

**Report on the 14th Annual
North American Collaborating Center Conference on the ICF
Québec City, Québec, Canada August 26-27, 2008**

“Evaluating Social Participation: Applications of ICF & ICF-CY”

John Hough, Dr.P.H., U.S. National Center for Health Statistics
Diane Caulfeild, B.Sc. P&OT, M.B.A., Canadian Institute for Health Information

Abstract

This report summarizes the 2-day North American Collaborating Center (NACC) Conference on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). The theme for this year’s conference was “Evaluating Social Participation: Applications of the ICF and ICF-CY.” The 2008 ICF Conference was actually “a conference within a conference,” because the organization Rehabilitation International (RI) gave NACC the privilege of hosting the ICF Conference as a parallel event with their 21st World Congress. About one thousand registrants attended the 3-day RI World Congress, and although there were only about 75 persons specifically registered for the ICF Conference, registrants in either conference could participate in the other conference’s sessions, creating an enriching “critical mass” for discussion and networking in the Convention Center. NACC sponsored one Plenary Session during the World Congress, in which Professor David Gray delivered a lecture about recent research on measuring participation in community settings. The members of NACC extend warm thanks to Professor Patrick Fougeryrollas from Université Laval in Québec City for his substantial contributions toward the success of both conferences.

Introduction

The North American Collaborating Center (NACC) conducted its fourteenth conference on the ICF with a two-day event in August, 2008. This year’s ICF Conference included an innovative partnership with Rehabilitation International. The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) was the lead agency for organizing the event in Quebec City, Canada.

The principal organizations within NACC are CIHI, Statistics Canada, and the U.S National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). NACC members work to disseminate information about the ICF and to establish long-term collaborations with universities, professional associations, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations toward implementing the ICF.

The members of NACC are also committed to presenting as much educational content about the ICF as possible during this series of conferences, so that persons with all levels of ability and familiarity with the ICF can feel welcome to learn and participate at NACC conferences. Our Collaborating Center also strives to facilitate the participation at ICF

conferences of graduate students and rising young professionals in the clinical fields most relevant to ICF implementation, such as Occupational Therapy and Psychology. During this year's Québec City ICF Conference, for example, members of NACC contributed financially to the registration scholarships that enabled several graduate students to attend and present their recent research results.

Partnership with Rehabilitation International

The planning for this year's ICF Conference began in early 2007, during initial meetings in which Professor Patrick Fougeyrollas from Université Laval and representatives of CIHI discussed the invitation from Rehabilitation International (RI) to share conference space in Québec City during RI's 21st World Congress, planned for August, 2008. RI is a large, non-governmental advocacy organization concerned about the rights of persons with disabilities around the world; its World Congress delegates are drawn from its national chapter organizations. In 2005, RI published its official position supporting broader implementation of the ICF.¹ The World Congress is an important quadrennial conference: in 2004 it had been conducted in Oslo, Norway, and the 2012 World Congress will be conducted in Seoul, South Korea.

Professor Fougeyrollas, an esteemed medical sociologist and prolific contributor to the academic literature about the nature of disablement, served as a representative of the RI host committee in Québec City, and by that time had already been very active in planning the 2008 World Congress. Professor Fougeyrollas also has been an abundant contributor to our series of NACC ICF Conferences, having served as a plenary or concurrent session speaker on many recent occasions. Both parties recognized that conducting the NACC ICF Conference at the same time and place as the RI World Congress would yield important synergies among the respective groups of potential registrants, thereby contributing to the success of both events. The NACC "conference within a conference" could attract many more disability advocates from around the world than could ordinarily attend an ICF Conference in North America. Concurrently, NACC could offer more ICF sessions for the RI Congress, in response to the 2005 RI Policy Statement supporting the ICF and interest in evaluating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Although the dollar amount of financial transactions between RI and the member agencies within NACC remained relatively small, we contributed in-kind support, labor, and announcement opportunities during the year leading up to the World Congress. NACC provided transportation and registration funding for several invited speakers, including one RI Plenary Speaker, Professor David Gray, and a representative from the World Health Organization. NACC also cooperated with early Abstract Review milestones leading up to the preparation of the RI program booklet, so that registrants at both conferences would receive printed (accessible) information about events and oral presentations in the alternate conference.

