

# NIDRR Program Directory

# 2004

Fiscal Year 2004



Produced by The National Rehabilitation Information Center



# **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research Program Directory 2004**

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# Introduction

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The mission of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) is to generate, disseminate and promote knowledge that will improve the lives of persons with disabilities in their communities. NIDRR conducts comprehensive and coordinated programs of research and related activities to assist in the achievement of the full inclusion, social integration, employment, and independent living of people with disabilities. This edition of the NIDRR Program Directory lists all projects funded by NIDRR during the 2004 fiscal year.

NIDRR's Long-Range Plan, announced in the Federal Register, December 7, 1999 (<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/NIDRR/#LRP>), provides background on NIDRR's conceptual base. It describes the "new paradigm of disability," which posits that disability is an interaction between the individual and the environment. NIDRR's research focus includes such areas as: employment outcomes, health and function, technology for access and function, independent living and community integration, associated disability research areas, knowledge dissemination and utilization, and capacity building for rehabilitation and international activities. For detailed descriptions of these areas, consult the Long-Range Plan.

## **NIDRR's Research Program**

NIDRR's research is conducted via a network of individual research projects and centers of excellence throughout the country. Most NIDRR grantees are universities or providers of rehabilitation or related services. NIDRR's largest funding programs are the Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC's) and Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC's). NIDRR also makes awards for information dissemination and utilization centers and projects, field initiated projects, research and development projects, advanced research training projects, Mary E. Switzer fellowships and NIDRR scholars, small business innovative research, and model systems of care. NIDRR also administers the State Technology Assistance Projects, the Assistive Technology Loan Funds, and the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers.

### *Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects*

The Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) program allows for projects with special emphasis on research, demonstrations, training, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance. Projects may include combinations of these activities. True to the mission of NIDRR, these projects may develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology to assist in achieving the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most significant disabilities, or to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act.

### *Model Systems*

NIDRR administers programs that have become world-renowned model systems of care for persons with spinal cord injuries, burns, and traumatic brain injuries. The Model Systems establish innovative projects for the delivery, demonstration, and evaluation of comprehensive medical, vocational, and other rehabilitation services. The work of the Model Systems begins at the point of injury and ends

with successful re-entry into full community life. These projects collect and contribute data on patient characteristics, diagnoses, causes of injury, interventions, outcomes, and costs to a uniform national database; participate in collaborative research with other Model System centers; and coordinate research efforts with other related grant recipients.

### *Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects*

The Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) Program (formerly known as the Research Training Grants Program) expands the capacity of the field of rehabilitation research by providing advanced training opportunities. These projects provide rehabilitation research training for persons with clinical or other experience, who may be lacking certain formal research training. Grants are made to institutions to recruit qualified persons with doctoral or similar advanced degrees with clinical, management, or basic science research experience, and prepare them to conduct independent research on problems related to disability and rehabilitation. This research training may integrate disciplines, teach research methodology in the environmental or new paradigm context, and promote the capacity for Disability Studies and rehabilitation science. These training programs must operate in interdisciplinary environments and provide training in rigorous scientific methods.

### *Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers*

NIDRR's Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC) conduct coordinated and integrated advanced programs of research targeted toward the production of new knowledge, which may improve rehabilitation methodology and service delivery systems, alleviate or stabilize disabling conditions, or promote maximum social and economic independence for persons with disabilities. Operated in collaboration with institutions of higher education or providers of rehabilitation or other appropriate services, RRTCs serve as centers of national excellence in rehabilitation research. Also, they are national or regional resources for research information for individuals with disabilities and the parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of the individuals. These centers also conduct related training programs, including graduate, pre-service and in-service training. The centers also disseminate and promote the utilization of research findings.

### *Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers*

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs) conduct programs of advanced research of an engineering or technical nature designed to apply advanced technology, scientific achievement, and psychological and social knowledge to solve rehabilitation problems and remove environmental barriers. Each center is affiliated with one or more institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations. The RERCs' work in a rehabilitation setting provides an environment for cooperative research and the transfer of rehabilitation technologies into rehabilitation practice. Involved at both the individual and systems levels, RERCs seek to find and evaluate the newest technologies, products, and methods that ultimately can benefit the independence of persons with disabilities and the universal design of environments for all people of all ages. The centers also exchange technical and engineering information worldwide and improve the distribution of technological devices and equipment to individuals who need them.

### *State Technology Assistance Projects*

This program supports statewide, consumer-driven, technology-related assistance networks for individuals of all ages and disabilities. States and territories are eligible to apply for one grant per entity which spans a total of ten years of Federal funding. The first phase is a development grant and lasts for three years. The second phase is known as the first extension and can last for two more years. The third and final phase is known as the second extension and lasts for five additional years. The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (AT Act) authorized three additional years for States that have completed ten years, at a reduced funding level. Several states have received one-year alternative financing projects aimed at providing financial assistance in the purchase of assistive technology. Projects work with public and private lenders in their states.

### *Fellowships*

Fellowships, named for the late Mary E. Switzer, give individual researchers the opportunity to develop new ideas and gain research experience. There are two levels of fellowships: Distinguished Fellowships and Merit Fellowships. Distinguished Fellowships go to individuals of doctorate or comparable academic status, who have had seven or more years of experience relevant to rehabilitation research. Merit Fellowships are given to persons with rehabilitation research experience, but who do not meet the qualifications for Distinguished, usually because they are in earlier stages of their careers. Fellows work for one year on an independent research project of their design.

### *NIDRR Scholars*

The Scholars program attempts to build research capacity by recruiting undergraduates with disabilities to work in NIDRR-funded Centers and projects and introduces them to disability and rehabilitation research issues. Scholars gain work experience and participating centers receive a small stipend. This program is an innovative approach aimed at generating interest in research careers for persons with disabilities.

### *ADA Technical Assistance Projects*

NIDRR administers a network of grantees to provide information, training, and technical assistance to businesses and agencies with responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Ten regional Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs) are funded to provide information and referral, technical assistance, public awareness, and training on all aspects of the ADA. Several National Training Projects target particular groups, organizations, or subject areas for ADA training and the ADA Technical Assistance coordinator contract assists all of the grantees with their activities.

### *Small Business Innovative Research*

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grants help support the production of new assistive and rehabilitation technology. This two-phase program takes a product from development to market readiness.

## *NIDRR Contracts*

Through its contracts, NIDRR seeks improved methods, systems, products, and practices to add to its work. The contracts are for specific activities related to management, research, and information dissemination.

## **NARIC and the *NIDRR Program Directory***

The *Program Directory* is compiled by the National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC). NARIC functions as NIDRR's library, providing the rehabilitation community with information and referral services to help locate pertinent research related to specific areas of expertise. Since 1977, NARIC has been the primary source of rehabilitation and disability information generated by NIDRR funds, with special priority services to NIDRR staff and NIDRR-funded project staff.

NARIC also produces REHABDATA, an index of disability and rehabilitation literature produced by NIDRR grantees as well as commercial publishers.. Copies of NIDRR-supported research products are received by NARIC and added to the reference collection and REHABDATA database. Information about holdings are available online at <http://www.naric.com>.

Neither NARIC nor NIDRR assumes liability for the *Directory's* contents or the use thereof. NARIC does not evaluate or certify the programs or products of the organizations listed in the *Directory*.

This *Directory* is not intended for use as a fiscal document to show how NIDRR funds are allocated; its purpose is to display the range of programs that NIDRR supports. This listing is current as of January 15, 2005. This directory may include projects that have passed the indicated extension date.

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# Employment Outcomes

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NIDRR seeks to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities by funding research into a wide spectrum of employment and disability issues, including economics; Federal, State, and community employment programs; accommodation; technology; education; and ergonomics and the work environment.

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Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Arkansas

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Improving Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services for Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of  
Hearing**

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University of Arkansas/Little Rock  
College of Education  
4601 West Markham Street  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
dwatson@uark.edu  
<http://www.uark.edu/deafrtc>

**Principal Investigator:** Douglas Watson, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 501/686-9691; Fax: 501/686-9698

**Project Number:** H133B010501

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$600,000; FY 02 \$600,000; FY 03 \$600,000; FY 04 \$600,000

**Abstract:** This program conducts coordinated research and training to enhance the rehabilitation outcomes of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing who are served by VR and related employment programs. When appropriate, the unique needs of specific subgroups within this diverse and heterogeneous population are investigated. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to improve the capacity of the VR system and related programs to address the career preparation, entry, maintenance, and advancement, as well as the community living needs, of the target population. Research activities include: investigating the impact of changes in federal employment and rehabilitation legislation and policy on the delivery of services to the target population; investigating the impact of business practices that contribute to accessible work and workplace supports to enhance the employment of the target population; and identifying, developing, and assessing rehabilitation-related innovations that enhance employment and community living outcomes of the target population.

## Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)

Iowa

### Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workforce Investment and Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities

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University of Iowa College of Law  
Law, Health, Policy, and Disability Center  
100 Gilmore Hall  
Iowa City, IA 52242  
mmorris@ncbdc.org  
<http://www.disability.law.uiowa.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael Morris, JD; Peter D. Blanck, PhD, JD; Michael Collins; Robert Silverstein

**Public Contact:** Michael Morris, JD, Project Director 202/521-2930; Fax: 202/218-7297

**Project Number:** H133B010102

**Start Date:** November 01, 2001

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$588,756; FY 03 \$224,981; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 4/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This Center helps expand, improve, and modify disability policy and other more general policies in order to improve the employment status of Americans with disabilities and increase their independence and self-sufficiency. Based on research from this project and other NIDRR-funded projects, this project establishes an information and technical assistance resource to government leaders and decision makers at state and federal levels, individuals with disabilities, parents and family members, and other interested parties, offering new and revised approaches to workforce development and employment policy. Studies conducted by this project include: (1) an analysis of the relationship between select federal and state policies upon the employment of people with disabilities, (2) an analysis of the policy-based implications of outcome-based reimbursement on the delivery of employment and rehabilitation services to people with disabilities, and (3) an analysis of the effect of civil rights protections and multiple environmental factors on promoting or depressing the employment status of people with disabilities. The Center actively seeks to be outcome-focused and involve individuals with disabilities, parents, and family members in all facets of project activities, including training, research, information dissemination, and technical assistance.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Mississippi

**RRTC on Improving Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Individuals  
Who Are Blind or Have Severe Visual Impairments**

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Mississippi State University  
P.O. Box 6189  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
schaefer@ra.msstate.edu  
<http://www.blind.msstate.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** J. Elton Moore, EdD 662/325-2001

**Public Contact:** Kelly Schaefer 662/325-7825 (V); 662/325-8693 (TTY); Fax: 662/325-8989

**Project Number:** H133B010101

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$600,000; FY 02 \$600,000; FY 03 \$600,000; FY 04 \$600,000

**Other Funding:** FY 01 \$100,000 (Rehabilitation Services Administration); FY 02 \$100,000 (RSA); FY 03 \$100,000 (RSA); FY 04 \$100,000 (RSA)

**Abstract:** This program includes a variety of research and training activities that focus on improving VR services for individuals who are blind or have severe visual impairments. Activities include: (1) investigating and documenting the impact of changes in disability and employment legislation on the unique employment-related needs of individuals who are blind or have visual impairments, as well as their impact on service delivery options and policy; (2) investigating, documenting, and analyzing existent state and federal data sets to determine different employment outcomes for persons who are blind or have visual impairments and the relationship of the outcomes to client and service provider characteristics; (3) investigating and documenting how state VR agencies, other public agencies, and private service providers overcome environmental barriers in order to improve employment outcomes for individuals who are blind or have visual impairments; (4) developing a national information and resource referral database for the training needs of state business enterprise program facilities, developing and delivering training programs to meet the identified training needs, and developing measures that can be used to evaluate the efficacy of the training; (5) conducting three conferences to train VR staff on state-of-the-art information and computer technology for individuals who are blind or have visual impairments; and (6) conducting a coordinated and advanced program of training in rehabilitation research focusing on blindness and low vision, including training in applied research methodology that is designed to increase the number of qualified doctoral-level researchers working in the area of blindness rehabilitation.

## Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)

Montana

### Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities

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University of Montana  
The University of Montana Rural Institute:  
A Center for Excellence in Disability Research, Education and Services  
52 Corbin Hall  
Missoula, MT 59812-7056  
rural@ruralinstitute.umt.edu  
<http://rtc.ruralinstitute.umt.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Tom Seekins, PhD 406/243-2654

**Public Contact:** Diana Spas 888/268-2743 (V, information service only); 406/243-5467 (V); 406/243-4200 (TTY); Fax: 406/243-2349

**Project Number:** H133B030501

**Start Date:** December 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$600,000; FY 04 \$600,000; FY 05 \$600,000

**Abstract:** The research conducted by this project improves the employment status of people with disabilities in the rural U.S., enhances their ability to live independently, and advances the science of rural disability studies. Four core areas comprise eleven research projects in rural employment and economic development; rural health and disability; rural community transportation and independent living; and rural policy foundations. Projects include: (1) develop scientific methods to measure how rural environments influence an individual's community participation; (2) collaborate with very small rural businesses to employ people with disabilities; (3) improve rural transportation options; and (4) create programs to prevent or improve secondary conditions. Other projects explore ways for new partners, including faith-based organizations, to be involved in improving rural services. A training program disseminates research findings, trains students, and sparks the creative engagement of policymakers and social advocates. The innovative STATE (Same-Time Availability to Everyone) policy requires that the project provide standard print publications to the general public only when at least two alternative formats are also available to individuals with disabilities.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
New York

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy  
and Individuals with Disabilities**

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Cornell University  
Employment and Disability Institute  
School of Industrial and Labor Relations  
201 ILR Extension Building  
Ithaca, NY 14853-3901  
smb23@cornell.edu  
<http://edi.cornell.edu/ped/dep/rrtc.html>

**Principal Investigator:** Susanne Bruyère, PhD; Richard Burkhauser, PhD; David Stapleton, PhD  
**Public Contact:** Susanne Bruyère, PhD 607/255-9536 (V); 607/255-2891 (TTY); Fax: 607/255-2763

**Project Number:** H133B040013

**Start Date:** December 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$700,000; FY 05 \$700,000

**Abstract:** The ultimate goal of the Employment Policy Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (EP-RRTC) is to increase the employment and economic self-sufficiency of people with disabilities and improve the quality of their lives. The immediate purpose is to contribute to the success of the transition from caretaker policies to economic self-sufficiency policies. Specific goals and objectives are: completion of new research activities that will generate knowledge about the effects of past disability policy and other factors on economic self-sufficiency, the impact of current and future initiatives designed to promote economic self-sufficiency, and/or the likely success of new policy options; completion of 20 publishable papers and companion policy briefs; training of consumers via 12 or more Washington-based Disability Policy Forums; training of 5 graduate students; a third-year conference; a conference volume; and technical assistance to consumers on policy research and evaluation methods and data. Short-term project outcomes include: annual interpretation of updated employment rate trends; a synthesis and critique of many relevant evaluation efforts; three or more significant policy options and ideas for next steps; reviews of three or more significant policy or program successes; detailed information on interactions between numerous programs and policies, and how they discourage employment; estimates of impacts of two public policies on employment and earnings for state VR clients; estimates of the impact of the ADA on both employer provision of accommodations and job retention after disability onset; estimates of the return to higher education for those with profound hearing loss; and two additional analyses of the role that human capital plays in determining economic self-sufficiency for adults with disabilities. Intermediate outcomes include use of this information in the policy improvement effort, and long-term outcomes include policy changes that increase the economic self-sufficiency of people with disabilities.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
New York

## Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Improving Employment Outcomes

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Hunter College of CUNY  
Research Foundation of CUNY  
695 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
joneil@hunter.cuny.edu

**Principal Investigator:** John O'Neill, PhD 212/772-5188

**Public Contact:** Fax: 212/650-3198

**Project Number:** H133B040014

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$699,981; FY 05 \$699,973

**Abstract:** This Employment Service Systems Research and Training Center develops, enhances, and utilizes partnerships to improve the quality of employment services, opportunities, and outcomes for people with disabilities. Five research projects have been designed to meet this goal and examine partnerships across public agencies, between not for-profit and public agencies, and between rehabilitation agencies and businesses. The Consortia for Employment Success (CES) creates and evaluates fully integrated disability service provider networks in three local communities. The CES increases access for people with disabilities to both effective, comprehensive placement services, and a well-managed and centralized employer network that will increase employment and career advancement opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Workplace Socialization Model (WPS) supplements the CES Model by focusing on job enhancement and retention. The WPS aims to extend the job tenure of employees with a disability and other positive work outcomes including the employee's job satisfaction, organizational commitment, and level of work culture competency, as well as the employer's satisfaction with the employee's job performance. Identification of "Good Practices" Within Vocational Rehabilitation is designed to identify a variety of good practices currently being used in the State-Federal VR system across the U.S. that facilitate consumer access to services and enhance employment outcomes. Designing and Testing Comprehensive Employment Practice and Policy Initiatives within a Vocational Rehabilitation State Agency develops and tests a model that leads to enhanced employment outcomes. The model includes the "human capital" characteristics of persons with disabilities as well as what vocational rehabilitation delivery systems add to these human capital factors to improve outcomes. A Study of Disability Navigators in One-Stops collects data on Workforce Investment Act regions in which Navigators operate and compares levels of customer satisfaction and employment outcomes between regions that use Navigators and regions that have no such positions.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Ohio

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Substance Abuse,  
Disability, and Employment**

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Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues (SARDI)  
3171 Research Park Boulevard, Room 255  
Kettering, OH 45420  
sardi@wright.edu  
<http://www.sardi.wright.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Dennis C. Moore, EdD

**Public Contact:** Connie Hart 937/775-1484 (V/TTY); Fax: 937/775-1495

**Project Number:** H133B040012

**Start Date:** December 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Edna Johnson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$699,998; FY 05 \$699,983

**Abstract:** This RRTC builds on previous findings to positively impact persons with disabilities who also experience substance use disorders, as well as the service providers upon whom they depend. The highly integrated program of research addresses the following goals and objectives: (1) Promote wide-spread use of substance use disorder screening among persons with disabilities who utilize disability-related employment services. This is accomplished by developing and validating a new substance abuse screener called the "SASSI-VR". Following two stages of development and validation, the SASSI-VR is evaluated in three vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs on a statewide basis. (2) Conduct a randomized clinical trial of a model of supported employment, Individualized Placement and Support (IPS), to test its efficacy among persons with traumatic brain injury or other severe disabilities that also have a substance use disorder. The two trial sites are affiliated with rehabilitation programs in the Wright State and Ohio State medical schools. Utilization of the IPS model with the study populations holds tremendous potential for impacting services delivery for consumers who experience very low rates of employment. (3) Research policy and practices relative to their impact on VR services for persons with a disability and coexisting substance abuse. Serving as a critical complement to RI, the roles of policies, statutes, guidelines, and VR service delivery practices will be investigated within the larger community of public agencies. (4) Investigate factors that specifically contribute to unsuccessful case closure among consumers of VR services. This component studies recent VR unsuccessful closures and their counselors, and the study has particular sensitivity to the role of "hidden" substance abuse among unsuccessful closures.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Virginia

