

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 lives in Wyoming, Ohio and is at (tel) 513- 634-9577 and kahn.ji.1@pg.com.