1. 38 PAPERS ON ICF IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

There was strong interest in ICF at the WHO Family of International Classifications meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland October 24-30. This meeting was hosted by Nordic Centre for Classifications in Health Care WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries. Paul Placek read 84 papers submitted for this meeting, and found that 23 dealt entirely with ICF, and 15 were partly on the ICF. Therefore, 45% of the papers considered the ICF. The other 38 papers considered ICD-10, ICD-10-XM, the Icelandic Accident Registry, and fetal mortality. Some of the ICF papers included: ICF in Lithuania; ICF Activities in Canada; International Education Plan for ICF; ICF Educational Progress and Directions (Australia); ICF Core Sets Video; WHO-DIN Training on ICF in Italy; Implementation of ICF in Health Care; ICF for Children and Youth; ICF Implementation in the Real World; Collection and Storage of ICF Experiences in Practice; Roadmap for the Implementation of the ICF; ICF Measurement and Calibration - Developments in Australia; The Use of the ICF Qualifiers - a Plan for International Collection of Exchange of Experiences; ICF Applications - a Framework for Sharing What We All Know; The Development of an Annotated Bibliography on the Subjective Dimension of Functioning and Disability; ICF Core Sets for Rehabilitation in the Acute Sub-acute Situation; Assessment of a Population of Disabled Children - Method, Main Results and Discussion of ICF-CY (France); A Population Survey using ICF-based Questionnaire in Tokyo; The Possibility of the ICF Applying to Mental Disorders; and Developing a North American Research Agenda for ICF (Paul's paper). Paul's paper, at 37 pages, was the longest of all 84 papers submitted. Paul reviewed all 100+ ICF presentations made in North America over the past three years, and found the greatest number for clinical applications. Clinical applications include developing ICF-based assessment tools and cross
mapping ICF to other assessment tools for clinical and administrative applications, implementing recommendations of the U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics regarding classifying and reporting functional status in administrative records, use of technology (e.g., auto coding) in processing electronic health records, and reliability and validity studies. No other Collaborating Centre has an Annual ICF meeting of the type just held in Halifax, so we expect strong interest in the clinical theme of the 11th Annual NACC Meeting on ICF at Mayo Clinics in Rochester, Minnesota, June 22-24, 2005. All meeting documents for the WHO-FIC Network Meeting 2004 are posted at the Nordic Centre website http://www.nordclass.uu.se/WHOIFIC/reykjavik.htm.

2. VOLCANO ERUPTS IN ICELAND

A volcano erupted in Iceland under its largest glacier just two days after the Heads meeting ended. There were no deaths as the area is relatively unpopulated. All of Iceland is built upon volcanic lava, and geothermal heat from underground rivers flowing across volcanoes heats the entire city of Reykjavik. Many meeting attendees visited Blue Lagoon, a steamy hot water pool heated by geothermal water. This eruption was accompanied by a 3.1 earthquake, and many flights in the area were delayed. Still another eruption followed days later. What a difference two days makes!


3. THEME FOR 11TH ANNUAL NACC MEETING ON ICF: MAPPING THE CLINICAL WORLD TO ICF

Plans are being made for the 11th NACC Conference on ICF to be held at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, June 22-24, 2005. On June 21, we plan to have an ICF Tutorial focusing on mapping and clinical applications of ICF. Our tentative conference theme is "Mapping the Clinical World to ICF". We are seriously exploring CME (Continuing Medical Education) credits for the tutorial and the meeting sessions. The science of mapping will receive emphasis (levels of agreement in mapping to ICF; sources of error and inconsistencies in mapping; and best practices for mapping and development of assessments). Clinical applications of ICF (cross mapping ICF to other assessment tools and developing new ICF-based assessment tools) will be emphasized in all the plenaries and in every concurrent session time slot. ICF survey applications, policy, training, life cycle, and convergence themes will be in remaining concurrent sessions. Look for a formal announcement and call for papers at www.icfconference.com soon.