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports  
and Job Retention**

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Virginia Commonwealth University  
1314 West Main Street, Box 842011  
Richmond, VA 23284-2011  
tcblanke@vcu.edu  
<http://www.worksupport.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Paul Wehman, PhD

**Public Contact:** Valerie Brooke, Director of Training 804/828-1851 (V); 804/828-2494 (TTY); Fax:  
804/828-2193

**Project Number:** H133B040011

**Start Date:** November 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Edna Johnson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$699,981; FY 05 \$699,973

**Abstract:** The purpose of the RRTC on Workplace Supports and Job Retention is to study those supports which are most effective in the workplace for assisting persons with disabilities to maintain employment and advance their careers. Research includes two long-term prospective randomized experimental control research projects: (1) determining the efficacy of public/private partnerships, and (2) determining the efficacy of business mentoring and career based interventions with college students with disabilities. The RRTC is partnered with Manpower, Inc., several community rehabilitation programs, and the VCU Business Roundtable. Additional projects look at disability management practices, extended employment supports, job discrimination in employment retention, benefits planning and assistance, and workplace supports. These studies are done in conjunction with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Society of Human Resource Professionals, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Iowa

# Model Distance-Learning Computer Training Program for Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals

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Iowa Department for the Blind  
524 Fourth Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
assist@blind.state.ia.us  
<http://www.blind.state.ia.us/assist>

**Principal Investigator:** Curtis Chong

**Public Contact:** 515/281-1361; Fax: 515/281-5781

**Project Number:** H133A010104

**Start Date:** December 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Joyce Y. Caldwell

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$299,565; FY 02 \$299,463; FY 03 \$599,028; FY 04 \$299,315

**Abstract:** This project creates a model distance-learning program that delivers computer training to people who are blind or who have visual impairments. The purpose of this program is to increase IT educational opportunities and employability in the IT field. Project objectives include: (1) developing a model distance-learning computer training program for people who are blind that results in employment in the IT field; (2) developing 13 distance-learning computer training courses for individuals who are blind or who have visual impairments and VR professionals; (3) training and preparing 150 individuals who are blind or who have visual impairments for Microsoft Office certification and thus prepare them for entry-level IT positions; (4) training 50 people who are blind and VR professionals to provide computer training to job seekers who are blind, thus increasing future IT educational opportunities for people who are blind and those who have visual impairments; and (5) disseminating training materials and research results to agencies serving individuals who are blind or who have visual impairments.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Iowa

### I.T. Works

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University of Iowa  
Law, Health, Policy, and Disability Center  
431 Boyd Law Building  
Iowa City, IA 52242  
james-schmeling@uiowa.edu  
<http://disabilities.law.uiowa.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Peter D. Blanck, PhD, JD 319/335-9043

**Public Contact:** Michael Morris, JD, 202/521-2930; James Schmeling, JD, 319/335-8459; Fax: 319/335-9098 (Blanck)

**Project Number:** H133A011803

**Start Date:** November 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$299,935; FY 02 \$299,724; FY 03 \$299,908; FY 04 \$299,788

**Abstract:** The goal of the I.T. Works project is to identify barriers to and facilitators of the hiring, retention, advancement, and wages of individuals with disabilities. Research shows that the percentage of working-age individuals with disabilities in full- or part-time positions is substantially lower than the percentage of working-age people without a disability, and there is a demand for trained IT workers. Increasing the employment of individuals with disabilities in IT-related jobs would increase the employment of individuals with disabilities overall and reduce the shortage for trained IT workers. Research activities for this project include a theoretical model in which predictive measures include environmental factors, organizational factors, attitudinal factors, and individual characteristics. Outcome measures in the model include hiring rate, advancement rate, retention rate, and wages of individuals with disabilities. Training activities allow for the distribution of the research findings to diverse target audiences, including employers, IT trainers and professionals, persons with disabilities in diverse employment settings, other researchers, and relevant policy-makers. Target audiences also include IT employers, IT training certification bodies, human resource managers, community colleges and university continuing education programs, and Centers for Independent Living and other disability-related organizations.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Mississippi

**Persons Aging with Hearing and Vision Loss**

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Mississippi State University  
Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision  
P.O. Box 6189  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
bjlejeune@colled.msstate.edu  
<http://www.blind.msstate.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** B.J. LeJeune, MEd., RTC, CRC

**Public Contact:** 662/325-2001; 662/325-8693 (TTY); Fax: 662/325-8989

**Project Number:** H133A020701

**Start Date:** November 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$500,000; FY 03 \$500,000; FY 04 \$500,000; FY 05 \$500,000

~ **Abstract:** This project investigates strategies to improve outcomes for persons who are over 55 with hearing and vision loss, especially those who have a sensory disability and acquire a second as a result of the aging process. The project conducts a variety of research, development, training, and dissemination activities and evaluates both technology and model service delivery approaches for improving employment and community integration options. A Participatory Action Research (PAR) Team provides guidance and direction. The project solicits direct input from key stakeholders as part of the ongoing planning, development, and implementation of research activities. These activities include the use of focus groups, a panel of experts, and a study sample that includes a nationally representative sample of older individuals who are blind or visually impaired and losing their hearing, and those who are deaf or hard of hearing and losing their vision. This is a collaborative project of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University, San Diego State University, and the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Missouri

**Preparing Avenues for Competitive Employment in Information  
Technology (PACE-IT) Project**

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University of Missouri/Columbia  
Educational and Counseling Psychology  
205 Lewis Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211  
hollidayg@missouri.edu  
<http://paceit.missouri.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Greg Holliday, PhD 573/882-8329

**Public Contact:** Lee Henson, Project Coordinator 573/884-7278; Fax: 573/884-3399

**Project Number:** H133A011802

**Start Date:** November 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$293,183; FY 02 \$290,191; FY 03 \$297,480; FY 04 \$292,620; FY 05 \$298,703

**Abstract:** Preparing Avenues for Competitive Employment in Information Technology (PACE-IT) develops a comprehensive, person-centered system that assists local students with disabilities in their transition to professional employment in IT-related careers following graduation. The project ensures that students with disabilities at the University of Missouri-Columbia engage in experiential opportunities in IT-related work settings with appropriate support. Participants also receive individualized accommodations, electronic portfolios, and professional mentoring in their chosen fields to enable them to be competitive in the IT job market upon graduation. The partnership involves university student services; departments of state government, agencies, government officials; and area businesses (totaling 21 entities).

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Arkansas

### Reaching Hard of Hearing Workers in the Mainstream: Implications for Consumers and Service Professionals

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College of Education and Health Professionals  
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dwatson@uark.edu  
<http://www.uark.edu/deafrtc>

**Principal Investigator:** Douglas Watson, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 501/686-9691; Fax: 501/686-9698

**Project Number:** H133G010156

**Start Date:** September 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$150,000; FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 5/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This project investigates career and work-related life experiences of persons who are hard of hearing, including the utilization of rehabilitation services by hard of hearing individuals. Most existing studies of this population have been limited to convenience samples, a methodological approach that is likely to present a fragmented and potentially inaccurate picture of these workers and their VR needs. Research with representative samples of hard-of-hearing workers is critically needed so results can be obtained that are more valid. Additionally, the project studies the existing practices and policies used by VR professionals as they deliver rehabilitation and employment services to hard-of-hearing adults. These professionals can offer valuable insights into their abilities to serve this population.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Comparison of Two Employment Models for Consumers with Severe Mental Illness

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taffy@thresholds.org

**Principal Investigator:** Taffy (M.L.) McCoy, PhD

**Public Contact:** 773/880-6260, ext. 230; Fax: 773/880-5755

**Project Number:** H133G990155

**Start Date:** July 01, 1999

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$150,000; FY 00 \$150,000; FY 01 \$150,000; FY 02 \$0 (No-cost extension through 7/1/2003); FY 03 \$0 (No-cost extension through 12/31/2004)

**Abstract:** This project conducts a randomized controlled trial comparing supported employment with well-established, comprehensive psychiatric rehabilitation approaches. It also investigates interactions between consumer characteristics and employment approaches, toward an understanding of the best VR strategies for people of color, especially people from the African American community. This study compares the effectiveness of two important, popular employment models for people with Severe Mental Illness (SMI). The Diversified Placement Approach (DPA) offers a gradual, stepwise preparation for competitive employment, including prevocational training, agency-run business opportunities, group placements, individual placements, and ultimately movement into independent employment, all available on a flexible, individualized basis without fixed time limits. The second model is a supported employment model developed in New Hampshire, known as Individual Placement and Support (IPS). IPS is a supported employment approach for individuals with SMI. As a consumer-oriented approach, key features of the IPS model include individualized planning with careful attention to consumer preferences in the job matching process, close coordination between rehabilitation and treatment, and rapid job search.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**

Illinois

**LET'S ROLL: Understanding and Responding to the Needs of People  
with Disabilities and the Ticket-To-Work Program**

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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Psychology Department  
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**Principal Investigator:** Brigida Hernandez, PhD

**Public Contact:** 773/325-4840; Fax: 773/325-7888

**Project Number:** H133G030165

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The mission of the project is threefold. First, the project builds scientific knowledge regarding the needs of people with disabilities as they pertain to the Ticket-to-Work program and, more generally, vocational rehabilitation services. Second, there is a concentrated emphasis on examining the diversity of needs based on racial/ethnic background and type of disability. Lastly, the project aims to understand and address the capacity of employment networks and offices of rehabilitation services in terms of their outreach and delivery of services.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Massachusetts

### **Job Retention Factors for Homeless People with Significant Disabilities**

Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Boston University

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Boston, MA 02215

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<http://www.cwsdos.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Norman Hursh, ScD

**Public Contact:** 617/353-2709; Fax: 617/353-8914

**Project Number:** H133G020092

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard E. Wilson II, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$149,999; FY 04 \$149,999

**Abstract:** This project studies the major factors that promote or limit job retention and sustained employment for approximately 200 homeless individuals with significant disabilities who have successfully transitioned from unemployment to competitive employment and permanent housing. Unemployment rates, wage levels, benefits, and educational levels for individuals with disabilities are unacceptably low when compared to the general population and access to quality jobs with decent wages is lower still for individuals with disabilities who are homeless, or who reside in supported or subsidized housing. The goals of this project are: (1) to study the relationship between successful job retention and the individual characteristics and coping strategies of homeless people with significant disabilities; (2) to study the relationship between successful job retention and different workplace supports, program services, and homeless resources used by homeless people with disabilities; (3) to study how specific individual characteristics, and different workplace and program supports and resources, interact to influence job retention and sustained employment; and (4) to disseminate results of the study to employment and vocational rehabilitation programs, homeless resources, workforce development programs, advocacy groups, and interested stakeholders.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**

Massachusetts

**Exploratory Study of the Relationship Between Stigma at the  
Workplace and the Vocational Recovery of People with Psychiatric  
Disabilities**

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Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation  
Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
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Boston, MA 02215  
zlatka@bu.edu  
<http://www.bu.edu/SARPSYCH>

**Principal Investigator:** Zlatka Russinova, PhD

**Public Contact:** 617/353-3549; Fax: 617/353-7700

**Project Number:** H133G030190

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,985; FY 04 \$149,938; FY 05 \$149,971

**Abstract:** The purpose of this project is to study the relationship between stigma of mental illness at the workplace and the vocational recovery of persons with psychiatric disabilities. More specifically, the project focuses, on one hand, on operationalizing the traumatic negative impact of stigma on mental health consumers' capacity to obtain and sustain competitive employment, and, on the other hand, on the objective and subjective factors (i.e., supportive work environment, effective coping strategies, etc.) that minimize the interference of stigma with the vocational recovery of persons with psychiatric disabilities. In addition, the study explores the pivotal role of disclosure at the workplace in understanding the complex, multi-faceted relationship between stigma and the vocational recovery among persons with serious mental illness whose disability is often invisible.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Massachusetts

# Development of Materials and Methods Needed to Deliver a Proven Job Retention Vocational Rehabilitation Intervention

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Boston, MA 02118  
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**Principal Investigator:** Saralynn J. Allaire, ScD

**Public Contact:** 617/638-5180; Fax: 617/638-5239

**Project Number:** H133G040216

**Start Date:** November 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$136,876; FY 05 \$111,005

**Abstract:** The purpose of the project is to maximize the full inclusion of persons with chronic diseases at risk for work disability into employment and economic self-sufficiency. The project uses the knowledge and understanding obtained from a recently completed research study showing that a job retention vocational rehabilitation (VR) intervention developed for the study reduced job loss in a sample of employed persons with serious rheumatic diseases. The approach to VR for the target population was innovative in that its goal was to prevent work disability rather than try to correct it. The specific intervention was innovative in that it incorporated strategies derived from both research and rehabilitation counseling expertise. The goal of the project is to develop the methods and materials needed by organizations providing VR services to carry out the intervention tested in the recently completed research study. Its short-term outcomes are increased ability of counselors to effectively deliver job retention VR intervention to employed persons with chronic diseases, improved knowledge of how to inform persons with chronic diseases of the availability of VR services, and increased awareness of the intervention and the requirements for delivering it. The objectives of the project are as follows: (1) to produce a Training Manual that contains information and materials needed to train counselors to carry out the intervention; (2) to produce a User's Manual that contains the materials needed by counselors to carry out the intervention; (3) to assess the satisfaction of recipients with the intervention, including its content; (4) to produce a Recruitment Manual that contains strategy information and materials needed for reaching the target population; (5) to calculate intervention costs; and (6) to conduct dissemination activities to increase awareness of the value of the intervention and requirements for implementing it.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Montana

### Self-Employment Technology Transfer (SETT)

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Rural Institute on Disabilities  
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Missoula, MT 59812  
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<http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Nancy Arnold, PhD

**Public Contact:** 406/243-2469; Fax: 406/243-2349

**Project Number:** H133G000189

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$149,970; FY 01 \$149,487; FY 02 \$149,986; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 3/31/2005)

**Abstract:** The Self-Employment Technology Transfer (SETT) project has developed and field tested a VR self-employment support model based on extensive research. This project is designed to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate methods for facilitating the widespread adoption by practicing VR counselors of this empirically derived model of standards and practices in a cost-effective manner and in a relatively short time. It is estimated that achieving this goal benefits 25,560 to 62,850 consumers of VR services annually. Further it is believed that such a technology transfer model for disseminating empirically derived social technology from research into practice has the potential to shape the content, methods, and goals of future disability and rehabilitation research. There has been an explosion of interest in self-employment for people with disabilities. More than a half-million people with disabilities report owning their own businesses and people with disabilities are nearly twice as likely to be self-employed as those in the general population. While self-employment is not for everyone, it clearly is a viable option used by many. Yet, VR agencies nationally help fewer than 2.5 percent of their consumer achieve self-employment. Research shows that few of the estimated 9,500 practicing VR counselors have the knowledge or skills to support consumers who choose to pursue self-employment. Anecdotal reports indicate that VR agencies and staff have a significant interest in developing methods to respond to this consumer demand. While a few programs have served as models for promoting self-employment, none are designed specifically for VR counselors or organized for such wide-scale dissemination.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Oklahoma

# Development and Distribution of an Accessible E-Learning Authoring System Software and Model Course for Vocational Rehabilitation Services Personnel

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National Center for Disability Education and Training  
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Norman, OK 73072  
okbuzzard@ou.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Martha Buzzard; Rebecca Cook

**Public Contact:** 405/325-1073; Fax: 405/325-1632

**Project Number:** H133G030063

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ellen Blasiotti

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,991; FY 04 \$149,964; FY 05 \$149,938

**Abstract:** This project develops and distributes two products that improve e-learning accessibility options and increase employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities. These products directly benefit two groups: (1) Instructional designers, trainers in government and industry, and educators receive an accessible e-learning authoring system. This customized authoring tool integrates Section 508 accessibility standards into an engine that delivers multimedia content from an external database. User-friendly templates and reusable interactive models have built-in accessibility options, thus enabling non-programmers to develop accessible courseware with less time and expense. (2) Vocational rehabilitation services and supported employment personnel receive The Job Development Hour, an accessible model course on CD-ROM that teaches basic strategies of marketing and job development for people with severe disabilities.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
Virginia

**Strategies People with Psychiatric Disabilities Use to Maintain  
Employment and Build Careers**

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McLean, VA 22101  
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**Principal Investigator:** Mary Killeen  
**Public Contact:** 703/619-1703; Fax: 703/619-1702

**Project Number:** H133G020116

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project investigates the strategies individuals with psychiatric disabilities use to maintain employment over time. The majority of individuals with psychiatric disabilities who are working find their work independently, without the help of specialized employment programs. Little is known concerning the strategies they use to maintain employment over time. Research that has focused on psychiatric disability and employment has looked solely at those populations who are currently attending or have attended vocational rehabilitation or specialized employment programs; individuals who have been most successful at maintaining employment have not been consulted regarding the strategies that worked best for them. This project explores a number of domains, including: (1) coping with stigma in the workplace, (2) managing symptoms as well as medications and their side effects, (3) making decisions regarding disclosure of psychiatric disability in the workplace, (4) negotiating workplace accommodations, (5) developing a social support network, (6) coping with relapse or re-hospitalization with regard to employment, and (7) obtaining education or training (career development). In addition, the project examines whether those who have found work with the help of professionals and those who have found work independently use differing strategies to maintain employment. Researchers ascertain the prevalence of various strategies in each group as well as their importance to participants in maintaining employment over time.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Virginia

# Self-Employment Development for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury

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McLean, VA 22102  
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<http://www.biausa.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Geoffrey Lauer 319/351-7751

**Public Contact:** 703/761-0750 Fax: 703/761-0751

**Project Number:** H133G020215

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,985; FY 03 \$149,965; FY 04 \$149,973

**Abstract:** This project creates self-employment opportunities for individuals with traumatic brain injuries through inventive, replicable capacity building approaches coupled with high-quality and cost-effective technical consultation and program redesign. The research, conducted by the Brain Injury Association of America and The Rural Institute at the University of Montana, addresses consumer self-determination, staff development, dissemination, and capacity building, with significant attention to consumer choice, minority enrollment, and local collaboration. Staff focus on systemic community-wide capacity building for self-employment, with the assistance of a broad-based culturally, geographically, and disability diverse Advisory Council. Each of the two development communities receives on-site and distance technical training and consultation on business planning, SSA Work Incentives, financing/alternative funding, and specific supports (assistive/universal technology, self-management regimens, etc.) for individuals with TBI. The project builds capacity with local community rehabilitation programs, VR and Work Force Investment Act offices, medical providers, families, self-advocates, economic development entities including business incubators and Small Business Development Centers, and Tribal Business Information Centers.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Virginia

### **Telework as an Accommodation for Employees with Disabilities: Developing Prediction Models for Successful and Satisfying Careers**

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Virginia Commonwealth University

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<http://www.worksupport.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael West, PhD

**Public Contact:** 804/828-1851; Fax: 804/828-2193

**Project Number:** H133G020158

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,998; FY 03 \$149,996; FY 04 \$149,998

**Abstract:** This three-year project develops research models to predict successful entry or reentry into employment using telework options. The models include: (1) functional, demographic, and experiential characteristics of participants; (2) telework options, such as telecenters, home-based work, and combinations of home- and office-based duties; (3) types of work performed, such as telephone or on-line technical support, telemarketing, remote data entry, writing, reservations, etc.; (4) support and training provided by the employer and public and private agencies; and (5) monetary factors such as earnings and fringe benefits. "Success" is defined in terms of both sustained labor force involvement and satisfaction with one's job, earnings, benefits, and career path.