Thematically, the prospective overlap between the two conferences could not have been more suitably aligned. The theme for the RI World Congress would be "Disability Rights and Social Participation: Ensuring A Society For All," and the theme for the NACC ICF Conference would be "Evaluating Social Participation: Applications of the ICF and ICF-CY." The fortuitous

timing of the adoption in 2006 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which explicitly features Social Participation as both a means and an end in itself within inclusive societies, would provide an important political and cultural backdrop for our deliberations. In sum, although at this time we can only consider this “conference within a conference” as a one-time event, both RI and the members of NACC, as well as their respective sets of conference registrants, benefited substantially from this partnership during 2007-2008. NACC looks forward to similar opportunities in the future with RI, or its North American national chapters.

Synopsis of Events

Appendix 1 in this report provides an overview of the events during the ICF Conference. Table 1 illustrates the compendium of plenary, concurrent and poster sessions during the 2-day event, as well as the intentional overlap with specific RI plenary sessions. Table 2 presents the set of ICF-oriented posters. Our RI partners welcomed ICF Conference registrants at their Hospitality Welcome on August 25. In lieu of a specific ICF Conference Social Event, we encouraged our registrants to attend the RI Gala Banquet on the evening of August 26.

The “Program at a Glance” for the ICF Conference can be viewed at this CIHI website: <http://www.cihiconferences.ca/icfconference/ataglance.html>

The overall program for the full RI World Congress can be viewed at this RI website: <http://www.riquebec2008.org/>

Joint Plenary Session with Rehabilitation International

The first morning of the NACC ICF Conference, also the second morning of the RI World Congress, began with Marjorie Greenberg, Head of the Collaborating Center, welcoming the delegates again to Québec City and informing them about the scheduled events during the ICF Conference. She explained how beneficial this “conference within a conference” could be for participants in both events, and, figuratively, she encouraged the RI delegates and NACC attendees to try and be in two places at one time to take advantage of as much as possible of the impressive content both conferences would offer. Ms. Greenberg also introduced Professor Gray from Washington University in St. Louis. She explained not only his contributions to his own academic disciplines of Neurology and Occupational Therapy, but also to the ICF revision and development processes and, by extension of his and colleagues’ applied ICF research results, to enhanced Social Participation opportunities for persons with disabilities everywhere.

The title of Professor Gray’s plenary lecture was “Community Receptivity for People with Disabilities: Measures for Use in Assessing and Implementing Change.” It was based on several recent publications authored by Professor Gray and his co-investigators, focusing on new ICF-oriented methods for measuring the influence of environmental barriers among persons with mobility impairments, and for measuring the degrees of social participation in and the “receptivity” of environments for persons with disabilities.²³⁴

Concurrent Sessions

This year's event featured concurrent sessions on topics that had not been fully addressed during previous ICF Conferences, such as ICF Core Set development, critiquing current perspectives on Activities and Participation, and Patient-Reported Outcomes measurement methods. Full-scale panels were held on ICF Personal Factors, the overlap between ICF and contemporary Occupational Therapy practice, and the U.S.-funded initiative known as the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS). The new results from the ICF-oriented 2006 Canadian Participation and Activity Limitation Survey also were presented in a full panel.

Poster Sessions

This year's poster session format encouraged maximal opportunities for "mixing" with delegates to the RI World Congress, because the ICF posters were positioned near the larger set of RI World Congress posters in the same large room in which registrants could enjoy breaks and coffee. About two dozen commercial enterprises and international non-profit disability organizations hosted full-scale exhibit booths in the same room. The RI "disability video film festival" operated non-stop in one corner of this large ballroom. These "environmental factors" facilitated a successful degree of "networking" and community-building among registrants. Moreover, the luncheon periods also presented opportunities for poster viewing, meeting and talking with poster authors, and taking advantage of the breadth of topics covered by the authors of posters in the RI World Congress area. Many ICF Conference posters reflected the Social Participation themes, while others presented applications, new data, or new approaches to ICF instructional methods.

