
Background

The Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) was created by Congress to provide a mechanism for coordination and collaboration among federal departments and agencies conducting research to improve outcomes for people with disabilities. Consistent with the charge to promote coordination and collaboration, the ICDR conducts interagency activities. The ICDR recruited representatives from across the federal government to participate in planning the 2011 State of the Science in Disability Research Conference. The Conference Steering Committee, listed below, were instrumental in identifying topic areas for general and breakout sessions, identifying relevant speakers, and determining the overarching theme for the conference: “Meaningful Outcomes for Health, Wellness and Quality of Life through Research and Knowledge Translation.” The conference activities will result in a proceedings document that will identify research recommendations, gaps and partnership opportunities.

2011 Conference Steering Committee

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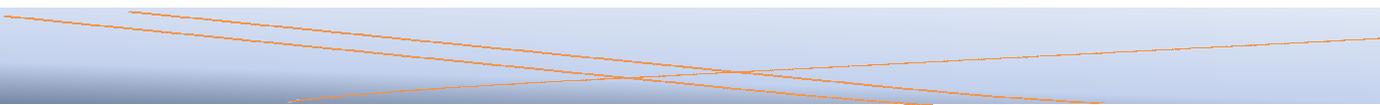
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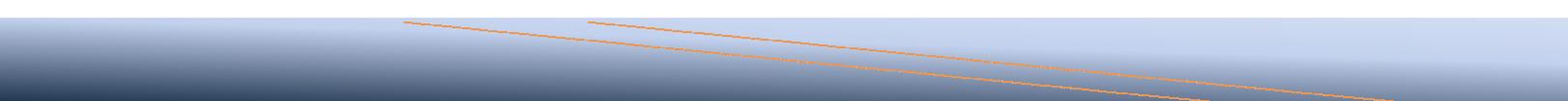
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Conference Objectives

- Identify research and knowledge gaps.
- Describe innovative strategies for translating disability and rehabilitation evidence-based research into practice.
- Identify effective strategies which expand the application of disability and rehabilitation research findings across clinical, community, employment and business, learning, and other environments.
- Identify recent advances in disability and rehabilitation research and emergent topics.
- Promote collaborative research and a coordinated disability and rehabilitation research agenda scientifically and practically address the promotion of **Health, Wellness, Quality of Life, and Knowledge Translation**.

Conference Outcomes

- Conference proceedings to include recommendations for future directions and collaborative research in the conference topic areas.
- Recommendations that will inform the government-wide, long-term disability and rehabilitation research strategic plan and assist to enhance the relevance of the federal disability and rehabilitation research agenda

with respect to stakeholder concerns.

- Identification of the state of the science, critical issues, research and knowledge gaps, duplication of research efforts and synergies, and research partnership opportunities.

Format

The conference format includes for the first time a pre-conference through partnership with the ADA National Network formerly the Disability Business and Technical Assistance Centers (DBTAC). The ADA Network will showcase the latest advances in research and innovations in employment intervention strategies.

The conference will open with a keynote address, outlining *The Value of Collaborative Public Health and Disability Research to Improve Health and Disability Outcomes* and a vision for the future. The day will continue with a series of breakout sessions with roundtable discussions planned by the ICDR subcommittees and forum. Each breakout session is designed to provide relevant information regarding the state of the science and address topics from an interdisciplinary or cross-dimensional perspective. The day concludes with a closing session presenting outcomes and recommendations for future directions derived from the breakout sessions.

Target Audience

- Federal agency representatives
- Health professionals
- Disability and rehabilitation researchers
- Individuals with disabilities and their representatives
- Federal and non-federal stakeholders, including representatives from advocacy organizations, educational institutions, professional associations, research community, and business and industry