## Health and Function

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NIDRR’s research focus for health and function addresses problems in individual care, services, and supports for people with disabilities. Research topics include: medical rehabilitation; health and wellness programs; service delivery; short and long-term interventions; systems research; and new and emerging disabilities.

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Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
California

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center in Neuromuscular  
Diseases (RRTC/NMD)**

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Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (T1B191)  
School of Medicine  
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Davis, CA 95616  
nmdinfo@ucdavis.edu  
<http://www.nmdinfo.net>

**Principal Investigator:** Craig McDonald, MD

**Public Contact:** Sandy Walsh, Coordinator of Information Services 530/752-3447; Fax: 530/753-3468

**Project Number:** H133B031118

**Start Date:** December 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$800,000; FY 04 \$800,000; FY 05 \$800,000

**Abstract:** The purpose of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center in Neuromuscular Diseases (RRTC/NMD) is to enhance the health, function, and quality of lives of persons with neuromuscular diseases (NMD). The goals of this project are to: (1) develop a program for multicenter rehabilitation research in NMD through the Cooperative International Neuromuscular Research Group (CINRG); (2) conduct research that continues to address rehabilitation needs, particularly related to exercise, nutrition, pain, secondary conditions, and the quality of life of individuals with neuromuscular diseases; (3) develop and evaluate new or emerging technologies and interventions that provide the information needed to improve employment, community integration, and quality of life outcomes for this population of individuals with disabilities; (4) develop and evaluate appropriate health promotion and wellness programs that enhance the ability of individuals with neuromuscular disease to be physically active and participate in recreational activities; and (5) conduct a comprehensive program of training, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance activities that are well-anchored in the research program and address the needs of stakeholders.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
California

## Agging-Related Changes in Impairment for Persons Living with Physical Disabilities

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Los Amigos Research & Education Institute, Inc.  
7601 East Imperial Highway; 800 West Annex  
Downey, CA 90242  
lcarrothers@agingwithdisability.org  
<http://www.agingwithdisability.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Bryan J. Kemp, PhD

**Public Contact:** LeeAnn Carrothers, PT, PhD, Training Director 562/401-7402; Fax: 562/401-7011

**Project Number:** H133B031002

**Start Date:** August 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$700,000; FY 04 \$700,000; FY 05 \$700,000

**Abstract:** This project is a combined effort of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and the University of California at Irvine, with other collaborators including the Center for Disability in the Health Professions at Western University and two Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers. This project evolves from the fact that persons who have a disability are now living into middle age and late life in ever-increasing numbers. However, many of these people appear to be experiencing premature age-related changes in health and functioning. The project tests a model for improved understanding of these problems and interventions to help alleviate them. Persons who are experiencing these kinds of problems and their families are included in all center projects. The training, dissemination, and technical assistance activities include clinical training of current and future health providers, current and future researchers, persons with disabilities, their families, and policy makers. Both traditional methods of one-on-one and group training as well as technology-based distance training techniques are used to reach national audiences and under-served populations.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
District of Columbia

**The Consortium for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Special  
Health Care Needs.**

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Georgetown University  
Center for Child and Human Development  
3307 M Street Northwest, Suite 401  
Washington, DC 20007  
nrrtc@georgetown.edu  
<http://www.consortiumnrrtc.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Phyllis Magrab, PhD

**Public Contact:** Tammy Abdou, Program Coordinator 202/687-8617 (V); 202/687-5503 (TTY); Fax:  
202/687-8899

**Project Number:** H133B001200

**Start Date:** July 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$699,956; FY 01 \$699,947; FY 02 \$699,926; FY 03 \$699,981; FY 04  
\$699,983

**Abstract:** The Consortium improves rehabilitation outcomes for children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs by increasing the effectiveness of service system. Using an integrated, multifaceted research approach and related training, dissemination, and technical assistance activities, the Consortium targets five areas: (1) access issues in pediatric rehabilitation, (2) characteristics of health plans and access to services, (3) promising practices in transition from pediatric to adult health care, (4) effective telehealth strategies for interdisciplinary service delivery in remote areas, and (5) training issues in Assistive Technology. Building on this research program, the consortium utilizes a variety of strategies to provide training and technical assistance to the target audience of families, consumers, providers, researchers, policymakers, and managed care organizations to improve rehabilitative services to this population in order to enhance their quality of life and that of their families. The RRTC is run by the Georgetown University's Center for Child and Human Development in collaboration with Brandeis University's Heller School, the University of Florida's Institute of Child Health Policy, and Family Voices.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
District of Columbia

## Access to Rehabilitation and Empowerment Opportunities for Minority Persons with Disabilities

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whoward@howard.edu  
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**Principal Investigator:** Dr. M. Gerlene Ross.

**Public Contact:** 202/806-8086; Fax: 202/806-8148

**Project Number:** H133B000903

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$600,000; FY 01 \$600,000; FY 02 \$600,000; FY 03 \$600,000; FY 04 \$600,000

**Other Funding:** FY 01 \$39,375 (NIDRR)

**Abstract:** The Howard University Research and Training Center for Access to Rehabilitation and Empowerment Opportunity (HURTC) is implementing a RRTC on Access to Rehabilitation and Empowerment Opportunities for Minority Persons with Disabilities to help them achieve self-determination, economic independence, and full participation in American life. The program of the Center is designed to attain the following objectives: identify methodological problems determining the rehabilitation needs of persons with disabilities from minority backgrounds (including sub-populations within these groups) and propose strategies to address these methodological problems; based on research findings, identify implications for rehabilitation research, training, policy development, and services; assess the outcomes of rehabilitation for persons with disabilities from minority backgrounds as measured by two or more variables (such as functional abilities, wellness, employment, health/wellness, and psychosocial status); analyze the affects of minority status on rehabilitation outcomes; and identify, develop, and evaluate rehabilitation methodologies, models, and interventions for specific minority groups. The HURTC collaborates with the Center for Disease Control, the Center for Minority Health, and a variety of stakeholders including consumers with disabilities, state agencies, continuing education programs, and community-based organizations.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Illinois

## RRTC on Technology Promoting Integration for Stroke Survivors: Overcoming Social Barriers

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**Principal Investigator:** Elliot J. Roth, MD 312/238-4637

**Public Contact:** Linda Lovell, Project Coordinator 312/238-6197; Fax: 312/238-6998

**Project Number:** H133B031127

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$800,000; FY 04 \$800,000; FY 05 \$800,000

**Abstract:** This project develops and evaluates a sequence of robotic training and assistive devices that are designed with the idea of promoting efficient function in the workplace or at home, and with the further intent that they form a basis for the development of appropriate technologies to allow people with disabilities ready access to existing facilities in the community. At each stage the project engages engineering students as a means to provide intensive effort for development of novel designs, but also to provide valuable opportunities for training students in the themes related to recovery of function and community integration of people with disabilities. Other projects at this center include: the use of emotionally expressive and narrative writing to facilitate coping and adaptation after stroke; computerized training for conversational scripts that facilitate access to the community and work force; and a consumer-directed, dynamic assessment methodology for evaluating community living and work participation environments and technologies for use by people who have had a stroke. In addition to these projects, the RRTC develops and evaluates a comprehensive plan for training directed to stroke survivors and their families, students, researchers, clinicians, and service providers. These approaches are implemented through a variety of mechanisms, including continuing education courses, web-based presentations, and intensive training in our research facilities.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Maryland

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Secondary Prevention  
Through Exercise: A Participatory Approach for People with Spinal  
Cord Injury**

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National Rehabilitation Hospital/MedStar Research Institute  
102 Irving Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20010  
TBA  
<http://www.sci-health.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Suzanne L. Groah, MD 202/877-1156

**Public Contact:** Melinda Neri, Project Coordinator, National Rehabilitation Hospital Center for  
Health and Disability Research, 1016 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036-5750  
202/466-0092; Fax: 202/466-1911

**Project Number:** H133B031114

**Start Date:** December 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$800,000; FY 04 \$800,000; FY 05 \$800,000

**Abstract:** This project systematically and comprehensively addresses the role and impact of physical activity in the prevention of secondary conditions in people with spinal cord injury (SCI). Initially, the project establishes critical, yet-undefined physiological responses to exercise in SCI and comprehensively examines cardiovascular disease risk in individuals with SCI applying accepted guidelines used in the able-bodied population. The project develops exercise formats specifically designed according to severity of SCI and chronicity of SCI to address the prevention of and knowledge regarding osteoporosis and other secondary conditions. In addition, the project determines whether regular exercise is related to fewer secondary conditions. These research findings feed into four training activities that include a peer mentoring program for newly injured people with SCI, a consumer-driven education curriculum for physical therapy and medical students, a state-of-science and training conference, and the development of a virtual resource network on exercise and prevention. The RRTC is a collaborative effort of clinical and disability researchers, SCI consumer organizations, and independent living advocates.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Missouri

**Missouri Arthritis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center  
(MARRTC)**

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Columbia, MO 65212  
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<http://www.muhealth.org/~arthritis>

**Principal Investigator:** Jerry C. Parker, PhD

**Public Contact:** Kim Holtmeyer 573/884-1499; Fax: 573/884-3020

**Project Number:** H133B031120

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$800,000; FY 04 \$800,000; FY 05 \$800,000

**Abstract:** The purpose of the Missouri Arthritis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (MARRTC) is to provide leadership at the national level in support of three key objectives: to reduce pain and disability, to improve physical fitness and quality of life, and to promote independent living and community integration for persons with arthritis of all ages in the United States. State-of-the-science rehabilitation research addresses the needs of persons with arthritis in the following areas: (1) home and community-based self-management programs, (2) benefits of exercise and physical fitness, and (3) technologies available to the broad populations of persons with arthritis in the environments where they live, learn, work, and play. The MARRTC conducts training and capacity-building programs for critical stakeholders within the arthritis disability arena, including consumers, family members, service providers, and policy makers. Additionally, the MARRTC provides technical assistance for persons with arthritis and other stakeholders in order to promote utilization of arthritis-related disability research. The MARRTC also provides widespread dissemination of informational materials to persons with disabilities, their representatives, service providers, and other target audiences (e.g., editors and reporters).

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Oregon

## Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Health and Wellness in Long Term Disability

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Oregon Health and Science University  
Oregon Institute on Disability and Development  
Child Development and Rehabilitation Center  
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Portland, OR 97207-0574  
rrtc@ohsu.edu  
<http://www.healthwellness.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Gloria Krahn, PhD, MPH 503/494-8364

**Public Contact:** Laura Hammond, Center Coordinator 503/494-3882; Fax: 503/494-6868

**Project Number:** H133B040034

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$700,000; FY 05 \$700,000

**Abstract:** The vision of the RRTC is to contribute to the reduction of health disparities for person with disabilities through an integrated program of research, training, technical assistance, and dissemination. The Center has three inter-related strands of work to address its three intended outcomes/goals: (1) Identify strategies to overcome barriers that impede access to routine healthcare for individuals with disabilities; (2) identify interventions in areas such as exercise, nutrition, pain management, or complementary and alternative therapies that promote health and wellness and minimize the occurrence of secondary conditions for persons with disabilities; and (3) develop improved status measurement tool(s) to assess health and well-being of individuals with disabilities regardless of functional ability. In order to achieve these outcomes, the RRTC conducts a coordinated program of research and training activities using a logic model framework. RRTC projects summarize and validate existing research findings on barriers to health care access as well as rigorously test and compare new strategies to overcoming identified barriers. The RRTC also examines and evaluates the practices of exemplary generic and specialized health promotion programs for people with disabilities in order to create an evidence-based set of evaluation and planning criteria. In addition, the RRTC organizes and uses panels to assess current health status measurement tools and develops or refines measures to more accurately reflect the health and well-being of people living with disabilities. Throughout these activities the RRTC disseminates informational materials and provide technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, their representatives, providers, and other interested parties.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Texas

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Rehabilitation  
Interventions Following Traumatic Brain Injury**

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The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR)  
Brain Injury Research Center  
1333 Moursund Avenue  
Houston, TX 77030-3498  
whigh@bcm.tmc.edu  
<http://www.braininjuryresearch.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Walter M. High Jr., PhD  
**Public Contact:** 713/666-9550; Fax: 713/668-5210

**Project Number:** H133B990014

**Start Date:** September 01, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$650,000; FY 00 \$650,000; FY 01 \$650,000; FY 02 \$650,000; FY 03 \$650,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 12/31/2004)

**Abstract:** The Center promotes the scientific advancement of rehabilitation research by focusing on several areas identified as needing further research. These include areas of weakness in the current knowledge and future research regarding TBI recovery and rehabilitation effectiveness: improvement of the diagnosis and treatment of persons with mild TBI; development of interventions to assist school-age children with TBI; the needs of minority groups members with TBI; evaluation of the effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions; and treatment for the family members of people with TBI. Activities include publishing an informational and technical assistance resource for consumers and professionals; training for medical and neuropsychological fellows in rehabilitation research; coordinating a state-of-the-science conference on mild TBI; and producing an educational videotape to train family members in effective coping skills. Through representation on the advisory committees, consumers are involved in all aspects of planning and evaluating research and training activities.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Washington

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**Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center**

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University of Washington  
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine  
Box 356490  
Seattle, WA 98105  
msrrtc@u.washington.edu  
<http://www.msrrtc.washington.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** George H. Kraft, MD 206/543-7272

**Public Contact:** 888/634-6778; 206/221-5302; Fax: 206/685-3244

**Project Number:** H133B031129

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$800,000; FY 04 \$800,000; FY 05 \$800,000

**Abstract:** This center conducts rehabilitation research that: (1) Develops new interventions and practice in the areas of disease suppression, strength enhancement, preserving employment, depression management, and pain control; (2) collects data from an extensive survey and explores complex interactions among multiple variables, models factors that predict differing levels of participation by people with MS, and proposes points of intervention that modify changes in function; and (3) facilitates enhanced participation through training, technical assistance, and dissemination through professional meetings, publications, and a State-of-the-Science conference. In addition, a web-based knowledgebase provides technical assistance to individuals with MS and healthcare providers with respect to caregiver issues, financial and insurance planning, self-sufficiency and coping, and assistive technology.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Alabama

**UAB TBI Model System**

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University of Alabama/Birmingham  
Spain Rehabilitation Center  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
619 - 19<sup>th</sup> Street South, SRC529  
Birmingham, AL 35249-7330  
novack@uab.edu  
<http://www.uab.edu/tbi>

**Principal Investigator:** Thomas A. Novack, PhD

**Public Contact:** Pamela K. Mott 205/934-3283

**Project Number:** H133A020509

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is maintaining and further developing a Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (TBIMS) that improves rehabilitation services and outcomes for persons with TBI. This project provides a multidisciplinary system of rehabilitation care specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals with TBI, and, as demonstrated over the past four years as a TBIMS, adequately enrolls subjects to complete research projects successfully. In addition to contributing data to the TBI National Database, the UAB TBIMS conducts two research projects: (1) an examination of the use of a serotonin agonist medication (sertraline) to lessen the incidence and severity of depression during the first year of recovery following TBI; (2) a study of the impact of a training program in problems solving for caregivers.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
California

**Northern California Traumatic Brain Injury Model System of Care**

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Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC)  
Rehabilitation Research Center  
751 South Bascom Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95128  
jerry.wright@hhs.co.scl.ca.us  
<http://www.tbi-sci.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Tamara Bushnik, PhD

**Public Contact:** 408/793-6433; Fax: 408/793-6434

**Project Number:** H133A020524

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$364,038; FY 03 \$364,588; FY 04 \$364,745; FY 05 \$364,956

**Abstract:** This project conducts two studies to better characterize the type and impact of fatigue on the TBI population: (1) a cross-sectional study of people up to ten years post-TBI and (2) a longitudinal study that focuses on the evolution of fatigue over the first two years post-injury. Both studies utilize standardized measurements of fatigue, as well as those for depression/affective disorders, sleep disturbance, activity scales, and measurements of hormone levels reflective of the health of the neuroendocrine system. Two additional studies characterize the impact of late posttraumatic seizures on recovery: (1) a study utilizing data already in the TBIMS National Database that compares the functional, vocational, and medical complication outcomes of those with and without late posttraumatic seizures; (2) a study in collaboration with Denver Hospital Medical Center that interviews individuals at both sites who participated in a previously funded NIDRR grant on seizure risk identification. This study further evaluates barriers to the environment, transportation, and challenges in control of their seizures.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Colorado

**UCHSC Burn Model System Data Coordination Center (BMS/DCC)**

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University of Colorado Health Sciences Center  
School of Medicine  
Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics  
4200 East Ninth Avenue, Box B119  
Denver, CO 80262  
rebecca.sloan@uchsc.edu  
<http://bms-dcc.uchsc.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Dennis C. Lezotte, PhD 303/315-6873

**Public Contact:** Rebecca Sloan, Project Coordinator 303/315-0320; Fax: 303/315-3183

**Project Number:** H133A020402

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$249,997; FY 03 \$249,995; FY 04 \$249,997; FY 05 \$249,999