How This Conference Responded to the NACC ICF Research Agenda

In 2004, the Collaborating Center developed and presented for review among WHO-FIC colleagues a long-range ICF Research Agenda, primarily to be pursued in North America but with an eye toward prompting corresponding ICF research around the world. Within its series of ICF Conferences, the Collaborating Center strives to respond to and achieve many of the objectives outlined in that Research Agenda. It is worthwhile to determine annually whether that year's ICF Conference included sessions that addressed topics in that Agenda, and to report on that assessment during the WHO-FIC annual meeting. The 2004 NACC ICF Research Agenda proposed the following Six Groupings of ongoing or general ICF research for prioritization:

- 1) Clinical Applications, including ICF-based assessment tools;
- 2) Survey Applications and international comparisons;
- 3) The Life Cycle of the ICF, including ongoing development of ICF concepts, content enrichment, consideration of Activities and Participation, mapping, and adaptations such as the derived classification, ICF-CY;

- 4) Convergence and Integration, including clarifying relationships of ICF to other classifications, and ontological reconciliation within the conceptual framework
- 5) Education and Training, including training in coding, and
- 6) Policy, including policy statements and program implementation.

The 2008 NACC ICF Conference presented work on Grouping numbers 1, 2, 3, and 5. However, the Conference included presentations on Grouping numbers 4 and 6 only moderately well. For example, this year's event did not address ontological issues, and although some of the measurement outcomes reported in Québec City could be used to inform policy development, the ICF Conference only nominally included disability policies in North America. Nevertheless, a major focus during the RI World Congress had been discussion of disability policies in countries that have ratified the U.N. Convention. Therefore, explicit linkages between the ICF specifically, and disability policy generally, arose in discussion once the conferences were underway.

Special Acknowledgments

The members of our Collaborating Center would like to acknowledge the fundamental contributions to the success of this year's ICF Conference made by Professor Fougeyrollas. We witnessed his graciousness and professional courtesy as the main Moderator for nearly all the RI plenary session activities. More subjectively, we also witnessed some emergence of rising new professionals whose contemporary training has been influenced by the theories advanced and research conducted by Professor Fougeyrollas, particularly among Canadian students and young professionals. In that regard, perhaps we should acknowledge not just Patrick's explicit contributions to our Collaborating Center and the success of both the 14th Annual NACC ICF Conference and the 21st RI World Congress, but also his implicit and potentially more profound contributions to the development of tomorrow's disability researchers and advocates.

The members of NACC also acknowledge the outgoing and incoming Presidents of RI, Michael Fox of Australia and Anne Hawker of New Zealand, for their graciousness and hospitality extended on behalf of RI to NACC and our ICF Conference registrants.

This year NACC and specifically its 2008 ICF Conference Planning Committee¹ also benefited from the contributions of Professor John Stone, who served as our local host for the 13th Annual ICF Conference conducted in Niagara Falls, New York in June, 2007. The Committee also acknowledges the contributions by Julie Bazerley from CIHI and Kim Kelley from Kim Kelley Consultation, Incorporated, who both provided outstanding logistical support.

Next Steps

One prominent "next step" that had already been facilitated by the "critical mass" achieved among ICF researchers attending the Québec City ICF Conference was the mid-year

¹ Julie Bazerley, Lynn Bufka, Kathey Cauley, Diane Caulfeild, Marjorie Greenberg, John Hough, Kim Kelly, Andrew MacKenzie, Mea Renahan and John Stone served on the 2008 Conference Planning Committee.

meeting of the WHO-FIC Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG). We want to thank our partners at Statistics Canada for sponsoring and hosting the FDRG meeting during the two days following the ICF Conference. Many of the methodological and clinical considerations discussed during the conference are also of concern to the FDRG.

NACC is planning to offer an ICF-oriented training event in 2009, and the next ICF Conference in the U.S. during 2010.

