

Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR)

Accomplishments Report

**FY 2013
(July 1, 2012-September 30, 2013)**

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
On behalf of the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR)
Chaired by John Tschida, Director, NIDRR; Chair, ICDR
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Overview

Authorized by the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, as amended, the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) was established in order to promote a cohesive, strategic Federal program of disability research. The ICDR is charged to:

- identify and make efforts to address gaps in areas of research that are not being adequately addressed;
- promote interagency collaboration and joint research activities;
- identify and reduce duplication of research effort within the Federal government;
- share information about the range of research being carried out by members of the Committee and other Federal departments and organizations;
- identify and establish clear research priorities; and
- optimize the productivity of Committee members through resource sharing and other cost-saving activities.

The ICDR is also authorized to make recommendations about the coordination of policy and development of objectives and priorities for Federal programs relating to disability and rehabilitation research, including activities to be funded through grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other mechanisms.

The ICDR continuously secures input from a broad range of stakeholders with diverse interests and perspectives, thus utilizing the spectrum of knowledge and experience available from subject matter experts within the Federal government and the non-Federal community. The ICDR actively seeks the input of individuals with disabilities and their representatives, and representatives from Federal government and non-federal communities.

The ICDR conducts various activities to support information exchange and partnerships in disability and rehabilitation research including:

- semi-annual meetings of the Executive Committee and quarterly meetings of standing committees.
- state of the science events and other activities that invite the input of subject matter experts, individuals with disabilities and their representatives, and other stakeholders;
- disability expertise in the identification of products and resources addressing a variety of topics for interagency groups and councils;
- development and execution of plans to support activities established by Federal agencies and non-Federal partners;
- response to public comment notices and contributions to policy development activities; and
- design of new or updated web technologies to promote information sharing and interagency coordination and collaboration.

The ICDR addresses a broad range of topics, such as assistive technology and universal design; interagency research collaboration; disability statistics and data issues; health and
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medical rehabilitation; disability employment; health disparities; capacity development; and community outreach and participation.

ICDR Membership

The ICDR develops its agenda and establishes goals and objectives through an interagency Executive Committee. Five interagency standing committee (disability statistics, medical rehabilitation, assistive technology/technology, employment, and health and health disparities) organize and implement the primary activities of the ICDR in fulfilling its mission. ICDR statutory members are designated by the President, and include the following (or their designees):

- Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Chair
- Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration
- Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Director of the National Institutes of Health
- Director of the National Institute of Mental Health
- Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Secretary of Transportation
- Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs
- Director of the Indian Health Service
- Director of the National Science Foundation

Federal and non-Federal partners contribute to the deliberations, events, and products of the ICDR. Some Federal partners play key leadership roles on the ICDR by serving as co-chairs for standing committees, co-funding activities, and providing resources to support achievement of ICDR goals. The following, while not an exhaustive list, identifies some of the other Federal partners who have contributed:

- U.S. AbilityOne Commission
- Access Board
- Administration on Children and Families (ACF), President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)

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- Department of Labor (DOL)
- Department of State
- Department of Veterans Affairs, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service
- National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR)
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)
- National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR)
- National Council on Disability (NCD)
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
- National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
- President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- Social Security Administration (SSA)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

A complete list of Federal agencies represented by participants in FY 2013 is included in Appendix A.

Government-wide Coordination

In accordance with the ICDR authority, after receiving input from targeted individuals, the ICDR seeks to identify, assess, and coordinate Federal programs, activities and projects, and plans (including assistive technology research and research that incorporates the principles of universal design) related to research concerning the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. Stakeholder input informs the ICDR agenda, projects, activities, and plans.

Partnerships

To ensure adequate attention to the interest of individuals with disabilities, the ICDR partners with a variety of agencies. Participants contribute their knowledge and expertise to work groups and conference planning committees; collect data and conduct research; make recommendations on research priorities; and disseminate information. These activities stimulate thinking about research-based solutions to issues confronting Federal agencies. This fiscal year, discussions and presentations included:

- Discussions about technology transfer opportunities;
- Partnership development meetings to support the DOT Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative (ATRRI) initiative;
- Participation on the Federal Interagency Health Equity Team (FIHET);

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- Active participation to assure the interests of individuals with disabilities are adequately addressed in publications through Patient Centered Care Collaboration. to Improve Minority Health (PCCC);
- 2012 Health Disparities Summit Program Committee, Publications Committee and Partnership/Sponsorship Committee;
- Input on priorities for the SSA Disability Research Consortium
- Input related to how Federal agencies are using the ICF (SSA request)
- Input on the National Alzheimer’s Task Force on Specific Populations National Plan
- Participation in the Department of Defense (DoD) Clinical & Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program (CRMRP) research prioritization process;
- Input on the HHS Health Disparities and Disability Strategic Plan; and
- Publicity for NIDRR Presents – Assisted NIDRR with information dissemination and interagency outreach by disseminating notices about NIDRR grantee presentations. Presentations facilitated knowledge translation and dissemination of research findings. ICDR engagement assisted NIDRR to broaden the range of information dissemination by utilizing the ICDR list serve to invite the participation of agencies across the Federal government and non-Federal stakeholders.