**Abstract:** The BMS/DCC establishes a data management and analytical support facility for Burn Model Systems clinical and outcomes research projects. Objectives include: (1) to serve the clinical, research, and public communities to which it is responsible; (2) to serve the needs of good scientific procedure in multi-institutional outcomes research; and (3) to support the needs for patient safety and data confidentiality as required by Federal regulations when conducting collaborative clinical studies. The BMS Project is structured as a set of interacting, observational, randomized, and quasi-experimental clinical studies run at different centers that share the common purpose of acquiring and disseminating knowledge about burn injury care and rehabilitation. The project offers support in four important areas: project management, data management, analytical support, and dissemination. Support is provided in developing appropriate integrated systems to affect national data collection, project management, data coordination, technical support, collaborative clinical projects, scientific conduct, scientific publication, and effective dissemination. The UCHSC BMS/DCC continues to accumulate and integrate a central repository of data from the Model Systems to enhance their abilities to make sentinel statements and change the way burn injury rehabilitation is done. While the main function of the DCC is to integrate and manage these data, it also needs to be responsive to the technical and analytical needs of these individual clinical centers. In addition the DCC provides and coordinates statistical support among the clinical and statistical groups from each Burn Center and is prepared to expand this support, adding several new protocols and/or clinical studies where appropriate.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Colorado

**Lifetime Outcomes and Needs: Refining the Understanding of Aging  
with Spinal Cord Injury**

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Craig Hospital  
3425 South Clarkson Street  
Englewood, CO 80113  
susie@craighospital.org  
<http://www.craighospital.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Daniel P. Lammertse, MD 303/789-8220

**Public Contact:** Susan B. Charlifue, PhD 303/789-8306; Fax: 303/789-8441

**Project Number:** H133A011108

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$350,000; FY 02 \$350,000; FY 03 \$350,000; FY 04 \$350,000; FY 05 \$350,000

**Abstract:** This project explores the incidence and prevalence of several health and psychosocial conditions that accompany living many years with SCI. Also studied in this comprehensive, longitudinal, multicenter effort are the services available to individuals with SCI as they attempt to address these conditions throughout their lives. The study expands the longitudinal database, addressing emerging issues of aging with SCI in greater detail, and expands efforts to share findings with a variety of constituents. The eight areas of focus include: (1) secondary conditions from five to 25 years post-injury, (2) new analytic techniques with longitudinal datasets, (3) chronic pain, (4) access to and satisfaction with health services, (5) personal assistance services, (6) spirituality and its effects on health outcomes and quality of life, (7) the role of perceived stress and self-reported problems on the presence or absence of secondary conditions and in relation to one's overall well-being, and (8) trends in quality of life and health. This longitudinal study builds on two previous data collection points. It includes a broad, comprehensive examination of secondary conditions, both physical and psychosocial, and several new areas of inquiry investigated in-depth.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Colorado

**The Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System (RMRBIS)**

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Craig Hospital  
3425 South Clarkson Street  
Englewood, CO 80113  
charrison-felix@craighospital.org  
<http://www.craighospital.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Gale G. Whiteneck, PhD 303/789-8204

**Public Contact:** Cynthia Harrison-Felix, PhD 303/789-8565; Fax: 303/789-8441

**Project Number:** H133A020510

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** The Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System (RMRBIS) conducts three research projects: Study 1 examines the effects of Modafinil on fatigue and excessive sleepiness after TBI. Study 2 assesses the effectiveness of a group therapy intervention for social pragmatic communication. Study 3 uses the unique database assets of Craig Hospital and investigates the environmental and clinical factors that influence outcome over a 40-year time frame to understand the process of living and aging with a TBI. In addition to clinical research and service, Craig Hospital, as the RMRBIS, documents an outstanding record of dissemination, for all customers including clinical consumers, community agencies and advocacy groups, other clinical service centers and systems, and professionals engaged in the treatment of persons with TBI.

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects  
Florida

**Pharmacological Management of Dyslipidemia and Cardiovascular  
Disease in Persons with Chronic Cervical SCI: A Multicenter  
Collaborative Trial**

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University of Miami  
School of Medicine  
1095 Northwest 14<sup>th</sup> Terrace, R48  
Miami, FL 33136  
msnash@miami.edu  
<http://www.miamiproject.miami.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Mark S. Nash, PhD 305/243-3628

**Public Contact:** Maria Amadore, Directory of Education, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis 305/243-7108

**Project Number:** H133A011115

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$344,023; FY 02 \$340,953; FY 03 \$271,952; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project researches strategies that reduce cardiovascular disease risks after onset of tetraplegia by increasing high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) levels. The research examines the ability of a pharmaceutical therapy to improve the lipid profiles and forestall cardiovascular disease progression in persons with tetraplegia. Previous research on persons without SCI has shown extended-release niacin effective for elevating HDL-C, lowering total cholesterol, lowering low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), lowering triglycerides, slowing cardiovascular disease progression, and reducing cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. The ability of this drug to improve lipid profiles has never been examined in persons with tetraplegia, although drug benefits similar to those reported in persons without SCI would be of great health benefit to those with tetraplegia.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Illinois

### Health Services Research DRRP on Medical Rehabilitation

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Northwestern University  
Rehabilitation Institute Research Corporations  
Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research  
345 East Superior Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2654  
a-heinemann@northwestern.edu  
<http://www.ric.org/research/outcomes/drrp.php>

**Principal Investigator:** Allen W. Heinemann, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/238-2802; Fax: 312/238-2383

**Project Number:** H133A030807

**Start Date:** July 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$300,000; FY 04 \$300,000; FY 05 \$300,000

**Abstract:** This research addresses the need to improve the delivery of health services to persons with disabilities by (1) evaluating the impact of Medicare's inpatient rehabilitation facilities' (IRF) prospective payment system (PPS) on access to rehabilitation services in terms of settings, services, and length of stay; and (2) identifying the impact of comorbidities on how patients are classified and reimbursed under the new IRF PPS. Medicare's new PPS for IRF may limit effective access to care because facilities will take fewer risks with patients deemed to be "high cost outliers," hire more "therapy extenders" rather than licensed professionals, and discharge patients at a higher rate to nursing facilities rather than to community settings. The four specific aims of the research are to: (1) examine changes in the organization of medical rehabilitation services in response to prospective payment; (2) examine changes in patient access to medical rehabilitation settings and services resulting from organizational responses to the change in reimbursement; (3) examine the impact of PPS-related changes in service delivery on patient outcomes; and (4) identify the impact of comorbidities on classification and reimbursement in medical rehabilitation PPS.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Maryland

**Johns Hopkins University Burn Injury Rehabilitation Model System  
(JHU-BIRMS)**

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Baltimore Regional Burn Center  
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center  
4940 Eastern Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
jfauerba@jhmi.edu  
<http://www.jhbmc.jhu.edu/brbc/birms>

**Principal Investigator:** James A. Fauerbach, PhD 410/550-0894  
**Public Contact:** Bernadette Guthrie 410/550-5298; Fax: 410/550-8161

**Project Number:** H133A020101

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$298,928; FY 03 \$299,995; FY 04 \$299,753; FY 05 \$298,311

**Abstract:** This project tests interventions targeting three common postburn secondary complications affecting health and function: generalized deconditioning, muscle atrophy, and acute stress disorder. Testing the effectiveness of these interventions holds promise for improving the health and function of burn survivors as well as enhancing their options for workplace and community reintegration. The JHU-BIRMS includes several projects: (1) testing the efficacy of its augmented exercise program in rehabilitating people with generalized deconditioning, (2) testing the efficacy of enhanced cognitive-behavioral therapy in treating individuals with acute stress disorder and preventing the development of chronic posttraumatic stress disorder, (3) developing a new measure that quantifies the degree of social stigmatization experienced by burn survivors and its impact on emotional adjustment and integration into the workplace and the community (this project involves the Phoenix Society, the largest foundation supporting burn survivors and their significant others), (4) a collaborative effort with the University of Washington on a workplace integration study identifying and quantifying those factors interfering with early and complete return to work, and (5) a collaborative study on health and function with the University of Texas.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Maryland

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**Medicaid Quality Indicators for Individuals with Disabilities**

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National Rehabilitation Hospital/MRI  
102 Irving Street NW  
Washington, DC 20010  
susan.e.palsbo@medstar.net  
<http://www.nrhchr.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Susan E. Palsbo, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 202/466-1904; Fax: 202/466-1911

**Project Number:** H133A030804

**Start Date:** July 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$300,000; FY 04 \$299,999; FY 05 \$299,999

**Abstract:** This project develops and validates health service quality indicators for people with disabilities. The target population to be served is people with disabilities enrolled in managed Medicaid programs. The goal is to develop and field test quality measures for people with disabilities in managed care organizations. The specific aims are: (1) Case Identification: Improve the computer algorithm for Medicaid plans to identify beneficiaries who have disabilities. (2) Plan-reported indicators: Select a subset of existing HEDIS Medicaid measures that are appropriate and statistically meaningful for indicating the quality of care for the people identified in Aim#1. (3) Consumer-reported indicators: Assess the content validity of the Axis-CAHPS survey. (4) Develop comparative reporting tools of the quality of care between and within health plans. This is a combined qualitative and quantitative study with three interrelated segments. (1) Extend previous research on using routine health claims data to identify beneficiaries who are at risk of needing modified help to access their Medicaid benefits and services. (2) Review and refine the two most widely used Medicaid quality indicator tools, CAHPS and HEDIS; and extend work on refining the CAHPS instrument for people with physical disabilities; and (3) Explore how people with disabilities, payers, and providers can use the indicators to improve practice and report outcomes using comparative reporting tools.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Massachusetts

**The Spaulding/Partners TBI Model System at Harvard Medical School**

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital  
125 Nashua Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
toneilpi@lynx.dac.neu.edu  
[http://spauldingrehab.org/home/ed\\_research/index.htm](http://spauldingrehab.org/home/ed_research/index.htm)

**Principal Investigator:** Mel B. Glenn, MD 617/573-2625

**Public Contact:** Therese O'Neil-Pirozzi, ScD 617/573-2456; Fax: 617/573-2469

**Project Number:** H133A020513

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** The Spaulding TBI Model System (TBIMS) provides a comprehensive spectrum of care for people with TBI through the collaborative efforts of three hospitals that are part of Partners Health Care System, Inc., and four organizations that operate a variety of postacute rehabilitation programs. Research at the center includes development of functional neuroimaging as a tool to guide cognitive rehabilitation treatment for people with TBI, and use of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), with both a cross-sectional and longitudinal component. The cross-sectional component assesses regional brain activation during the memorization of word lists, both under undirected (spontaneous) conditions and following training and cueing to use a categorization strategy. The longitudinal component studies the ability of the fMRI findings to predict outcome among people with TBI who participate in community integration program with a cognitive rehabilitation focus.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Michigan

**Southeastern Michigan Traumatic Brain Injury System (SEMTBIS)**

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Wayne State University and Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
261 Mack Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48201  
rhanks@dmc.org  
<http://www.semtbis.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Robin A. Hanks, PhD 313/745-9763  
**Public Contact:** Deborah Wood 313/745-1188; Fax: 313/966-7502

**Project Number:** H133A020515

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$364,996; FY 03 \$364,995; FY 04 \$364,997; FY 05 \$364,992

**Abstract:** The Southeastern Michigan Traumatic Brain Injury System (SEMTBIS) program conducts projects developed with the help of SEMTBIS consumers, as well as other members of the Detroit community. Three studies evaluate: (1) a peer-mentoring intervention, (2) a dynamic system of survivor and significant-other well-being, and (3) resumption of driving after brain injury. Study 1 is a randomized controlled trial of a peer-mentoring program for both survivors and their caregivers. Study 2 studies 250 community-dwelling adults with TBI and their caregivers/significant others, exploring the relationship of survivor-caregiver situations with survivor distress and family dysfunction. It also studies whether or not social support acts as a moderating influence upon the well-being of persons with TBI. Study 3 examines correlates of driving after brain injury: barriers, fitness to drive, and community rapport. Participatory action is a central component of project implementation, evaluation, and dissemination. SEMTBIS participates in clinical and systems analysis studies of the TBI Model Systems by collecting and contributing data to the uniform, standardized national database.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Minnesota

**Mayo Clinic Traumatic Brain Injury Model System**

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Mayo Medical Center  
200 First Street  
Rochester, MN 55905  
malec.james@mayo.edu  
<http://www.mayo.edu/model-system>

**Principal Investigator:** James F. Malec, PhD

**Public Contact:** Anne Moessner 507/255-3116; Fax: 507/255-7696

**Project Number:** H133A020507

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$364,891; FY 03 \$364,738; FY 04 \$363,786; FY 05 \$364,993

**Abstract:** This Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (TBIMS) focuses on three local research projects: (1) decision-making and outcomes of inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation pathways, (2) very-long-term (5-15+ years postinjury) process and outcome for people with TBI, identified through the Rochester Epidemiology Project, and (3) telehealth-based (Internet) cognitive rehabilitation. Telehealth is a potentially important innovation in this system's region, where distance limits access to medical and rehabilitation services and many consumers have limited access to health care, insurance, employment, and viable political representation. In addition to professional publications and presentations, continuing dissemination efforts include the Mayo Clinic TBIMS website, the TBI Hotline, the *Messenger* newsletter, contributions to the COMBI web site and COMBI and TBIMS newsletters, and regular participation by Mayo Clinic TBIMS staff at all annual state brain injury association meetings in the extended five-state geographical region. During the next five years, the project plans to develop an advocacy training program to help people with TBI and their families and significant others in the region learn self-advocacy skills. Members of the Mayo TBI Regional Advisory Council were proactively involved in developing this project.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Mississippi

**Traumatic Brain Injury Model System of Mississippi (TBIMSM)**

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Methodist Rehabilitation Center  
Brain Injury Program  
1350 East Woodrow Wilson Center  
Jackson, MS 39216  
marks@mrrcrehab.org  
<http://www.mrrcrehab.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Mark Sherer, PhD, ABPP-Cn  
**Public Contact:** 601/364-3448; Fax: 601/364-3558

**Project Number:** H133A020514

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** The TBI Model System of Mississippi (TBIMSM) is a collaborative project of Methodist Rehabilitation Center and the University of Mississippi Medical Center. This project involves three studies. The first study investigates two medications in a parallel group, double blind, placebo controlled, randomized assignment design. The drugs under investigation have differing neurotransmitter effects, although each drug has been reported to have therapeutic benefit. The target population for this study is persons with TBI who are in a state of posttraumatic confusional state (PCS). This is considered a state-of-the-art approach to PCS given the severe lack of controlled research to measure medication usage in PCS. The second study develops and conducts a trial of an intervention to improve the therapeutic alliances between persons with TBI and family members and professional staff serving persons with TBI in a post-acute brain injury neurorehabilitation program (PABIR). The third research project investigates the use of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) to improve the characterization of motor disorders after TBI. Current research suggests that improved use and better understanding of TMS technology will lead to new intervention trials to improve motor function after TBI.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
New Jersey

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**JFK-Johnson Rehabilitation Institute TBI Model System**

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JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute  
2048 Oak Tree Road  
Edison, NJ 08820  
kcicerone@solarishs.org  
<http://www.njrehab.org/tbims>

**Principal Investigator:** Keith D. Cicerone, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 732/906-2640; Fax: 732/906-9241

**Project Number:** H133A020518

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** This project implements and evaluates innovative rehabilitation interventions that address the spectrum of severity and needs of persons with TBI. The first research study investigates the relationship between neurobehavioral (i.e., standardized rating scale) and neurophysiologic (i.e., functional MRI data) indices of brain function in persons with traumatic minimally conscious state (MCS). The second study addresses current clinical and methodological concerns over the effectiveness of cognitive rehabilitation on cognitive functioning, community integration and social participation, return to school and work, and quality of life after traumatic brain injury. The third study uses qualitative inquiry to describe the quality of life after TBI from the perspective of persons at various stages after their injuries. These findings are triangulated with quantitative indices of community integration and satisfaction with functioning, which should provide a richer and more authentic understanding of what it takes to live a fulfilling life after traumatic brain injury.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
New Jersey

**A Multicenter Prospective Randomized Controlled Trial of the Effectiveness of Amantadine Hydrochloride in Promoting Recovery of Function Following Severe Traumatic Brain Injury**

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JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute  
Center for Head Injuries  
2048 Oak Tree Road  
Edison, NJ 08820

**Principal Investigator:** Joseph T. Giacino, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 732/205-1461; Fax: 732/632-1584

**Project Number:** H133A031713

**Start Date:** January 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$599,862; FY 04 \$599,994; FY 05 \$599,994

**Abstract:** In this study, eight facilities (three of which are also Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model Systems), join with a Data Coordinating Center at Columbia University, to conduct a prospective double blind randomized controlled trial of amantadine. More than 180 patients who remain in vegetative state (VS) or minimally conscious state (MCS) 4-16 weeks post-TBI are randomized in a stratified fashion to 4 weeks of amantadine (200-400 mg/day) vs. placebo, followed by a 2-week washout period. The Disability Rating Scale is the primary dependent variable with the Coma Recovery Scale-Revised serving as a supplementary measure. The project also explores whether treatment response differs by time post-injury and by diagnosis (i.e., VS or MCS) at treatment onset, and whether specific outcomes of importance to caregivers are achieved more often in the amantadine group.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

New York

### **New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (NYTBIMS)**

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Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine; Research and Training Center  
One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1240  
New York, NY 10029  
wayne.gordon@mssm.edu  
<http://www.mssm.edu/nytbims>

**Principal Investigator:** Wayne A. Gordon, PhD

**Public Contact:** 212/659-9372; Fax: 212/348-5901

**Project Number:** H133A020501

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** This project advances the understanding of TBI and its consequences and improves rehabilitation outcomes. The research projects focus on depression and fatigue, impairments that limit participation in community and vocational activities: Treatment of Post-TBI Depression is a randomized clinical trial to examine the efficacy of sertraline (Zoloft) in the treatment of depression and anxiety after traumatic brain injury. Study of Post-TBI Fatigue and its Treatment investigates the components, consequences, and correlates of post-TBI fatigue, and in a randomized clinical trial, evaluates the benefits of modafinil (Provigil) to treat fatigue in individuals with TBI.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
North Carolina

**Carolinas Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Research System  
(CTBIRRS)**

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Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital Authority  
Charlotte Institute of Rehabilitation  
1100 Blythe Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28203  
fhammond@carolinas.org  
<http://www.carolinas.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Flora M. Hammond, MD  
**Public Contact:** 704/355-4330; Fax: 704/355-0709

**Project Number:** H133A020522

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Constance Pledger, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** This project investigates posttraumatic irritability, its relationship to the caregiver as a component of the environment, the reaction to amantadine hydrochloride, and the nature of the problem as experienced by those in the community. The mission of CTBIRRS is to improve care and outcomes for survivors of TBI through medical treatments, services, research, and dissemination to expand and enhance services throughout their lifetime. The system begins with prevention and emergency medical services and extends through intensive care, acute care, and comprehensive medical rehabilitation to long-term follow-up, community reintegration, and vocational rehabilitation.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Ohio

### Ohio Regional TBI Model System

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Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Ohio State University

Dodd Hal

480 West Ninth Avenue

Columbus, OH 43210

[lamb-hart.1@osu.edu](mailto:lamb-hart.1@osu.edu)

<http://www.ohiovalley.org>

**Principal Investigator:** John D. Corrigan, PhD 614/293-3830

**Public Contact:** Gary Lamb-Hart 614/293-3802; Fax: 614/293-8886

**Project Number:** H133A020503

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$364,995; FY 04 \$364,970; FY 05 \$364,885

**Abstract:** This model system includes two local research projects on substance abuse and persons with TBI. Study 1 is a randomized clinical trial testing interventions to promote retention in substance abuse treatment. This study employs intervention strategies found effective for clients with TBI when first engaging with a treatment program. Study 2 tests the concurrent validity of an instrument that documents the extent of a person's prior history of TBI objectively. This instrument is intended for research on TBI as a mediating factor in substance abuse treatment. This model system utilizes innovative community integration programs: Team Brain Injury (follow-up case management), the TBI Network (substance abuse treatment), and Community Capacity Building (education and advocacy operated in conjunction with the Brain Injury Association of Ohio).