Appendix 1: Synopsis of Events, 2008 NACC Conference on the ICF

Table 1: Plenary, Concurrent and Poster Sessions

Tuesday, August 26, 2008	
<p>Joint Plenary Session with Rehabilitation International Theme for the Conference Day: "Independent Living and Social Participation" Marjorie Greenberg, NCHS, "Welcome From The North American Collaborating Center" Professor David Gray, Washington University, "Community Receptivity for People with Disabilities: Measures for Use in Assessing and Implementing Change"</p>	
<p>Poster Sessions for Day One 15 Authors Presented 16 ICF-Oriented Posters During 3 Poster Review Periods on August 26</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Concurrent Session # 1 "ICF and Participation"</p> <p>Janette McDougall, University of Western Ontario "Applying the ICF at a Children's Rehabilitation Centre to Enhance the Participation of Children with Chronic Conditions"</p> <p>Milda Cerniauskaite, European Brain Council "Functioning, Disability and Participation in Children with Brain Tumour: A Pilot Study with ICF-CY"</p> <p>Claudine Auger, University of Montréal "Using the ICF to Reveal the Participation Aspirations of Older Adults Who Are Receiving Power Mobility Devices"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Concurrent Session # 2 "ICF in the Environment"</p> <p>David Gray, Washington University "Constructing Receptive Environments"</p> <p>Gale Whiteneck, Craig Hospital, Colorado "Identifying an Improved Measure of Participation: A Methodology Implemented in a Population with Spinal Cord Injury"</p> <p>Catherine Sykes, World Confederation for Physical Therapy "Measuring Social Participation: An Australian Perspective"</p> <p>Cheryl Swanson, University of Queensland "Environmental Factors as Barriers to Participation"</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Concurrent Session # 3 "Patient-Reported Outcomes and the ICF"</p> <p>Jin-Shei Lai, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, Illinois "Aligning the Domain Frameworks of PROMIS and the ICF"</p> <p>Alarcos Cieza, Ludwig-Maximilian University "Constructing Interval Scales for the Measurement of Categories of the ICF"</p> <p>Nenad Kostanjsek, World Health Organization "Interpreting the ICF and PROMIS Frameworks"</p> <p>Jan Reinhardt, Swiss Paraplegic Research Institute "Paraplegic Research From the Comprehensive Perspective"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Concurrent Session # 4 "Activities and Participation"</p> <p>Gale Whiteneck, Craig Hospital, Colorado "A Conceptual and Practical Solution for Differentiating Activity and Participation in the ICF"</p> <p>Elizabeth Badley, University of Toronto "Enhancing the Conceptual Clarity of the Activity and Participation Components of the ICF"</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Concurrent Session # 5 "What Are Occupational Therapists Learning About Social Participation in Using the ICF?"</p> <p>Lynn Shaw, University of Western Ontario "Overview of Applications of the ICF in OT Practice"</p> <p>Nora Fayed, Université de Sherbrooke "A Comparison of the ICF to the Disability Tax Credit"</p> <p>Mélanie Levasseur, Université de Sherbrooke "Soc Partic Predictors for Older Adults w/ Physical Disabilities"</p> <p>Kim Hewitt, Canadian Mental Health Association "How the ICF Shapes the Work of an OT on a Daily Basis"</p> <p>Susan Stark, Washington University "Coding Cases Using the ICF: Inter-Rater Reliability of OTs"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Concurrent Session # 6 "Surveys and Data: Building From the ICF"</p> <p>Laura Macpherson, Human Resources and Social Development Canada "The Office for Disability Issues in HRSDC: The ICF Framework and Development of PALS"</p> <p>Susan Stobert & Andrew MacKenzie, Statistics Canada "The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Overview, Latest Results, Small Area Estimation and Factors Affecting Successful Labour Market Outcomes"</p> <p>Ian Joiner, Canadian Institute for Health Information "The ICF as an Organizing Framework for Inpatient Rehabilitation Data and Information"</p>

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

Joint Plenary Session with Rehabilitation International

Theme for the Conference Day: "Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"
Jennifer Lynch, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission
Jean-Baptiste Richardier, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Handicap International
Marcia Rioux, Professor of Health Policy & Management, York University, Toronto
Lex Grandia, President of World Federation of the Deafblind

Poster Sessions for Day Two

15 Authors Presented 16 ICF-Oriented Posters During 2 Poster Review Periods on August 27

Concurrent Session # 7

"Applications of ICF"

Marcia Scherer, Institute for Matching Person & Technology
"Mapping the Cognitive Support Technology Predisposition Assessment to the ICF"

Brian McCormick, Indiana University
"Comparing the Daily Lives of Community Mental Health Clients in the U.S. and Serbia Using the ICF"

Linda Resnick, Brown University
"Using the ICF to Understand the Challenges in Community Reintegration of Injured Military Service Members"

Ingrid Schraner, University of Western Sydney
"ICF-Based Cost-Effectiveness Analyses"

Concurrent Session # 8

"Creating Synergies for Developing ICF 'Personal Factors'"

Szilvia Geyh, Swiss Paraplegic Research Institute
"Personal Factors in the Literature" A Systematic Review
and
"ICF Linking Rules: Identifying Personal Factors"

Elizabeth Badley, University of Toronto
"Why Are Personal Factors Crucial to the ICF Model and Is There a Difference Between Environmental and Personal Contextual Factors?"

