2) Simmons-Mackie (2004). Cautiously embracing the ICF, Advances in speech-language pathology, 6, 1, 67-70; (3) Boles, L (2004). The ICF language of numeric adjectives. Advances in speech-language pathology, 6, 1, 71-73; and (4) McLeod (2004). Speech pathologists' application of
the ICF to children with speech impairment. *Advances in speech-language pathology*, 6, 1, 75-81. *Then*, the original author gets to write an article concerning the four commentaries and the reference for that article is Threats, T. & Worrall, L (2004). ICF is all about the person, and more: *A response to Duchan, Simmons-Mackie, Boles, and McLeod. Advances in speech-language pathology*, 6 (1), 81-85. So, in one issue of *Advances in speech-language pathology* there are six ICF related articles. Contact info: Travis T. Threats, PhD, Associate Professor, Saint Louis University, 3750 Lindell Blvd., McGannon Hall, Room 14, St. Louis, Missouri 63108 tel 314-977-3175, threatst@slu.edu.

8. **ICF IS THEME OF PERSPECTIVES ON NEUROPHYSIOLOGY AND NEUROGENIC SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DISORDERS; THREATS GUEST EDITS**

Dr. Threats also served as guest editor and contributor for the ASHA publication *Perspectives on neurophysiology and neurogenic speech and language disorders*. This publication comes out four times a year and this year for all four issues the ICF will be the theme. In the first issue of the year, Threats wrote one of the articles and invited three other persons to write articles about specific topics that have to do with the ICF framework or philosophy. The citation for his article is as follows: Threats, T. (2004). The use of the ICF in intervention for persons with neurogenic communication disorders. *Perspectives on neurophysiology and neurogenic speech and language disorders*, 14, 1, 4-8. The other three ICF articles in this issue are: (1) Simmons-Mackie, N. (2004). Using the ICF framework to define outcomes. *Perspectives on neurophysiology and neurogenic speech and language disorders*, 14, 1, 9-11; (2) Brobeck, T. (2004). Strategies for enhancing the body of evidence in clinical decision making. *Perspectives on neurophysiology and neurogenic speech and language disorders*, 14, 1, 11-14; and (3) Vickers, C. (2004). Communicating in groups: one stop on the road to improved participation for persons with aphasia. *Perspectives on neurophysiology and neurogenic speech and language disorders*, 14, 1, 16-20. Contact info: Travis T. Threats, PhD, Associate Professor, Saint Louis University, 3750 Lindell Blvd., McGannon Hall, Room 14, St. Louis, Missouri 63108 tel 314-977-3175, threatst@slu.edu.

9. **AUSTRALIAN DISSERTATION USES ICF**

Travis Threats notes that he was one of the two outside readers for a doctoral dissertation entitled *Functional Communication Assessment of Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury Living in New Zealand* by Brigette Larkins (Advisors - Linda Worrall, Ph.D.and Louise Hickson, Ph.D.) completed at University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. The assessment described in this dissertation is based upon the ICF framework.

10. **SPOTLIGHT ON PATRICK FOUGEYROLLAS**
Born in Paris, France in 1951, Patrick Fougeyrollas, Ph.D. is a Social Anthropologist who has lived in Quebec, Canada since 1976. Patrick teaches and serves as Scientific Support Director at the University Institute of Rehabilitation of Quebec City, and Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and in the Department of Anthropology at Laval University. He is a researcher at the Rehabilitation and Social Integration Interdisciplinary Research Center. He is a founding member and President of the International Network on the Disability Creation Process (INDCP) and for years he has been an active member of international and North American committees related to rehabilitation, social integration, Disability Issues and Health Classification for the World Health Organization and the Council of Europe. He was a member of the board of the Canadian Center on Disability Studies from 1998 to 2003. He is member of the board of the Régie de l’Assurance-maladie du Québec.

Dr. Fougeyrollas is a social researcher specializing in the study of the interactive person/environment process determining the quality of social participation of persons with organic or functional differences. He is an active advocate in the International Disability Movement for the exercise of human rights and equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities. He developed the Quebec Governmental Disability Social Policy “On equal terms” (1985), and he produced a related VHS video with a mime as the star. With his team in Quebec he developed the Classification Disability Creation Process in 1989, and it urged full recognition of environmental factors, the clarification of personal factors, and clear conceptual distinction between activities and participation from extrinsic factors. Patrick attended the first ICF revision meeting held in Washington, D.C. in 1993, and since then has participated actively in the international debate around the revision of WHO-ICIDH and development of ICF. Patrick states that the INDCP is promoting the Quebec framework and DCP Classification because of its pedagogical approach and conceptual clearness, much of which is still missing from the ICF. Since, 1995, Patrick has developed new tools for measuring the quality of social participation and their physical and social environmental determinants. These tools are fully validated and have a strong influence and utility in rehabilitation and social research in disability social policy at the international level. Dr. Fougeyrollas plans to be at the Halifax ICF meeting and you can contact him at: pfougeyrollas@irdpg.gc.ca.