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Pennsylvania

**The Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System**

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Albert Einstein Healthcare Network  
Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute  
1200 West Tabor Road, Korman Suite 213  
Philadelphia, PA 19141  
thart@einstein.edu  
<http://www.einstein.edu/e3front.dll?durki=8108>

**Principal Investigator:** Tessa Hart, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 215/456-6544; Fax: 215/456-5926

**Project Number:** H133A020505

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** This project provides cutting-edge care for persons with TBI, conducts research on treatment of TBI in three key areas, and disseminates new knowledge to consumer and professional audiences, using an extensive collaborative network. Seven Trauma Centers and two nationally renowned rehabilitation facilities, MossRehab and Magee Rehabilitation, collaborate in the clinical component of the Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System. The Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute administers the research component, which includes collaborative longitudinal data collection, as well as three local research projects on: (1) the use of assistive technology for cognitive and behavioral disabilities, (2) validation of an observational rating scale of attention dysfunction in a psychostimulant treatment trial, and (3) use of botulinum toxin for treating severe spasticity caused by TBI. The Moss TBIMS emphasizes consumer involvement in clinical program improvement, research design, and dissemination via collaboration with the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania and other consumers.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Pennsylvania

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**Collaboration of Upper Limb Pain in Spinal Cord Injury**

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University of Pittsburgh  
7180 Highland Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
boninger@pitt.edu  
<http://www.herlpitt.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael L. Boninger, MD

**Public Contact:** Peter Hunt 412/365-4850; Fax: 412/365-4858

**Project Number:** H133A011107

**Start Date:** December 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$349,998; FY 02 \$349,950; FY 03 \$349,954; FY 04 \$349,936; FY 05 \$349,947

**Abstract:** This collaborative studies project provides an opportunity to gain further insight into the cause and prevention of upper limb repetitive strain injuries in SCI. For the approximately 200,000 individuals with SCI, upper limb pain and injury is very common; some studies find prevalence rates above 70 percent. Prolonged wheelchair use and transfers have long been thought to cause these repetitive strain injuries. The consequences of upper limb pain are so significant that some researchers have suggested that damage to the upper arm may be functionally and economically equivalent to a spinal cord injury of higher neurological level. This collaboration includes the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Spinal Cord Injury project, the Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System (NNJSCIS), and the Northwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury System (NWRSCIS).

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Pennsylvania

**University of Pittsburgh Brain Injury Model System (UPBI)**

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University of Pittsburgh  
School of Medicine  
3471 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 201 Kaufmann Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
zafonterd@msx.upmc.edu  
www.umc.pitt.edu/tbi/

**Principal Investigator:** Ross D. Zafonte, DO

**Public Contact:** 412/648-6979; Fax: 412/692-4410

**Project Number:** H133A020502

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$364,484; FY 03 \$360,375; FY 04 \$362,875; FY 05 \$362,875

**Abstract:** The research focus of the University of Pittsburgh Brain Injury Model System is on innovation in rehabilitation technology for persons with TBI. The project evaluates the impact of selected innovations in technology on service delivery, functional outcome, and as a therapeutic intervention. It addresses the shortcoming in wheelchair design for persons with brain injury by evaluating a unique, personalized powered mobility system. Collaboration with the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University allows researchers to perform a randomized trial evaluating the efficacy of virtual reality and robotics for persons with TBI. Finally, the project uses intelligent navigation technology to implement and evaluate a web-based virtual case manager support structure for persons with TBI and their families.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Texas

### North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System (NTBRMS)

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The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard  
Dallas, TX 75390-9136  
radha.holavanahalli@utsouthwestern.edu  
<http://www.swmed.edu/ntbrms/welcome.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Karen Kowalske, MD 214/648-2288

**Public Contact:** Radha Holavanahalli, PhD 214/648-9540; 214/648-3654; Fax: 214/648-2005

**Project Number:** H133A020104

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$300,000; FY 03 \$300,000; FY 04 \$300,000; FY 05 \$300,000

**Abstract:** This project conducts five research projects, two collaborative and three site-specific: (1) barriers to return-to-work following major burn injury; (2) long-term outcome following major burn injury; (3) outcome following deep, full-thickness hand burns; (4) the evolution over time of burn-associated neuropathy; and (5) the socioeconomic determinants of disability in individuals with burn injury. The North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System (NTBRMS) is a collaboration of Parkland Health and Hospital System (PHHS) and the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW). Collaboration occurs on many levels at the NTBRMS. Clinical collaboration is the hallmark of the burn team, which includes individuals from several institutions who work together seamlessly, as well as collaboration with rural care providers through rural clinics and a biannual seminar. Research collaboration occurs locally with the surgeons and academic computing staff, and nationally with the other model systems.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Texas

**North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (NT-TBIMS)**

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The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Department of Neurology  
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard  
Dallas, TX 75390-9036  
caryn.harper@utsouthwestern.edu  
www.utsouthwestern.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Ramon R. Diaz-Arrastia, MD, PhD 214/648-6409

**Public Contact:** Caryn R. Harper, MS, Project Administrator 214/648-7613; Fax: 214/648-3143

**Project Number:** H133A020526

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$364,999; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** The North Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Model System (NT-TBIMS) provides a comprehensive continuum of care for TBI patients from the time of arrival at the emergency department through the intensive care unit, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, and long-term follow-up after community integration. Additionally, the NT-TBIMS conducts two research projects aimed at obtaining predictive information regarding outcome after TBI, which is important to the goal of developing novel therapies and tailoring these therapies to individual patients: (1) to determine whether the inheritance of particular alleles in certain candidate genes is associated with a greater risk of poor outcome after TBI; and (2) to determine whether functional magnetic resonance imaging of the brain (fMRI) is predictive of functional recovery after TBI.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Texas

### Pediatric Burn Injury Rehabilitation Model System

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University of Texas Medical Branch

815 Market Street, Route 1220

Galveston, TX 77550

dherndon@utmb.edu; patblakeney@earthlink.net; Jlbailey@utmb.edu

**Principal Investigator:** David Herndon, MD 409/770-6731

**Public Contact:** Pat Blakeney, PhD 409/770-6718 or 713/661-1745; 409/770-6731; ; Fax: 713/661-2871; 409/770-6919

**Project Number:** H133A020102

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$300,000; FY 03 \$300,000; FY 04 \$300,000; FY 05 \$300,000

**Abstract:** This program conducts independent and multi-center projects focusing on evaluating and improving the rehabilitation provided to the burned child, striving to decrease disability and improve reintegration into society. The project continues longitudinal assessments of patients, expanding the database that includes measures of cardiopulmonary function, physical growth and maturation, bone density, range of motion, activities of daily living, scar formation, reconstructive needs, and measures of psychosocial adjustment. This data is used to identify areas that require improvement and provide functional outcome measures that can be used in the evaluation of treatment methods. Research activities include: (1) a multi-center project assessing the efficacy of the long-term administration of oxandrolone in the treatment of burn injury with endpoints of improved strength, lean body mass, bone density, and growth; (2) improving rehabilitative outcomes for children by instituting and evaluating major modifications to current treatment for children with large burns; (3) evaluating the use of pressure garments in controlling scar following burn injury; (4) a multi-center study evaluating the relationship between treatment, injury, patient characteristics, and patient outcome in those patients sustaining full thickness hand burns; and (5) evaluating acute stress disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder, including its occurrence, predictive elements, and efficacy of treatment.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Virginia

**Virginia Commonwealth Traumatic Brain Injury Model System**

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Virginia Commonwealth University  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Box 980542  
Richmond, VA 23298-0452  
jhmarwit@vcu.edu  
<http://www.tbi.pmr.vcu.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Jeffrey S. Kreutzer, PhD 804/828-9055

**Public Contact:** Jennifer Marwitz 804/828-3704; Fax: 804/828-2378

**Project Number:** H133A020516

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** This project, utilizing rigorous scientific methods, examines the benefits of intervention during the acute and post-acute periods after brain injury. TBIMS and other researchers have primarily focused on delineating outcomes. Until recently, concerns about survivors' emotional well-being and adjustment to injury received scant attention. Yet, recent studies have identified a high prevalence of depression, with many survivors reporting feelings of hopelessness, diminished self-esteem, and social isolation. Brain injury also affects the family system; family members commonly describe emotional distress, lack of respite, financial stress, and lack of community support. Projects in three major research areas focus predominantly on survivors. One study examines pharmacological approaches to the treatment of depression, while another examines a structured approach to the treatment of acute cognitive and neurobehavioral problems. Examining the benefits of intervention programs for family members is the third major research area.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Washington

**University of Washington Burn Injury Rehabilitation Model System**

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University of Washington  
Department of Surgery  
Division of Plastic Surgery  
Harborview Medical Center  
325 Ninth Avenue; Box 359796  
Seattle, WA 98104  
rassilon@u.washington.edu  
<http://faculty.washington.edu/engrav/index.html>

**Principal Investigator:** Loren H. Engrav, MD 206/731-3183

**Public Contact:** Adrian Nelsen 206/731-2938; Fax: 206/731-3656

**Project Number:** H133A020103

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$300,000; FY 03 \$300,000; FY 04 \$300,000; FY 05 \$300,000

**Abstract:** This model system conducts five research projects: (1) A New Approach to the Etiology of Hypertrophic Scarring: develops an increased understanding of hypertrophic scarring. (2) Effect of Virtual Reality on Active Range-of-Motion During Physical Therapy: uses distraction via immersive virtual reality as an adjunctive non-pharmacologic analgesic. This study tests the hypothesis that virtual reality allows patients to tolerate greater stretching during physical therapy compared to no distraction, and that in spite of achieving greater range-of-motion, patients still experience lower pain levels while in virtual reality. (3) Determination of Reasons for Distress in Burn-Injured Adults: identifies reasons behind a burn survivor's distress at various time-points after hospital discharge. (4) Barriers for Return to Work: identifies specific barriers to return to work for burn survivors. (5) Acute Stress Disorder Among Burn Survivors: evaluates the effectiveness of cognitive-behavioral therapy, relative to a non-directive, supportive therapy control group, and a national comparison sample in reducing the prevalence of posttraumatic stress disorder diagnosis and symptom severity. Projects 4 and 5 are collaborative. In addition this project participates in the national database.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Washington

**University of Washington Traumatic Brain Injury Model System**

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University of Washington  
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine  
Box 356490, BB-953 Health Sciences  
Seattle, WA 98195  
krbell@u.washington.edu  
<http://depts.washington.edu/rehab/tbi>

**Principal Investigator:** Kathleen R. Bell, MD  
**Public Contact:** 206/685-0935; Fax: 206/685-3244

**Project Number:** H133A020508

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$365,000; FY 03 \$365,000; FY 04 \$365,000; FY 05 \$365,000

**Abstract:** This program conducts research relevant to TBI, enhances services to consumers, and furthers the National Database and intersystem collaboration. The program's three research projects are: (1) a randomized controlled intervention study examining the effect of exercise on depression after TBI. This low-cost, community intervention seeks to combat depression and emotional distress in persons with stable TBI by employing exercise as a positive approach to improved emotional and physical functioning and socialization. (2) An examination of the characteristics of TBI survivors who are able to return to employment and hold jobs that are stable and complex in nature, utilizing both the UW TBI longitudinal database and the Model System database. (3) An examination of the impact of the Medicare prospective payment system for inpatient rehabilitation on TBI survivors receiving access to acute rehabilitation efforts. The program also contributes to the National Database.

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects  
Washington

## The Effect of Scheduled Telephone Intervention on Outcomes After Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

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Box 356490, BB-953 Health Sciences  
Seattle, WA 98195  
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<http://depts.washington.edu/rehab/tbi>

**Principal Investigator:** Kathleen R. Bell, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 206/685-0935; Fax: 206/685-3244

**Project Number:** H133A040004

**Start Date:** December 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$600,000; FY 05 \$600,000

**Abstract:** This project evaluates the effect of scheduled telephone intervention (STI), a low-cost, easily implemented intervention in three states on functional and health outcomes, at weeks 1-2, 4, 8, and 12, and months 5, 7, and 9 on functional level, health and emotional status, community integration, and perceived quality of well being over one year after TBI. Timely intervention to identify problems after TBI, to teach patients and their families coping techniques within their own communities and support their independent decision-making may effectively decrease the need for expensive and often inaccessible services and may improve the quality of life for survivors of TBI. Researchers are evaluating the effect of additional STI at months 15, 18, and 21 on the same variables and employment at two years after TBI. Research examines whether the effects of such intervention are similar in multiple sites over a wide geographic area. It also examines the differential impact of the intervention in demographic subgroups, with particular attention to minority versus non-minority racial and ethnic populations

## Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems

Alabama

### UAB Model Spinal Cord Injury Care System

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University of Alabama/Birmingham  
Spain Rehabilitation Center  
619-19<sup>th</sup> Street South SRC 529  
Birmingham, AL 35249-7330  
mott@uab.edu  
<http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=10712>

**Principal Investigator:** Amie B. Jackson, MD 205/934-3330

**Public Contact:** Pamela K. Mott, Director, Research Services 205/934-3283 (V); 205/934-4691 (TTY); Fax: 205/975-4642

**Project Number:** H133N000016

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$340,000; FY 01 \$340,000; FY 02 \$340,000; FY 03 \$340,000; FY 04 \$340,000

**Abstract:** The purpose of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Care System (UAB-SCICS) program is to provide cutting edge, cost effective, comprehensive care from the moment of injury across the life span for persons who incur an SCI; to investigate ways of improving aspects of that system of care through clinical research; and to disseminate project research findings to persons with SCI, their family members, and professional care providers. UAB-SCICS includes two research projects: (1) investigating musculoskeletal/spine changes in post-menopausal women with SCI; and (2) completing a longitudinal investigation of the processes involved in coming to terms with disability over the first year post-injury. UAB-SCICS maintains linkages with emergency medical service agencies throughout the state, with state and local VR and long-term follow-up programs, with clinically oriented research activities within the UAB-SCICS itself, with UAB's companion Medical RRTC on Secondary Conditions of SCI, as well as with clinical research programs being conducted at other Model SCI Systems. The UAB-SCICS currently maintains the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center.

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
California

**Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System of Southern California**

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Los Amigos Research and Education Institute, Inc. (LAREI)  
Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center  
7601 East Imperial Highway, HB117  
Downey, CA 90242-4155  
rwaters@dhs.co.la.ca.us; rodjean@comcast.net

**Principal Investigator:** Robert L. Waters, MD; Adkins, Rod, PhD 562/401-7048  
**Public Contact:** 562/401-8956; Fax: 562/401-7897

**Project Number:** H133N000029

**Start Date:** September 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$345,000; FY 01 \$345,000; FY 02 \$345,000; FY 03 \$345,000; FY 04 \$345,000

**Abstract:** The Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System of Southern California's primary mission is to collect initial and follow-up data on persons who have sustained spinal cord injuries and submit it to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Another component of the project focuses on literacy in individuals with SCI. Also, the project identifies, evaluates, and eliminates environmental barriers, particularly cultural and social barriers, to enable people with SCI to reintegrate fully into their community, and thus improve their lives. The project has been designed to meet the needs of the approximately 75 percent minority and underserved populations that comprise its clientele, and has samples sufficient for achieving adequate statistical power in the relevant designs and producing meaningful research. Finally, the System contributes new and useful information to the current collection of SCI literature. This project contributes to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
California

**Model Spinal Cord Injury System**

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Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC)  
Rehabilitation Research Center  
751 South Bascom Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95128  
jerry.wright@hhs.co.scl.ca.us  
<http://www.tbi-sci.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Tamara Bushnik, PhD 408/793-6446

**Public Contact:** 408/793-6433; Fax: 408/793-6434

**Project Number:** H133N000007

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$340,000; FY 01 \$340,000; FY 02 \$340,000; FY 03 \$340,000

**Abstract:** The system of care at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) that extends from the scene of the accident to community reintegration has been developed through a program encompassing services, teaching and demonstration, and clinical research activities in its northern and central California and Nevada catchment area. This effort continues to include community agency staff and consumers and has produced a network of services addressing the needs of individuals with SCI. Based on input from consumers and their family members, community organizations, rehabilitation health professionals, and the rehabilitation literature, the research program studies: (1) the efficacy of peer support, both group and one-on-one mentoring, to improve quality of life, physical and psychosocial status, and community participation and integration; (2) if a regular exercise program can improve the above mentioned community outcomes; (3) the effect of high personal attendant turnover on the above mentioned variables and whether an intervention can decrease that turnover and improve outcomes; and (4) the provision of SCI-specific education and whether improving knowledge improves outcomes. This project contributes to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. :

Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems  
Colorado

## The Rocky Mountain Regional Spinal Injury System

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Englewood, CO 80113  
susie@craighospital.org  
<http://www.craighospital.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Daniel P. Lammertse, MD; Gale G. Whiteneck, PhD 303/789-8220

**Public Contact:** Scott Manley, EdD 303/789-8214 (V); 303/789-8575 (TTY); Fax: 303/789-8219

**Project Number:** H133N000001

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$375,000; FY 01 \$375,000; FY 02 \$375,000; FY 03 \$375,000; FY 04 \$375,000

**Abstract:** The Rocky Mountain Regional Spinal Injury System emphasizes research and significant contributions that have been made in the areas of SCI costs of care, aging, outcome assessment, high tetraplegia, neurorehabilitative surgery, and program evaluation, as well as participation in randomized controlled multicenter clinical trials. An integrated research agenda includes a controlled clinical trial of therapy for shoulder pain and evaluations of longitudinal outcomes of surgery for spinal cord myelopathies, recovery from pressure sore surgery, perimenopausal symptoms and treatments in women with SCI, the issues of women who provide assistance to a partner with SCI, and the impact of environmental barriers on the full participation of people with SCI. The project includes two highly regarded Level I trauma centers with specialized acute neurotrauma care facilities (St. Anthony Hospital and Swedish Medical Center) and the rehabilitation and lifetime follow-up services of Craig Hospital. These facilities bring together a full complement of disciplines and specialists, medically directed by six full-time physicians specializing in SCI acute care and rehabilitation management, to provide all components of a model system of care. This project contributes to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems  
Florida

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**South Florida Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System**

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University of Miami  
School of Medicine  
P.O. Box 016960 (D-461)  
Miami, FL 33101  
msipski@miami.edu  
<http://www.sci.med.miami.edu/index.asp>

**Principal Investigator:** Marca L. Sipski, MD 305/585-1328

**Public Contact:** 305/585-1339; Fax: 305/585-1340

**Project Number:** H133N000017

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$375,000; FY 01 \$320,000; FY 02 \$320,000; FY 03 \$320,000; FY 04 \$320,000

**Abstract:** The South Florida Spinal Cord Injury System (SFSCIS) is a cooperative effort between the University of Miami School of Medicine, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, Jackson Memorial Hospital, and the Miami VA Medical Center. The SFSCIS is a multidisciplinary system of care providing comprehensive rehabilitation services specifically designed to meet the special needs of individuals with spinal cord injuries. The clinical components of the SFSCIS include emergency medical services, acute care, vocational and other rehabilitation services, community and job placement, and long-term community follow-up and health maintenance. A comprehensive prevention program is included in the program. A significant and substantial research program focuses on the maintenance of health and function; three clinical trials and five major research projects are included. Each of these projects centers on studying interventions to improve outcomes in the preservation or restoration of function following SCI. In addition to these research projects, this project contributes to the National Spinal Cord Injury Database. A program designed for widespread dissemination of research and demonstration findings is included. In addition, culturally appropriate methods of education, training, and outreach are interwoven throughout the projects. Finally, the program includes a comprehensive evaluation program.

Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems  
Georgia

## Georgia Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System

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Crawford Research Institute  
2020 Peachtree Road Northwest  
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465  
lesley\_hudson@shepherd.org  
<http://www.shepherd.org>

**Principal Investigator:** David F. Apple, Jr., MD 404/350-7353

**Public Contact:** Lesley M. Hudson, MA, Project Co-Director 404/350-7591; Fax: 404/355-1826

**Project Number:** H133N000005

**Start Date:** September 30, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$374,992; FY 01 \$374,992; FY 02 \$374,992; FY 03 \$374,992; FY 04 \$374,992

**Abstract:** The Georgia Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System admits approximately 200 individuals annually with acute onset paralysis secondary to spinal cord injury, and collects post-discharge data on 600 individuals each year. Its patient population comes primarily from Georgia, the rest of the Southeast, and the Eastern Seaboard. The continuum of care begins at injury and continues through transport, assessment, acute care, rehabilitation, emotional adjustment, community reintegration, and lifetime follow-up. The program is involved with site-specific research projects on incomplete spinal cord injuries, enhanced long distance technological communications with patients, and the determination of early predictors of secondary complications. As part of the clinical research activity sponsored by the facility's Crawford Research Institute, the program is responsible for ongoing referrals of individuals with acute injury, as well as long-term follow-up and data collection. This project contributes to the national Model Spinal Cord Injury System (SCIS) national database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
Massachusetts

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**The New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center**

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Boston University Medical Center Hospital  
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Preston F-511

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Boston, MA 02118-2393  
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<http://www.bumc.bu.edu/Departments/HomeMain.asp?DepartmentID=91>

**Principal Investigator:** Steve Williams, MD

**Public Contact:** Jane Wierbicky Claudine DeJoie 617/638-7316 (Jane Wierbicky) 617/638-7389  
(Claudine DeJoie); Fax: 617/638-7313

**Project Number:** H133N000024

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$374,514; FY 01 \$300,000; FY 02 \$300,000; FY 03 \$300,000

**Abstract:** The New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center (NERSCIC) operates through a joint partnership between the Boston Medical Center (BMC) and the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH). While acute care and rehabilitation are administered at BMS, BUSPH plays an equally important role in developing research, education, and training projects to meet the needs of people with SCI. Additionally, NERSIC maintains a research partnership with Boston's Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and Woburn HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital. Additionally, NERSCIC has initiated collaboration with Gaylord Hospital. The Model SCI System includes multiple projects: (1) a pilot study on the effects of Internet access upon the health and social interactions of people with SCI; (2) a study of building accessibility in eastern Massachusetts; (3) the development of a consumer-rated Internet guide based on input from individuals with SCI; (4) an employment study, providing comprehensive services to chronically unemployed individuals with SCI; (5) a study of the relationship between pain severity and participation in paid employment and/or education for persons with SCI. This project contributes to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. NERSCIC also publishes a quarterly newsletter.

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
Michigan

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**University of Michigan Model Spinal Cord Injury Care System**

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Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0491  
model.sci@umich.edu  
[http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/model\\_sci](http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/model_sci)

**Principal Investigator:** Denise G. Tate, PhD; David R. Gater, MD, PhD 734/936-7052

**Public Contact:** Claire Z. Kalpakjian, PhD, Research Associate 734/763-0971; Fax: 734/936-5492

**Project Number:** H133N000009

**Start Date:** November 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$320,000; FY 01 \$320,000; FY 02 \$320,000; FY 03 \$320,000

**Abstract:** The University of Michigan Model Spinal Cord Injury Care System provides comprehensive care and services to both children and adults, and is the only facility in Michigan to care for ventilator-dependent persons of all ages with SCI. The project objectives are to: (1) provide a continuum of comprehensive, multidisciplinary services for persons with SCI, from emergency medical services to long-term community follow-up, with a focus upon maintaining health; (2) demonstrate the effects of the continuum of comprehensive services, focusing on its efficacy in promoting employment, health maintenance and wellness, independent living, and community reintegration; (3) conduct significant research, using a participatory action research approach involving consumer input from inception through implementation; (4) operate an efficient service system; and (5) develop and demonstrate methods of community outreach and education in collaboration with the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (AACIL) to reach professionals, consumers, and their families in other rehabilitation facilities and Centers for Independent Living in Michigan. These objectives emphasize community reintegration as a key outcome. The Model System is in collaboration with the AACIL, with the goal of promoting community reintegration. This partnership ensures a coordinated approach to clinical care, training, and research that integrates consumer empowerment with comprehensive lifelong follow-up, bringing a consumer-professional synergy to the project that serves as an example for other Model SCI Systems. This project contributes to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
Missouri

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**Missouri Model Spinal Cord Injury System**

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**Principal Investigator:** Laura H. Schopp, PhD, ABPP 573/888-8847

**Public Contact:** Larry Nossaman 573/884-2899 (V); 573/882-7971 (TTY); Fax: 573/884-2902

**Project Number:** H133N000012

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$300,000; FY 01 \$300,000; FY 02 \$300,000; FY 03 \$300,000; FY 04 \$300,000

**Abstract:** The Missouri Model Spinal Cord Injury System (MOMSCIS) is committed to developing, implementing, and evaluating innovative research promoting independent living and community integration among persons with spinal cord impairment. The study focuses on the effect of a consumer-directed personal assistance services training intervention on consumer satisfaction, independent living and community integration. The study developed, implemented and evaluated the in-person Individualized Management of Personal Assistant/Consumer Teams (IMPACT) workshop. Workshop participants received information on preventing and treating secondary medical conditions, including pressure sores, urinary tract infections, bowel and bladder management, autonomic dysreflexia, pain management, chronic fatigue, and thermoregulation, and information on relationship issues, such as hiring and firing, communication styles and strategies, assertiveness, and team building. Study objectives were: 1) to determine the effect of the IMPACT workshop on consumer satisfaction, the incidence of secondary conditions, activity, and participation (as defined by the ICF); 2) to determine the effect of the IMPACT workshop on personal assistants' job satisfaction, job stress and attrition; and 3) to provide online resources to the disability community, including an online personal assistant training manual for consumers and assistants, and an online resources database. Activity and participation were measured by the PARTicipation Survey for persons with Mobility Limitations (PARTS/M).

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
New Jersey

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**Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System**

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West Orange, NJ 07052-1499  
dtulsky@kmrrec.org  
<http://www.kmrrec.org/KM/nnjscis/index.php3>

**Principal Investigator:** David Tulsky, PhD 973/243-6849

**Public Contact:** David S. Tulsky, PhD 973/243-6849; 973/243-6916; Fax: 973/243-3527

**Project Number:** H133N000022

**Start Date:** September 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$345,000; FY 01 \$344,724; FY 02 \$345,000; FY 03 \$345,000; FY 04 \$345,000

**Abstract:** The Northern New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury System (NNJSCIS) attempts to improve outcomes for persons with SCI through novel interventions and expanded service delivery options. The NNJSCIS is composed of Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research and Education Corporation, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-University Hospital. The NNJSCIS has an interdisciplinary system of rehabilitation care specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals with SCI. It includes emergency medical services; acute care; psychological, social, and vocational services; peer support; independent living services; community and job placement, long-term community follow-up; and health maintenance. Some of the research and demonstration projects target three of the most common secondary conditions (pressure ulcers, shoulder pain, and urinary tract infections). Other studies promote wellness by reducing obesity, examine the relation between health literacy and outcomes, and identify risk factors and prevent potential problems. One project operationalizes the newly developed Clinical Practice Guidelines. The NNJSCIS contributes to the National Statistics Data Center.

## Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems

New York

### Mount Sinai Spinal Cord Injury Model System

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**Principal Investigator:** Kristian T. Ragnarsson, MD

**Public Contact:** Marcel Dijkers, PhD 212/659-9340; Fax: 212/348-5901

**Project Number:** H133N000027

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$320,000; FY 01 \$320,000; FY 02 \$320,000; FY 03 \$320,000; FY 04 \$320,000

**Abstract:** The Mount Sinai Spinal Cord Injury Model System (MS-SCI-MS) of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine of Sinai Hospital (MSH) and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine (MSSM) in New York City provides comprehensive care to meet the diverse needs of persons with SCI in its catchment area. There are four components of the system: (1) comprehensive clinical care; (2) research (both center-specific research and contributions to the national statistics database); (3) dissemination, education, and training; and (4) injury prevention. The comprehensive clinical program stresses interdisciplinary care, and employs a primary team model to enhance coordination among caregivers. Comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation services and long-term follow-up at MSH are also included. Rehabilitation services include an evaluation program for a high-tech wheelchair and seating system, a lower-extremity functional electrical stimulation ergometry program, psychosocial services, extensive VR services, a consumer-directed program to promote community reintegration (DO IT!), and a women's peer group, and formal and informal peer mentoring programs, as well as a Life Challenge program. Specialty medical and surgical services include a fertility program for males with ejaculatory dysfunction, intrathecal pumps for treatment of spasticity, upper extremity reconstruction, and cutting-edge technology. An approach to screening and early intervention of secondary medical conditions is a preventive health care demonstration project. The research program of MS-SCI-MS consists of two studies relevant to one of the most disabling secondary conditions of SCI, chronic pain: (1) meta-analyses of pain reports and pain treatments; and (2) a prospective study of pain. This project contributes to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
Pennsylvania

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**Demonstration of a Model Spinal Cord Injury System Center**

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375 Main Building  
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mary.patrick@jefferson.edu  
<http://www.spinalcordcenter.org>

**Principal Investigator:** John F. Ditunno, Jr., MD 215/955-5580

**Public Contact:** Mary Patrick 215/955-6579; Fax: 215/955-5152

**Project Number:** H133N000023

**Start Date:** September 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$370,000; FY 01 \$370,000; FY 02 \$370,000; FY 03 \$370,000; FY 04 \$370,000

**Abstract:** The Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of Delaware Valley (RSCICDV) is a comprehensive program of coordinated patient care, education, and research activities. The RSCICDV: (1) conducts on-site research focusing on improved outcome measures to meet Federally established objectives; (2) refines and improves the RSCICDV's operational services and demonstration projects; and (3) conducts four development projects including development of an SCI web site, implementation of an SCI Care Path, development of a Pressure Sore Program, and employing persons with SCI through hireAbility. The on-site research includes four experiments: (1) validation of the Walking Index of Spinal Cord Injury (WISCI) scale in a clinical setting for severity and hierarchical ranking; (2) validation of WISCI scale for elements of a disability measure for distance, speed, and endurance into WISCI levels; (3) demonstration that the WISCI scale is responsive to change in a clinical trial setting; and (4) demonstration of consumer preference for walking. The four development projects include: (1) improved access to information via the website; (2) implementation of a critical pathway for more efficient healthcare delivery; (3) increased employment and advancement of employment through hireAbility; and (4) increased monitoring of pressure sores and strategies for prevention. This project contributes to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
Pennsylvania

**University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury**

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<http://www.upmc-sci.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael L. Boninger, MD 412/365-4861

**Public Contact:** Fax: 412/365-4858

**Project Number:** H133N000019

**Start Date:** December 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$320,000; FY 01 \$320,000; FY 02 \$320,000; FY 03 \$320,000; FY 04 \$320,000

**Abstract:** The University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury (UPMC-SCI) represents the efforts of dedicated consumers, clinicians, and researchers. The UPMC-SCI's research focus is on innovations in AT. The research projects evaluate the impact of selected innovations in technology on service delivery and on outcomes such as function, independence, and employment. One project is addressing a shortcoming in AT research through the use of a new dynamic outcome measure developed by David Gray PhD. Researchers are also testing an innovative pushrim-activated, power-assisted wheelchair that has great potential to improve mobility for individuals with tetraplegia. In a third project, researchers are examining an innovative technology in the form of an exercise system (GAMECycle) to increase cardiovascular fitness in a population with SCI. The GAMECycle is an interface between a personal computer and an arm ergometer allowing for computer play while exercising. An additional project is testing a Seating and Mobility Concordance Test (SMCT) to determine if this measure is capable of discriminating among clinicians with differing levels of experience in seating and mobility prescription in SCI. In addition to this research, the center provides a model of care for individuals with SCI. SCI care at the University of Pittsburgh is provided in a multidisciplinary manner with a high level of communication among the constituent services. The fully implemented system of continuity of treatment begins with the emergency response at the scene of injury and continues with comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation from medical/surgical- to acute-stage rehabilitation through utilization of AT services and VR.

## Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems

Texas

### Texas Model Spinal Cord Injury System

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The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR)

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<http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pm&r/sci/research/modelssystem>

**Principal Investigator:** William H. Donovan, MD 713/797-5912

**Public Contact:** Karen A. Hart, PhD 713/797-5946 (V); 713/797-5790 (TTY); Fax: 713/797-5982

**Project Number:** H133N000004

**Start Date:** September 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$330,000; FY 01 \$330,000; FY 02 \$330,000; FY 03 \$330,000; FY 04 \$330,000

**Abstract:** The Texas Model Spinal Cord Injury System (TMSCIS) provides services along the entire continuum of care from emergency medical service to long-term follow-up and management of secondary conditions. TMSCIS performs an analytic longitudinal investigation of disability models to explore and quantify the interaction among various individual and environmental variables. TMSCIS operationalizes the Institute of Medicine model of disability utilizing state-of-the-art measurement techniques and comprehensive statistical approaches to test hypotheses about dynamic interrelations of persons with SCI and their environment. This investigation involves following newly injured persons with SCI for two years after injury. Measurements are taken of pre-injury life conditions, enabling processes, as well as personal, psychological, and physical environments. This project contributes to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In addition, the project develops and tests theoretically derived structural models from the national database and other existing data sources.

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
Virginia

**VCU Model Spinal Cord Injury Center**

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**Principal Investigator:** William O. McKinley, MD; David X. Cifu, MD 804/828-0861

**Public Contact:** Michelle Meade, PhD 804/828-5401; Fax: 804/828-6340

**Project Number:** H133N000015

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Constance Pledger, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$310,000; FY 01 \$310,000; FY 02 \$310,000; FY 03 \$310,000; FY 04 \$310,000

**Abstract:** This project develops and implements a Model Spinal Cord Injury System at Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia (VCU/MCV), that has a concentrated emphasis on employment. Researchers within this Model Systems systematically monitor and assess the impact of interventions, advancing technology, and policy changes on employment following SCI. In addition to contributing to the National Statistical Database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the VCU SCI Model System has three research studies. These studies involve the direct utilization of the SCI National Database, a major employment policy study across 18 states, and also an evaluation of technology training on employment of outcome. Involvement of SCI mentors in training new vocational mentors with SCI is also an important aspect of the project. By looking at the issues associated with employment for persons with SCI, this project complements other resources in place within VCU/MCV, including the RRTC on Workplace Supports, long-term relationships with the Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services, and existing SCI Model Systems delivery of care. A significant number of persons with disabilities are involved as project staff as well as on an Advisory Board. A close relationship with the Mid-Atlantic Paralyzed Veterans Association (PVA) enhances training, dissemination, and other outreach activities.