4. APHA HAS ICF SESSION

At the November 6-10, 2004 American Public Health Association Meetings in Washington, D.C., the Disability Forum Special Primary Interest Group sponsored a session on the ICF entitled "Disability Measurement, Classification, and ICF". It was chaired by Don Lollar of CDC. The papers were: "Using the ICF taxonomy to
describe infants and toddlers in early intervention" by KM Hebbeler, PhD; RJ Simeonsson, PhD; AA Scarborough, PhD; "ICF for children and youth: Field trial findings" by RJ Simeonsson, PhD; D Lollar, EdD; "Environment and risk behaviors for varying categories of disability in NELS:88" by D Lollar, PhD; "Assessment of a multi-level method for identifying disabling conditions using Medicaid claims" by FH Hooven, MMHS; J Zhang, MPH; AD Henry, ScD, OTR/L; J Himmelstein, MD, MPH; and "Living standards of persons with disabilities in the developing world: An exploratory study using World Bank national data" by GT Fujiura, PhD; V Rutkowski-Kmita, MPH; H Park, MS.

5. CANADIANS CAN PURCHASE THE ICF IN CANADA

The September Clearinghouse message indicated a U.S. source for ordering ICF books. However, 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.

6. FREE ICIDH (1980) BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

The new ICF approved May 2001 superseded the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (WHO, 1980). We have about 35 copies left of ICIDH (1980). They usually sell for $16 but they are now free for the asking. Just email your mailing address and phone number to Paul Placek pjp2@cdc.gov.

7. NACC CLEARINGHOUSE ON ICF HAS 700+ SUBSCRIBERS

From 0 subscribers in fall 2002, to 300 in summer of 2003, to over 700 subscribers currently. Please continue to send in news of your ICF activities to Dr. Paul Placek PJP2@CDC.GOV. Let us tell 700+ persons interested in ICF about your work!

8. NEW WHO-FIC PAGES ON WHO WEBSITE

The new web pages for the WHO Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) are now on the WHO site at http://www.who.int/classifications/en/. For the first time, it includes an online version of ICD-10 Second Edition incorporating the updates that came into effect through 1 January 2003. This is accessible from the home page. Descriptions of WHO Collaborating Centres are at http://www.who.int/classifications/network/collaborating/en/

9. SPOTLIGHT ON DR. JOEL I. KAHN

Joel Kahn, PhD is a member of the National Council on Disability, and has been representing NCD on the DISTAB group and the Interagency Subcommittee on Disability Statistics. Joel Kahn is 52 years old and has had multiple sclerosis for 28 years. He has a PhD in Engineering. As a business person in Procter and Gamble and a member of the National Council on Disability, he believes that there needs to be a standardized way to describe how many people have functional limitations. At the Ninth Annual NACC meeting on ICF in St. Louis held June 2003, there was a panel
discussion on “Potential Value of the ICF to People with Disabilities”. He recommended backcoding of survey data to ICF, international data comparisons using ICF, and Federal agency adoption of the ICF in order to get standard definitions. He has subsequently drafted an ICF Implementation Plan, which you can get from him by email. Joel will serve on NCD for three more years, so the ICF will have a spokesperson there until 2008. Joel is nationally recognized for his professional, family and community activities. In 1991 he was named National Multiple Sclerosis Father of the Year. Joel's wife Susan and teenage son, Philip, live in Wyoming, Ohio. In 1993, Careers and the Disabled magazine named him Disabled Engineer of the Year. Also, in 1993 National Easter Seals honored Joel as one of three people recognized for their community service with the Plaut award. An active speaker on disability issues, Joel has appeared on Good Morning America and speaks regularly at local schools and colleges. Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1976, Joel has used a motorized scooter since 1981. He has worked for Procter and Gamble for 30 years in several roles, each with increased responsibility. Currently he is a Section Manager in Information Technology. Joel was on the Executive Board of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and a Board member of his local Multiple Sclerosis Society. Joel has been at the forefront of obtaining economic community and work place accommodations. His letters and personal contacts resulted in curb cuts in his community, elevators at his local school and a ramp at the local library. As Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the local school board, he formed a special access sub-committee. Inexpensive access and washroom changes were provided as a result of recommendations. At Procter & Gamble, Joel is a member of a special ADA task force formed several years ago. The focus of this group was to ensure all employees have what they need to be productive, not just that the Company is in legal compliance. This has resulted in washroom changes, power door openers, and curb cuts. Also, where appropriate, changes to Corporate policy have been implemented relative to travel, parking and office size. The latter were all implemented without spending capital. Joel is lives in Wyoming, Ohio and is at (tel) 513- 634-9577 and kahn.ji.1@pg.com.