Recommendations: Agenda, Funding and Policy Coordination

The ICDR is required to make recommendations as the Committee determines to be appropriate with respect to coordination of policy and development of objectives and priorities for all Federal programs relating to the conduct of research related to individuals with disabilities, and describe the activities the Committee recommends be funded through Federal government funding mechanisms. The Committee achieves this goal by conducting interagency activities to secure the input of Federal and non-Federal stakeholders, reviewing the research literature, conducting state of the science meetings, and compiling information to inform the Federal disability and rehabilitation research agenda.

Events such as state of the science meetings identify research gaps and recommendations for future directions. Interagency meetings and information sharing highlights key policy concerns and enhances awareness about the potential need to explore policy change.

2012 Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities: Building a Healthier Society

The Interagency Committee on Health and Health Disparities (ICHHD) of the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) coordinated five disability-related sessions that took place during the [2012 Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities: Building a Healthier Society by Integrating Science, Policy and Practice](#) organized by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The inclusion of disability issues into this major scientific event was a critical step toward increasing awareness about health disparities and disability.

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Presentations were diverse, reflecting the breadth of health disparity issues in the disability community. Topics included international and national data; access to preventive services, treatment and health promotion interventions; and services available to women veterans, adults aging with developmental disabilities, and youth with mental health needs in the juvenile justice system. Speakers presented findings from research focused on a number of particular contexts and populations. Research recommendations were generated based on facilitated discussion with the audience. Participant discussion generated the following overarching themes:

- There is a lack of high-quality data on the health of people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities experience significant disparities in access to primary care, wellness, and prevention services, and thus experience worse physical and mental health than people without disabilities.
- There is a complex interaction among disability, race, poverty, adverse environments and poor health behaviors and physical and mental health outcomes in youth.

Research Perspectives on Supporting Section 508 Compliance

The State of the Science Research Perspectives on Supporting Section 508 Compliance forum examined the state of the science, considered partnership opportunities, and promoted interagency dialogue to explore solutions and the role of research to inform Section 508 compliance practices. Federal agency, advocacy, and private industry representatives dialogued with experts about critical Section 508 compliance issues and identified research needs and knowledge gaps on the following topics:

- **Accessible Mobile Application.** T.V. Raman, Research Scientist from Google, Inc., and an influential technologist, discussed trends and opportunities for incorporating accessibility into mobile applications, predicting a future of everyday things that are interconnected and mediated by technology.
- **Accessible Collaboration Technology.** Gregg Vanderheiden, Director of Trace Research and Development (R&D) Center, shared strategies for accessible mainstream systems. He also discussed the need for strategies to allow individuals to access all of the different collaboration systems through personalization tools.
- **Assessment Approaches for Accessible Technology.** Cyndi Rowland, Executive Director of WebAIM, discussed technical evaluation tools and processes; the human capital necessary for accessibility success; and data-driven tools for continuous improvement in web accessibility. She highlighted gaps in knowledge or practice and opportunities for future research and development.

A panel of industry respondents advocated that users with disabilities should be part of a collaborative solution, working with industry and the government to make the web and web tools accessible, and stressed the need for explicit accessibility standards so that the industry is clear about the needs of the government.

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Participants included Federal 508 coordinators and specialists, and Federal stakeholders from over 20 agencies concerned with leadership, management, research, policy, program, and procurement. Stakeholders also included representatives from advocacy organizations, higher education, and industry.

Stakeholders dialogued to identify key knowledge gaps and potential research needs, and to develop recommendations for the ICDR to promote this research agenda.

Promoting Joint Research Planning, Information-Sharing and Coordination

In order to promote coordination and cooperation among Federal departments and agencies, and reduce duplication of effort among programs, the ICDR promotes a cohesive, strategic Federal program of research. The ICDR authority also requires that research programs, projects, activities, and plans for such be jointly administered by at least two (2) agencies or departments with representatives on the Committee. The Committee achieves this goal by conducting interagency planning and development activities.