**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems**  
Washington

**Northwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury System**

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**Principal Investigator:** Diana D. Cardenas, MD; Charles Bombardier, PhD 206/543-8171

**Public Contact:** Cynthia Salzman 206/685-3999; Fax: 206/685-3244

**Project Number:** H133N000003

**Start Date:** September 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$330,000; FY 01 \$330,000; FY 02 \$330,000; FY 03 \$330,000; FY 04 \$330,000

**Abstract:** The University of Washington's Northwest Regional Spinal Cord Injury System (NWRSCIS) serves a critical mass of patients with SCI and has all the necessary disciplines to provide state-of-the-art medical, surgical, and rehabilitation care. NWRSCIS has four objectives: (1) examine interventions to improve outcomes in the preservation or restoration of function or the prevention and treatment of secondary conditions; (2) contribute to the national database; (3) maintain specialized clinical programs; and (4) develop and maintain education programs for consumers and families, especially for those who belong to minority and disadvantaged groups. In addition, the Center provides for the widespread dissemination of research and demonstration findings through its publications and website. This project contributes to the national statistics database at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**

California

**Improving Muscular Use and Cardio-Respiratory Demand in Spinal-Cord-Injured Patients Performing Functional Electronically Stimulated Leg Cycle Ergonometry**

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**Principal Investigator:** Maury Hull, PhD

**Public Contact:** 530/752-6220; Fax: 530/752-4158

**Project Number:** H133G020137

**Start Date:** January 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,971; FY 03 \$146,330; FY 04 \$144,845

**Abstract:** This project develops new stimulation patterns for a functional electrically stimulated (FES) leg cycle ergometer (LCE) that enable persons with spinal cord injuries to exercise with greater benefit. Greater benefit is defined as exercising for a longer period of time and at a higher work rate while involving more leg muscles than is possible with existing ergometers. To reach the general aim, the research is divided into three phases, each directed towards testing a specific hypothesis: (1) normal recumbent pedaling can be simulated using a computational musculoskeletal model of the leg; (2) minimizing muscle fatigue in a forward dynamic simulation of recumbent pedaling yields computed stimulation patterns that enable an individual with SCI to pedal the FES-LCE for longer periods of time, and at higher work rates, than is possible with current stimulation patterns; and (3) using neural stimulation patterns computed from a forward dynamic simulation of recumbent pedaling in which selected muscles of both the upper and lower leg are activated, an individual can pedal the FES-LCE to obtain a greater cardio-respiratory workout than when only upper leg muscles are stimulated.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**

California

**Cardiovascular Disease in Women with Spinal Cord Injury and Its  
Effect on Participation in Community Activities**

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Los Amigos Research and Education Institute, Inc. (LAREI)

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**Principal Investigator:** Yaga Szlachcic, MD

**Public Contact:** Rodney Atkins, PhD; Lili Thompson, PT 562/401-7221; Fax: 562/803-6354

**Project Number:** H133G010160

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$141,470; FY 02 \$145,835; FY 03 \$149,709; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** The goals of this project are: (1) to profile cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors in women with SCI, (2) to assess the relationships between CVD risk factors and “observable” CVD in this group, (3) to assess the associations of CVD risk factors and observable CVD with quality of life and with participation in community activities among women with SCI, (4) to evaluate standard interventions for lipid abnormalities and CVD in women with SCI, and (5) to assess the impact lipid and CVD interventions have on the quality of life and community activity participation of women with SCI. For these goals “observable” CVD refers to atherosclerotic burden by carotid arterial intima-media thickness.

Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)  
California

## Quantified Custom Inserts: An Amputation Prevention Program for Diabetic Patients

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[http://larei.org/pk\\_overview.htm](http://larei.org/pk_overview.htm)

**Principal Investigator:** Jacquelin Perry, MD; Richard Chambers, MD  
**Public Contact:** Jacquelin Perry, MD 562/401-7177; Fax: 562/803-5693

**Project Number:** H133G020002

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,999; FY 03 \$146,589; FY 04 \$145,079

**Abstract:** This project identifies footwear factors which reduce plantar pressures experienced during walking and decrease the incidence of skin ulceration in individuals with diabetes mellitus. Reduction of skin ulceration is critical for ensuring maximum independence in living and employment and for decreasing the emotional and financial consequences associated with managing the disease process and subsequent disability. Preservation of the patient's limb depends on reducing the injurious pressures experienced by the foot during walking. Today's techniques of shoe and insert production, however, are inconsistent because no objective criteria for an effective shoe system have been developed. This may result in persons with diabetes mellitus receiving custom footwear that does not effectively reduce their plantar pressures. All subjects in this project are at risk for ulceration due to a history of partial foot amputation or previous foot ulcers. Walking plantar pressures, in newly delivered custom footwear are measured using pressure localization and quantifying insoles (PEDAR System) placed under each foot. Subjects are randomly assigned to one of two, 80-person groups for orthotic management. For the PEDAR control group, the pressure data are discussed with the subject and then stored for later reference. Data for PEDAR intervention group are discussed with the subject and then are used to correct the custom inserts to reduce plantar pressures below 21 N/cm<sup>2</sup>. The orthotist is given the plantar pressure plot and modifies the insert as indicated, and plantar pressures during gait are reassessed interactively until the protective threshold is attained.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

California

# Daily Living Context and Pressure Sores in Consumers with Spinal Cord Injury

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**Public Contact:** Janis Wise 323/442-2851; Fax: 323/442-1540

**Project Number:** H133G000062

**Start Date:** September 01, 2000

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$149,942; FY 01 \$147,834; FY 02 \$149,837; FY 03 \$0 (No-cost extension through 8/31/2004); FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 3/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This project examines the beliefs and practices underlying the activities, habits, and daily routines of 18 ethnically diverse consumers with SCI. The intent is to document how personality, lifestyle patterns and choices, and environmental context mutually interact within the individually constructed lives of consumers to influence the development of pressure sores. The problem of recurrent, medically serious pressure sores represents a key challenge to the ability of individuals with SCI to experience a full and satisfying life. Although prior research has documented that the development of pressure sores is in general linked to psychosocial and environmental variables, there is a need to obtain new, consumer-centered information about how pressure sores can be minimized through personally tailored adaptive strategies that are responsive to the opportunities and difficulties embedded in the unique sets of everyday circumstances that characterize individual lives. A variety of data collection procedures, including participant observation as well as interviews with consumers, their caregivers, and other associated persons, are analyzed to generate results that are comprehensive and trustworthy. These results are used to develop a series of applied products, including: (1) a consumer-oriented self-help manual; (2) a set of guidelines for rehabilitation practice; and (3) a lifestyle-oriented occupational therapy treatment model. Consumer representatives contribute to all aspects of the project to ensure that it is relevant and maximally useful to the target population.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

California

# Development and Evaluation of a Quality of Life Instrument for Individuals with Adult-Onset Hearing Loss

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**Principal Investigator:** Carren J. Stika, PhD

**Public Contact:** 858/552-1996; Fax: 858/642-0266

**Project Number:** H133G030191

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,980; FY 04 \$149,999; FY 05 \$149,995

**Abstract:** This project develops a standardized, psychometrically rigorous quality of life instrument for individuals with adult-onset hearing loss that is conceptually linked to the full range of functional domains commonly impacted by hearing loss, and which quantifies respondents' perceptions of domain satisfaction and subjective well-being. Further, the quality of life instrument integrates the new paradigm of disability, whereby environmental, cultural, and personal variables are considered in relation to the individual's disability. The enhancement of quality of life has recently been recognized as the essential purpose of health care and rehabilitation. Research is showing that it is the individual's subjective well-being rather than the objective health condition or functional status that determines treatment-seeking behavior, compliance with treatment, and treatment outcome. Individuals with hearing loss represent the single largest disability group in the United States, with prevalence rates rising. Despite the fact that hearing loss often has a profound influence on personal and social adjustment, employment status, and general well-being, few psychological measures currently exist to help assess these effects or evaluate intervention outcomes

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Colorado

# Mortality and Life Expectancy After Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation

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**Principal Investigator:** Gale G. Whiteneck, PhD 303/789-8204

**Public Contact:** Cynthia Harrison-Felix, PhD 303/789-8565; Fax: 303/789-8441

**Project Number:** H133G020182

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project investigates mortality, life expectancy, causes of death, and risk factors for death in individuals with TBI receiving inpatient rehabilitation and surviving beyond one year post-injury. This research tests the following hypotheses: (1) that TBI increases mortality and decreases life expectancy among survivors completing rehabilitation, (2) that causes of death do not match the general population, (3) that the risk of death is greater in certain subgroups, and (4) that survival has increased over the decades of improved care. Products of this project include: (1) a consumer and professional publication on TBI mortality and life expectancy in the TBI Model Systems, (2) a consumer and professional publication on TBI mortality and life expectancy changes over four decades at Craig Hospital, (3) an interactive website allowing entry of basic individual and injury characteristics that reports probabilities of various life expectancies, and (4) a report on the most effective strategy for expanding the TBI Model Systems mortality study to include all TBI cases rehabilitated at Model System facilities, even before they were designated as a Model System. This study, lead by the Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System at Craig Hospital, involves the 16 TBI Model Systems funded by NIDRR.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Delaware

# Investigation of the Dynamics of Spasticity in Children with Cerebral Palsy

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**Principal Investigator:** Freeman Miller, MD

**Public Contact:** Dyonne Knotts 302/651-5921; Fax: 302/651-5951

**Project Number:** H133G010041

**Start Date:** November 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,708; FY 02 \$144,023; FY 03 \$148,284

**Abstract:** This project creates a new assessment tool for spasticity in cerebral palsy that quantifies both the long-term changes in muscle structure and the short-term effects of the hyperexcitable stretch reflex. The result is a comprehensive testing protocol that can be used in a wide range of therapeutic interventions. The new device can apply torques about the knee and ankle of a limb with spasticity in such a way that velocity, acceleration, and the third derivative, jerk, can be varied and resistance of the limb to movement measured. The device can be used (1) to investigate the reflex resistance to movement elicited by constant velocity, constant acceleration, and constant jerk; and (2) to define the passive biomechanics of the limb by applying short duration pulses of torque to the limb combined with the limb's position, velocity, and acceleration. This work is unique in the recognition of the limb with spasticity as a closed loop system consisting of the biomechanics of the limb and the reflexes (due to motion) feeding back on that limb. As a result of using the new tool, many therapy protocols such as hippotherapy, stretching, hydrotherapy, range of motion exercises, and others may be found to be of significant benefit to one component of spasticity over the other.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
Georgia

**The Impact of Cognitive Impairment and Outcomes Following SCI**

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Shepherd Center, Inc.  
Crawford Research Institute  
2020 Peachtree Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309

**Principal Investigator:** Stephen Macciocchi

**Public Contact:** 404/350-7553

**Project Number:** H133G030004

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Constance Pledger, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,642; FY 04 \$149,920; FY 05 \$142,514

**Abstract:** This project is designed to determine whether moderate to severe neurocognitive impairment secondary to comorbid (brain injury) and/or premorbid cognitive disorders (learning disability/attention deficit disorder) negatively impacts functional, health, quality of life, and participation outcomes following SCI. Participants are followed (1) to determine the base rate of neurocognitive disorders in persons with SCI and (2) to establish the relative effect premorbid/comorbid neurocognitive impairment has on functional skills, health status, quality of life outcomes at discharge from inpatient rehabilitation, and participation outcomes at one year following discharge.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Muscle Strength, Physical Work Capacity, and Functional Performance in Individuals with Down Syndrome

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**Principal Investigator:** Bo Fernhall, PhD

**Public Contact:** 217/333-2131

**Project Number:** H133G040323

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,984; FY 05 \$149,591

**Abstract:** This project evaluates the minimal muscle strength and endurance thresholds required for daily functional performance, such as rising from a chair, ascending or descending stairs, the ability to walk fast enough to cross a street in the time allotted at signaled intersections, and general walk/run performance. The project also evaluates the effect of resistance training on the ability to perform these daily tasks and on quality of life in individuals with Down syndrome. This project is built on the premise that most individuals with Down syndrome have low levels of muscle strength which substantially contribute to functional limitations, poor work capacity and reduced quality of life. Although many other factors contribute to functional limitations and decreased quality of life in people with disabilities, muscle strength is a consistent major contributor, and muscle strength can easily be addressed in intervention programs.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Enhancement of Upper Limb Functional Recovery in Stroke Using a Computer-Assisted Training Paradigm

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**Principal Investigator:** Julius Dewald, PT, PhD

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**Project Number:** H133G80063

**Start Date:** August 01, 1998

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 98 \$124,992; FY 99 \$124,923; FY 00 \$124,957; FY 02 \$0 (No-cost extension through 10/31/2003); FY 03 \$0 (No-cost extension through 10/31/2004); FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 10/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This study investigates use of a novel computer-assisted isometric training regime to overcome abnormal movement synergies following hemiparetic stroke. In most stroke patients, these synergies are reflected, in part, by the existence of abnormal coordination between the activations of shoulder and elbow muscles. These stereotypic movement patterns found in stroke survivors are functionally disabling and often debilitating, yet are not well understood in the rehabilitation setting. Current neurotherapeutic approaches to the amelioration of these abnormal patterns have produced, at best, limited functional recovery. Therefore, the objectives of this investigation are to evaluate and demonstrate the usefulness and effectiveness of a novel static training regime to enhance the quality of life of consumers with stroke. The effects of 2 training regimes on functional arm movement are being investigated in 40 hemiparetic stroke subjects. The first protocol uses a general, classical strengthening regimen to increase torque production in specific directions. The second approach strengthens subjects using torque combinations that require the subject to deviate progressively from their abnormal torque synergies. Assessment of the effectiveness of these two protocols is based on quantitative comparisons of voluntary upper limb movements performed pre- and post-training.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Development of an Intelligent Therapeutic Stretching Device for Stroke Patients

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**Principal Investigator:** Li-Qun Zhang, PhD,  
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**Project Number:** H133G010066

**Start Date:** September 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$148,822; FY 02 \$148,571; FY 03 \$145,955; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 8/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This project develops a useful and practical ankle stretching device with advanced control features that can be used by therapists and individuals who are post-stroke. Project activities include: (1) developing a portable stretching device with intelligent control to stretch an ankle joint with spasticity/contracture safely and repeatedly throughout the ankle range of motion (ROM) to reduce spasticity/contracture, (2) evaluating the outcome quantitatively, and (3) comparing it with a continuous passive motion machine. The device stretches the joint safely to extreme dorsi- and plantar-flexion until a specified peak resistance torque is reached with precise control of stretching velocity, based on resistance torque. Outcome is evaluated quantitatively in multiple aspects during each of the stretching sessions. Changes in joint-intrinsic properties are quantified by the passive ROM, joint stiffness, viscous damping, and energy loss during the controlled passive stretching, while the reflex changes are quantified by reflex gain and threshold. Functional changes induced by the stretching are evaluated through the active ROM, plantar and dorsi-flexor co-contraction, and foot-drop and walking speed during locomotion. In general, similar stretching devices can be developed to treat spastic joints other than the ankle and other neurological disorders troubled by spasticity/contracture. Finally, the stretching device is portable and has a relatively low cost, making it convenient and economical for patients to use in a clinic or at home.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Development of a Pressure Ulcer Prevention Beliefs Instrument for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury

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**Principal Investigator:** Rosemarie B. King, PhD, RN

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**Project Number:** H133G010058

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$148,101; FY 02 \$149,996; FY 03 \$149,987; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project develops a measure that clinicians can use to assess the health beliefs of persons with SCI regarding pressure ulcer (PU) prevention. The goals of the study are to: (1) develop an instrument to measure PU-prevention health beliefs that is reliable by collecting qualitative data on perceptions about PU risk and seriousness, barriers to and benefits of preventive skin care, and confidence in performing skin care; (2) develop a health beliefs instrument that is structurally and theoretically valid; and (3) describe the pressure ulcer prevention beliefs of 375 persons with recent or chronic SCI. The project uses qualitative data to develop questionnaire items on perceptions about PU risk and seriousness, barriers to and benefits of predict skin-care, and confidence in performing skin care. The measure is used to describe and predict skin-care behaviors. Statistics used to determine reliability and validity of the measure include internal consistency reliability, exploratory factor analysis, Rasch analysis, and hierarchical multiple regression analyses. Findings facilitate the development of health belief-based interventions that address the multifactorial basis of risk for PU development. The addition of skin care health beliefs to risk prediction instruments should increase the predictive power of such instruments.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Three Dimensional Assessment and Rehabilitation of Arm Function Following Stroke

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**Principal Investigator:** Randall F. Beer, PhD 312/238-1412

**Public Contact:** 312/238-1412; Fax: 312/238-2208

**Project Number:** H133G030204

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,957; FY 04 \$149,926; FY 05 \$149,884

**Abstract:** The goal of this project is to develop and evaluate the Multi-Axis Cartesian-based Arm Rehabilitation Machine (MACARM) - a new device for the quantitative assessment and rehabilitation of three dimensional arm movements following stroke. As a cost-effective alternative to robotic arm technology, the MACARM utilizes a geometric arrangement of relatively simple, single degree of freedom "Active Modules" to achieve a large workspace and high force and positional performance. The MACARM is founded on the Multipurpose Multiaxial Isokinetic Dynamometer (MMID) originally developed as an exercise system for NASA. The objectives of this project are as follows: (1) to modify the MMID hardware to achieve the force and positional accuracy required for upper limb rehabilitation, (2) to develop MACARM software for upper limb assessment and rehabilitation, (3) to validate the static and dynamic force and positional performance of the MACARM, and (4) to test the MACARM with human subjects, including stroke survivors.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Gait Abnormalities in Individuals with Stroke: Implications to Rehabilitation

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**Project Number:** H133G040065

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,964; FY 05 \$149,981

**Abstract:** This project assesses hip kinematics using standard motion analysis technology during overground walking, and kinetics measured during constrained (i.e., sagittal plane restricted) simulated treadmill walking using an instrumented robotic gait orthosis. These behaviors are compared to static measures of both volitional and reflex (stretch) measurements at the hip, knee, and ankle joints of the affected limb. Such measurements are performed in individuals with chronic stroke to identify factors that contribute to abnormal frontal plane behaviors. In individuals with acute stroke, research characterizes the mechanisms underlying development of abnormal frontal plane kinematics throughout the natural recovery and rehabilitation processes. Finally, by providing specific gait retraining paradigms at the initial and chronic stages of injury, the project determines the mutability of abnormal gait kinematics throughout the recovery process.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Maryland

# Increasing States' Allocations of Medicaid Dollars to Community-Based Care: Where Might Policy Intervene?

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**Principal Investigator:** Nancy Miller, PhD

**Public Contact:** 410/455-3889; Fax: 410/455-1172

**Project Number:** H133G010023

**Start Date:** September 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$148,706; FY 02 \$130,519; FY 03 \$58,309; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 8/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This research project features two related studies. First, the project examines factors that influence community-based care expenditures for different subgroups of individuals with disabilities. Analyses focus on Medicaid 1915(c) waiver expenditures, examining the effect of a set of state-level variables shown in previous work to be related to state fiscal effort, on expenditures for five segments of the population: the frail elderly, individuals with developmental disabilities, younger people with disabilities, persons with AIDS, and children with a variety of disabling conditions. Research identifies the extent to which variables amenable to policy influence are either shared, or differ across segments of the population with disabilities. Second, the project examines the relationship between increased use of 1915(c) waiver services and total, as well as institutional, long-term care expenditures. Research examines the extent to which states can redirect institutional dollars to community-based care without increasing total long-term care expenditures. Community-based care services are, on average, noticeably less costly than institutional services; if the site of care is the community rather than the institution more individuals are able to access care. Providing greater access to long-term care in preferred community settings, without increasing total long-term care costs, is viewed as evidence of cost effectiveness. Cost concerns have repeatedly been raised in discussions to expand community-based care. By focusing on Medicaid 1915(c) waiver programs, this project provides important cost effectiveness information not presently available.(i:

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Maryland

### **Bilateral Arm Training in Patients with Chronic Hemiparesis**

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**Principal Investigator:** Jill Whitall, PhD

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**Project Number:** H133G010111

