"ICF Spotlight" on Kristine A. Mulhorn, Ph.D., M.H.S.A.

Occasionally in the NACC ICF Newsletter, we turn the "ICF Spotlight" onto a North American scientist or other professional, in recognition of their contributions to the development or implementation of the ICF in the U.S. or Canada. Our goal is to expand and enhance our North American ICF community through networking, collegiality, and *esprit de corps*.

In this issue of the Newsletter, we are proud to feature in that Spotlight our colleague Kristine A. Mulhorn, Ph.D., M.H.S.A., from Flint, Michigan.

Currently Kristine serves as an Associate Professor of Health Care in the Department of Health Sciences and Administration at the University of Michigan at Flint. Professor Mulhorn's primary teaching responsibilities are in the areas of health administration, health policy, aging, disability studies, and international health. Her research interests extend from disability studies to Alzheimer's disease caregiving, alternative approaches to caring for elderly patients, research methodologies, and estimating health expectancy. Professor Mulhorn earned her doctoral degree in Sociology from the University of Delaware, and prior to that she earned the Master of Health Services Administration degree from the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Pertinently, Kristine has had a long involvement investigating cross-national comparisons of disability statistics generally, and measurements of functioning among elderly members of the populations of different nations. As a fluent speaker of Japanese, it should come as no surprise that Kristine has a substantial interest in comparing functional status measurements between the American and Japanese populations.

That interest in cross-national comparisons has become a hallmark in Kristine's academic career. Dedicated readers of this ICF Newsletter might remember that we have mentioned Kristine's work in international disability statistics in several Newsletter editions over the years.

In fact, Kristine holds the unusual honor of having participated in two important international disability statistics measurement initiatives during the last decade: DISTAT and DISTAB. DISTAT is the United Nations Disability Statistics Database, a global database incorporating statistics, indicator variables, and text from various sets of national data reflecting estimates of country-level disability prevalence. Earlier this decade, Kristine collaborated with our U.N. Statistics Division colleagues to analyze census data from many countries to generate such estimates, commenting at each stage on the lack of uniformity or consistency in determining a suitable definition of disability for measurement purposes. That experience bridged the period between the ICIDH and the ICF, which illustrates Kristine's longevity in this field. DISTAB (for "Disability Tabulations") had been a U.S. National Center for Health Statistics initiative. It

involved investigators from Canada, France, the Netherlands, South Africa, the U.N. Statistics Division, and the U.S., including Kristine. The members of DISTAB set themselves to the task of making useful cross-national comparisons of disability prevalence estimates, during the period in which the ICF conceptual framework would have influenced the construction and administration of the survey and census questions that became the data source for DISTAB.

In our November, 2002 edition of this ICF Newsletter, we also featured an entry submitted by Kristine about the roster of American and Canadian college and university courses that incorporated or referred to the ICF at that time. Naturally, curricula change, and teaching about the ICF is now pursued more frequently in professional schools or allied health programs than in general university courses, but Kristine's initial work revealed that there had been already substantial new interest at the university level in the then-brand-new ICF.

You can review Professor Mulhorn's University of Michigan-Flint Department of Health Sciences and Administration faculty profile at this website, on page 3 of 4 pages:
http://www.umflint.edu/hsa/Faculty_Profiles.htm

Below this entry we have provided a short bibliography of some of Professor Mulhorn's contributions to the ICF literature. We previously referenced one of the articles above in this ICF Newsletter, pertaining to the ICF special issue in the *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*. We also encourage readers to correspond with Kristine at the following University of Michigan-Flint E-Mail address: kmulhorn@umflint.edu .

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- Mulhorn KA. Cross-walking ICF to the TMIG-IC -- Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology's Index of Competence: An application of ICF in community-living elderly. In Kroll T (ed.), Focus on Disability: Trends in Research and Application, Volume II; Hauppague, NY: Nova Science Publishers, Inc., 2007, pp. 23-30.

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