Executive Committee and Standing Committee Presentations and Discussion Forums

The ICDR Executive Committee and Standing Committees meet on a regular basis to develop and implement their strategic work plans and discuss current and emerging research. Topics in FY 2013 included the following:

- Interagency Collaboration Model for Research
- Team Science
- Interagency Roundtable on Effective Collaboration
- SSA Disability Resource Consortium
- Aging and Disability: Critical Concerns and Research Overview
- Aging and Disability: IOM/National Research Council Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence
- Technology and Resources for Interagency Coordination and Information Sharing
- Rulemaking on Medical Diagnostics Equipment
- 2012 Annual Compendium of Disability Statistics
- Disability Weights Measurement for the Global Burden of Disease Study
- Use of Emergency Departments among Working Age Adults with Disabilities: A Problem of Access and Service Needs”
- Insights from Conducting a Systematic Review on Outcomes for People with Disabilities
- Another Perspective on Capturing Working-Age Population with Disabilities in Survey Measures: Examining What a Work Limitation Question Adds to the Mix
- Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs

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- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System: Disability Measures in the Internet Panel Survey Pilot
- Recent Trends in Substance Abuse among Persons with Disabilities Compared to That of Persons without Disabilities
- Cross-Sectional Changes in Patterns of Allostatic Load Among Persons with Varying Disabilities, NHANES: 2001-2010

Optimizing Productivity

The collaborative nature of the ICDR extends capacity to leverage resources and expertise. The committee provides a platform to discuss key issues and emerging concerns, identify innovations, and explore partnership opportunities that may result in cost-saving activities. The Executive Committee and quarterly standing committee meetings are regular forums for providing agency updates, identifying and recommending partnership activities, engaging stakeholders from the research, disability advocacy, and other communities in a dialogue about disability research and emerging issues. In addition, the ICDR utilized two web-based tools to promote interagency collaboration:

- **The Interagency Disability and Rehabilitation Research Information Electronic Management System (IDRRIEMS)** is an interactive, interoperable electronic information management system designed to share resources that promote interagency coordination, collaboration, and communication. The IDRRIEMS navigational tool is a gateway to information regarding disability and rehabilitation research activities, programs, and projects sponsored by Federal agencies across the government, and plans for such. IDRRIEMS is a private site that is only accessible to Federal employees.
- **ICDR Collaborative Workspace** is an internal password protected system for ICDR participants (Federal employees). Non-Federal guests may be provided access to the workspace on a case-by-case, as needed basis. The system is designed to provide a platform for interagency coordination and collaboration by facilitating communication and planning through an events calendar, library of meeting summaries, and discussion boards.

For More Information

The ICDR is chaired by John Tschida, Director of NIDRR. Constance Pledger, EdD, PhD, serves as Executive Director. Inquiries about this report or the ICDR can be directed to her at Connie.Pledger@ed.gov.

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Appendix A: FY 2013 ICDR Participants

Federal Government Agencies

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Economic Research Service (ERS)

U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

- Office of the Secretary of Defense
Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs
- TRICARE Management Activity (TMA)

U.S. Department of Education (ED)

- Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)
 - Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)
 - Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
 - National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
 - Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
- Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH)
- Office of Minority Health (OMH)
- Administration on Children and Families (ACF)
 - The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID)
- Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
 - Center for Financing, Access and Cost Trends (CFACT)
 - Office of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations (OEREP)
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)
 - National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)
 - National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - Office of Surveillance and Biometrics (OSB)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
- Indian Health Service (IHS)
- National Institutional Review Board (NIRB)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
 - National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR)

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- National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)
- National Center for Research Resources (NCRR)
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)
- NIH Clinical Center (CC)
- National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)
- National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
 - Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) -
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Office of Accessible Systems & Technology (OAST)

U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ)

- Office of Justice Programs

U.S. Department of Labor (DoL)

- Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Department of Transportation (DoT)

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Office of Operations Research and Development (R&D)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
- Rehabilitation Research & Development Service (RR&D)

U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA)

- Office of Disability Programs
- Office of Innovation
- Office of Program Development and Research

Independent Agencies and Government Corporations

U.S. AbilityOne Commission

- Legislative Affairs & Program Outreach

U.S. Access Board

- Office of Technical and Information Services 4
- General Counsel
- Director of the U.S. Access Board

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

- Accessibility & Innovation Initiative

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- Health Care Initiative

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- Marshall Space Flight Center -
- Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO)

National Council on Disability (NCD)

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- Education and Human Resources (EHR)

Non-Profit Organizations

National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

- Board on Health Sciences Policy, Institute of Medicine (IOM) - 1

Universities/Colleges

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Cornell University - School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR)
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- University of Colorado
- University of Montana
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Wayne State University

Other

- AbleData
- AT & T Services
- Craig Hospital Research
- Independent Consultant
- Mathematica Policy Research (MPR)

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