Rune Simeonsson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
"Participation & Contextual Factors: Refining/Revising the ICF"

Concurrent Session # 9

"Primer for Clinical Applications of ICF"

Lynn Bufka, American Psychological Association
Susan Stark, Washington University
Geoffrey Reed, International Union for Psychological Science

Concurrent Session # 10

"ICF Core Sets"

Alarcos Cieza and colleagues, Ludwig-Maximilian University
"The Generic and Condition-Specific ICF Core Sets: From the Methodology to Develop Them to Their Use in Clinical Practice and Research"
and
"Validation of the Comprehensive ICF Core Set for Rheumatoid Arthritis: The Perspective of Nurses"

and
"The Information Obtained From Clinical Ratings of the Comprehensive ICF Core Set for OA Can Be Integrated Into a Cross-Cultural Clinical Measure of Functioning"

Milda Cerniauskaite, European Brain Council
"Participation and Social Integration of Patients with Psychiatric Disorder: A Pilot Study with ICF"

**Rehabilitation International 21st World Congress Closing Plenary Session
and
NACC ICF Conference Adjournment**

Table 2: Poster Session Presentations, By Author and Title

AUTHOR NAME(S)	POSTER TITLE
Angela Conti-Becker	A Feminist Perspective on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health: Challenge and Possibility
Ruth Farber Michelle S. Davidoff	Examination of the Relationship of Role Participation, Parental Participation, and the Perception of Social Environment in Mothers With Multiple Sclerosis or Spinal Cord Injury
Nora Fayed	An Educational Intervention Using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF): What Can You Accomplish in 60 Minutes?
Georgia Frey Bryan McCormick	Pairing Ecological Momentary Assessments and Accelerometry to Understand Activities and Participation Among People With Disabilities
Linda J. Garcia, M-C Latourelle, A Bernard- Piché, V. Laframboise	A Systematic Review of the Evidence Supporting the Use of the ICF for Describing Functioning in People With Possible Communication Disorders
Carl V. Granger	Clinical Application of the ICF and LIFEware® System to Track Social Participation in Low Back Pain Patients
David K. Howard Deborah Farmer-Warrick Patricia Saleeby	Utilizing ICF-Based “Traditional Medicine”: Building Social Capital, Enhancing Health Promotion
John Hough	Using Videos in the Public Domain to Teach About the ICF
Anabela Correia Martins José Luis Pais Ribeiro	Social Participation of Persons Using a Wheelchair With Respect to Diagnosis of Spinal Cord Injury and Other Health Conditions
Anabela Correia Martins José Luis Pais Ribeiro	The Influence of Contextual Factors in Social Participation: Improving Awareness For Rehabilitation
Brenda Pratt	Case Study of Social Participation: International Classification of Functioning Application From Preschool to High School
Marcia J. Scherer Susan Zapf John Scherer	Matching Student With Appropriate Assistive Technology
Susan Stark Emily Somerville John C. Morris	How Environmental Modifications Impact the Performance of Older Adults With Disabilities
Ralph Strobl, G. Stucki, E. Grill, M. Mueller, U. Mansmann	Graphical Models Illustrate Complex Associations Between Variables Describing Human Functioning
Debra Stewart, J. Farrell, K. Hewitt, S. Anderson	A Survey of Canadian Occupational Therapists’ Knowledge and Use of the ICF
Akio Tokunaga	Development of Training Materials to Utilize ICF-CY for Special Needs Education (SNE) in Japan

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- ² Gray DB, Hollingsworth HH, Stark S, Morgan KA. A subjective measure of environmental facilitators and barriers to participation for people with mobility limitations. *Disability and Rehabilitation* 2008; 30(6):434-457. Abstract available on the World Wide Web at the following website: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17943511?ordinalpos=2&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum , accessed September 8, 2008.
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- ⁴ Gray DB, Hollingsworth HH, Stark S, Morgan KA. Participation survey/mobility: Psychometric properties of a measure of participation for people with mobility impairments and limitations. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* 2006 (February); 87(2):189-197. Abstract available on the World Wide Web at the following website: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16442971?ordinalpos=6&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum , accessed September 8, 2008.