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$148,579; FY 02 \$148,742; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project uses a randomized controlled study to test the validity of low intensity repetitive bilateral arm training with rhythmic auditory cuing to improve upper extremity (UE) motor function. This training program is based on principles of motor learning and control. A long-term objective of this research program is to understand the principles and mechanisms underlying UE stroke rehabilitation and to provide a scientific basis for planning treatments for stroke rehabilitation.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Massachusetts

### Development of Methods to Monitor Functional Tasks

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**Principal Investigator:** Serge H. Roy, ScD

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**Project Number:** H133G020108

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project develops a method to identify functional activities based on combined surface-detected electromyographic and accelerometer signals. This capability provides an ability to discriminate between various functional activities such as feeding, grooming, dressing, ambulating, toileting, and transfers solely on the basis of information from wearable biosensors. Self-report methods currently in use are subjective or are clinically based and do not accurately portray a patient's functional status throughout the day in their home or community. Existing monitors rely solely on accelerometers to provide continuous activity monitoring in remote locations, but they are limited to general activity assessment. This method can be combined with commercially available data loggers for a portable system that continuously and unobtrusively monitors the functional abilities of a patient in their home or community. Such objective and quantitative information can improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation services by establishing realistic goals, monitoring home-based therapy, and establishing the need for transition to other levels of care.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Massachusetts

# A Randomized Trial of Realignment Therapy for Treatment of Medial Knee Osteoarthritis

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**Principal Investigator:** David J. Hunter, MD, PhD

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**Project Number:** H133G040201

**Start Date:** November 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The overall objective of this project is to determine whether the provision of realignment therapy in patients with medial knee osteoarthritis (OA) relieves knee pain and improves function. The project tests the hypothesis that compared to control treatment, the use of realignment therapy (valgus knee brace + motion control shoes + orthosis) is effective in medial knee OA. The specific aims are: (1) To undertake a 24 week randomized crossover clinical trial in patients with medial knee osteoarthritis to determine whether provision of realignment therapy leads to lower pain scores and improved function during the time of this treatment than during the use of a placebo treatment; (2) to perform an open label follow-up study to track use and effectiveness of treatment. This project is co-funded by Generation II, a knee bracing company

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Michigan

# Psychological and Physiological Aspects of Menopause in Women with Spinal Cord Injury

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**Project Number:** H133G040274

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,924; FY 05 \$149,432

**Abstract:** The overall goal of this project is to test the general hypothesis that SCI will moderate the relationship of menopause and health-related outcomes. This research involves two interrelated studies of women with SCI: Study 1 is aimed at examining physical (e.g., secondary conditions), and psychological outcomes (e.g., depression, perceived stress), while Study 2 is aimed at examining physiological outcomes (e.g., body composition, fitness levels). These studies involve a total of 227 women with SCI, men with SCI, and women without disabilities. Study 1 involves three collaborating centers (University of Michigan, Craig Hospital, and Santa Clara Valley Medical Center) in the collection of longitudinal survey data from 207 participants to assess the ability to reliably distinguish secondary conditions of SCI from menopause symptomatology and experience of menopause symptomatology in women with SCI (women without disabilities serve as controls). Men with SCI serve as controls in the first part of this study. Study 2 (University of Michigan only) collects longitudinal data to investigate physiological outcomes menopause in a total of 20 women.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
Michigan

**Functional Assessment and Treatment of Neurogenic Hypotension Due to Spinal Cord Injury**

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**Principal Investigator:** Edward Nieshoff, MD

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**Project Number:** H133G020128

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Constance Pledger, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$116,835; FY 03 \$116,118; FY 04 \$119,442

**Abstract:** This project characterizes hypotensive phenomena associated with SCI and evaluates the effects of midodrine, an alpha-sympathomimetic medication, on them. Specifically, cardiovascular autonomic insufficiency due to SCI is manifested by (1) orthostatic hypotension, which impedes early rehabilitation efforts and causes subjective distress, and (2) exertional hypotension, which contributes to pathological fatigue and limited exercise performance. Thus, two corresponding protocols are employed to evaluate the effects of anti-hypotensive treatment with midodrine on each impairment, using two methods of hemodynamic challenge: head-up tilt table testing is used to elicit orthostatic hypotension, and arm-crank ergometry to elicit exertional hypotension. In each protocol, a randomized crossover within-subjects design allows for comparison of the effects of three interventions (compression garments, midodrine 10mg, and placebo) on subjective and objective responses. Ability to tolerate head-up tilt is assessed by heart rate, blood pressure, and symptoms during inclination; exercise tolerance is evaluated by oxygen consumption and perceived exertion in addition to the latter. Similar cardiovascular autonomic insufficiency in non-paralyzed populations responds dramatically to treatment with the midodrine, with increased ability to engage in physical activity. This project is the first controlled trial of midodrine in SCI.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Minnesota

### Personalized Health Care for Individuals with Physical Disabilities: Satisfaction with Services and Outcomes

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**Project Number:** H133G010064

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Dawn Carlson, PhD, MPH

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,834; FY 02 \$149,178; FY 03 \$149,539; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project demonstrates both the direct and indirect effects of the AXIS approach to health care on the lives of adults with physical disabilities. AXIS Healthcare, a joint venture of Sister Kenny Institute and Courage, Inc., was formed to bring knowledge of physical disability to the application of managed care. When dealing with health issues, people with physical disabilities often find themselves battling not only illness but also the health care system itself; this project works in partnership with persons with physical disabilities to coordinate a high-quality, cost effective network of specialized services spanning the continuum of care. Over the course of the project, the health outcomes and satisfaction levels of individuals with physical disabilities taking part in this program are monitored on a regular basis. The health outcomes and satisfaction of a comparison group of individuals receiving care through traditional plans are also followed during this time. The project is conducted with the understanding that programs similar to this one are not likely to be established on a wide-scale basis until it can be empirically demonstrated that such programs have a significant impact on the quality of life of the people they serve. The project is a collaborative effort of The University of Minnesota, Courage Inc., AXIS Healthcare, and The Metropolitan Center for Independent Living in Minneapolis.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Minnesota

# Home-Based Tracking Training to Stimulate Neuroplasticity and Improve Function in Stroke

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**Project Number:** H133G020145

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,929; FY 03 \$149,989; FY 04 \$149,416

**Abstract:** This project examines: (1) whether home-based joint movement tracking training is effective in promoting improved hand function and brain reorganization in subjects with chronic stroke, and (2) whether the mechanism of any such improvement is learning-dependent or use-dependent. Recent research has shown that repetitive efforts by subjects with chronic stroke using their paretic hand at a finger movement tracking task produced significant improvements in hand function and brain reorganization. The training technique requires patients to learn how to create precision movements of the index finger to track target waveforms on a computer screen. This project investigates whether home-based tracking treatment using a laptop computer and telecommunication technology can be as effective as earlier work with clinic-based treatment. Equally important, this project determines whether it is the motor learning or the repetitive movement that serves as the mechanism of improvement.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Nebraska

# Investigation of the Dynamics of Development of Sitting Postural Control in Infants with Cerebral Palsy

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**Project Number:** H133G040118

**Start Date:** December 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The overall goal of this research is to understand the mechanisms underlying the development of postural control in sitting using new methodology, in order to provide a scientific basis for evaluation and treatment of posture and movement disorders in infants with cerebral palsy. The development of early posture control remains poorly understood despite considerable therapeutic effort. Infants with cerebral palsy show their first delays in the acquisition of sitting, with subsequent problems developing adequate posture and movement control. Identifying the delay, determining the nature of the problem, and evaluating the effectiveness of treatment quickly, are vital in the early part of an infant's life, since this is the time of greatest plasticity. Tools from nonlinear dynamics, which are increasingly being used to examine other biological rhythms, are used in this study to analyze postural sway from center of pressure data during the development of sitting postural control.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Ohio

# Empowering Persons with a Spinal Cord Injury Through a Shared Decision-Making Program

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**Public Contact:** Mary Jo Roach, PhD, Project Manager 216/778-8781; Fax: 216/778-3945

**Project Number:** H133G020029

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard E. Wilson II, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,759; FY 03 \$149,759; FY 04 \$149,759

**Abstract:** This project systematically summarizes information concerning the various aspects of bladder management and SCI and prepares it in a format that allows persons with SCI to make more informed decisions about this issue. A panel of clinicians, experts in the care of persons with SCI, meet to develop a table of estimates concerning costs, complications, long-term risks, and effects on other aspects of care for each of the four commonly used approaches to bladder management and two emerging technologies. This panel is supported by a team that abstracts relevant literature and assists with decision analysis, when needed. These clinical estimates are shared with three focus groups of persons with SCI. The focus groups discuss the clinical findings and add relevant information about how the clinical aspects integrate with personal, vocational, and preference issues for individuals with SCI. The investigators use these two sets of information to develop a script for a multimedia presentation tailored to address the specifics of any individual's clinical situation. The multimedia presentation is evaluated for its ability to enhance informed decisions among persons with SCI concerning bladder management.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
Pennsylvania

**Opening the “Black Box”: The Content and Process of Learning in  
Inpatient Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation**

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**Project Number:** H133G020052

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$144,312; FY 03 \$147,355; FY 04 \$140,425

**Abstract:** This project aims to perform a systematic study of the content and process of learning events and teaching strategies in inpatient TBI rehabilitation, and to develop reliable tools by which they may be characterized. Much of the content and process of rehabilitation for TBI remains within a “black box” of unspecified therapy approaches and modalities. This project uses a variety of innovative strategies to open the “black box,” to collect and analyze data on content and process variables for both qualitative and quantitative purposes. Following a participatory action research model, the project utilizes a project team composed of experienced clinicians in the field of TBI rehabilitation. The team uses converging task analysis methods including group process, interviewing, and field observation to develop a systematic, hierarchically organized classification of learning events used in inpatient TBI rehabilitation, and a classification system and operational definitions of key therapist behaviors in the areas of task setup, task guidance, and task feedback/reinforcement. Particular attention is devoted to aspects of content and process relevant to errorless learning, on the assumption that this strategy will be particularly valuable to future research efforts. The team is assisted throughout by distinguished consultants with expertise in TBI and cognitive rehabilitation, errorless learning, and rehabilitation research methodology.

Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)  
Pennsylvania

## Naturalistic Action Impairment in Left Hemisphere Stroke: Cognitive Predictors and Consequences

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**Project Number:** H133G030169

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,936; FY 04 \$149,319; FY 05 \$149,966

**Abstract:** This project: (1) provides a detailed analysis of the cognitive and neuroanatomical predictors of naturalistic action (NA) performance in well-characterized individuals who have suffered left hemisphere stroke; (2) clarifies the relationships between left hemisphere apraxia and the performance of NA; (3) identifies the left hemisphere neuroanatomic structures associated with NA impairment; (4) improves the construct validity of the Naturalistic Action Test, a published measure of NA developed by the investigators, by establishing its relationship to tests of apraxia, and extending what is known of its relationships to measures of attention and executive function; and (5) educates rehabilitation professionals and caregivers about results these research goals. Acquired impairment in activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living such as meal preparation, dressing, and shopping is a common and persistent consequence of stroke, affecting approximately 50 percent of the nearly four million Americans living with the effects of stroke. Impairment in these NA activities has important consequences for caregiver burden and independence, and predicts future risk of failure to return to work, nursing home admission, and death.

Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)  
Pennsylvania

**A Study of Biophysical and Microvascular Function of Individuals with  
SCI: Implications for Alternating Pressure Support Surfaces**

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**Project Number:** H133G040222

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,246; FY 05 \$149,115

**Abstract:** The specific aims of this research study are to: (1) characterize blood flow control mechanisms (e.g. metabolic, neurogenic, and myogenic controls) via laser Doppler blood flow using Wavelet analysis in individuals with SCI; (2) investigate the use of alternating pressure for enhancing skin blood flow in SCI; (3) compare the effect of neurogenic control of cutaneous microcirculation on the strength of blood flow responses to alternating pressure in SCI with T-6 above and below; and (4) compare the effect of soft tissue properties on the strength of blood flow responses to alternating pressure in SCI with T-6 below and unimpaired subjects. These studies provide insight into mechanisms important to the configurations of optimal parameters for enhancing blood flow in SCI population, and provide a valid method for the evaluation of alternating pressure devices.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Rhode Island

# Project Shake It Up! health Promotion and Capacity Building for persons with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury and other Neuromuscular Disabilities

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**Project Number:** H133G010094

**Start Date:** January 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,783; FY 02 \$148,927; FY 03 \$149,939

**Abstract:** Project Shake It Up promotes health and capacity building for people with SCI and other neuromuscular disabilities through physical activity, recreation, improving independent living skills, developing peer support networks and promoting self-advocacy. Project Shake It Up also builds the capacity of two local nonprofit organizations controlled and staffed primarily by individuals with disabilities: Shake-A-Leg, Inc., whose focus is rehabilitation and recreation, and PARI, a center for independent living. Project objectives include: (1) developing a culturally competent training and recreation program, including a manual that addresses independent living issues such as disability rights, self-advocacy, education, employment, transportation, sexuality, alcohol and substance use, and health promotion; (2) implementing and evaluating the Shake It Up program for health promotion, physical activity, and alcohol and substance use reduction; (3) establishing peer-support networks to provide long-term support for intervention participants; (4) increasing the capacity of Shake-A-Leg and PARI to promote alcohol and substance use reduction through health promotion and empowerment; and (5) disseminating the program nationwide by making the manual the Shake It Up model widely available.r:

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
South Carolina

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**Risk for Early Mortality After Spinal Cord Injury**

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Medical University of South Carolina  
College of Health Professions  
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences  
Research Office  
19 Hagood Ave, Suite 910; PO Box 250822  
Charleston, SC 29425  
cokerj@musc.edu

**Principal Investigator:** James S. Krause, PhD 843/792-1337

**Public Contact:** Jennifer Coker, MPH 843/792-2605; Fax: 843/792-1107

**Project Number:** H133G030117

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,984; FY 04 \$149,996; FY 05 \$149,964

**Abstract:** This project identifies the relationships of life adjustment, quality of-life, activities, fitness, and secondary conditions with length of survival and causes of death after SCI. Two studies utilize distinct prospective data sets. The data for study 1 was collected from 362 participants in 1990/1991, whereas the data for study 2 was collected from 597 participants in 1995/1996. Similar, but not identical, measures were obtained from each of the two study samples. Current mortality status is identified using the National Death Index and the Master Beneficiary Record and Summary Earnings files from the Social Security Administration. The most basic biographic and injury related variables are entered as a block first as statistical controls. The general life adjustment and health variables and the more specific secondary conditions variables, none of which have been the focus of previous studies, are investigated in more detail in relation to mortality, as they hold the greatest promise for intervention.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Texas

# Assessment of Social Communication Abilities Following Traumatic Brain Injury

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The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR)

1333 Moursund

Houston, TX 77030-3498

strucm@tirr.tmc.edu

<http://www.braininjuryresearch.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Margaret Struchen, PhD

**Public Contact:** 713/666-9550; Fax: 713/383-5695

**Project Number:** H133G010152

**Start Date:** September 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Constance Pledger, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,657; FY 02 \$146,203; FY 03 \$149,968; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 8/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This project is guided by a model of social communication that includes cognitive components, awareness, the social environment, and receptive, processing, and expressive components. Activities include: (1) adapting social skills measures used with other populations to test the receptive, processing, and expressive social communication abilities of persons with TBI and comparing the results to those of a group of matched control subjects; (2) assessing the relationship between social communication ability and functional outcome for persons with TBI and their family members; and (3) investigating the relationship between executive functioning abilities and social communication skills, in an effort to determine the cognitive functions underlying social skills impairment. The study is expected to result in a clinically feasible and meaningful way to assess social communication abilities, which can be a guide to clinicians in developing empirically driven interventions to improve social skills.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Texas

### **Cost Effectiveness Of Rehabilitation Following Traumatic Brain Injury**

The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR)

Brain Injury Research Center

1333 Moursund Avenue

Houston, TX 77030-3498

whigh@bcm.tmc.edu

<http://www.braininjuryresearch.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Walter M. High Jr., PhD

**Public Contact:** 713/383-5643; Fax: 713/668-5210

**Project Number:** H133G030144

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project researches the effectiveness of rehabilitation on two new cohorts of persons with TBI who have either received or not received comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation. At one year post injury, costs for services the persons with TBI are likely to receive and vocational losses are calculated and adjusted for demographic, socioeconomic, and neurological variables. The differences between the costs and vocational losses between the two groups are then compared to the actual reimbursements for comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation services.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Wisconsin

# Quantitative Study of Anterior and Posterior Walker Usage Dynamics in Children with Cerebral Palsy

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Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Engineering Center  
P.O. Box 1881  
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gerald.harris@marquette.edu  
<http://www.orec.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Gerald F. Harris, PhD, PE 414/288-0698

**Public Contact:** Deborah Epps, Project Administrator 414/288-0696; Fax: 414/288-0713

**Project Number:** H133G010069

**Start Date:** November 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,995; FY 02 \$149,991; FY 03 \$149,997

**Abstract:** This study enables caregivers to make more informed decisions regarding proper walker selection and follow-up by comparing the effects of anterior walkers versus the effects of posterior walkers among ambulatory patients with spastic cerebral palsy. It also provides a quantitative foundation for improving future pediatric walker designs. A hallmark of this study is the acquisition of functional performance data using standardized mobility test instruments. Each child entered into the study is evaluated using the Gross Motor Function Measure, in addition to the Pediatric Outcomes Data Collection Instrument at each stage of the study. The children also undergo standardized spasticity testing with the Ashworth and Tardieu assessment scales. Final statistical comparison/correlation of the quantitative (biomechanical) and functional assessment test results is used to streamline the walker evaluation process and offer a more practical tool for assessment and walker prescription.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**

Wisconsin

**Enhanced Upper Limb Motor Control by Reduced Synergistic Muscle Patterns and Spasticity After Chemodenervation**

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Medical College of Wisconsin  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
8701 Watertown Plank Road; Box 26509  
Milwaukee, WI 53226  
jmcguire@mcw.edu

**Principal Investigator:** John McGuire, MD

**Public Contact:** 414/805-7355

**Project Number:** H133G020112

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,995; FY 03 \$149,995; FY 04 \$149,991

**Abstract:** This research project assesses the impact of chemodenervation treatment on motor control in patients with spastic hemiparesis. Moreover, the project examines the neurophysiological mechanisms of improved motor control following chemodenervation treatment by utilizing state-of-the-art biomechanical analyses of motor abilities in combination with clinical measurements and consumer feedback related to patients with functional limitations attributed to spasticity. The study identifies changes in spasticity, limb synergy, and functional reaching tasks using clinical and biomechanical measurements. This project aims to improve chemodenervation techniques through the knowledge imparted by the research.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Oregon

## An Innovative Dialysis Regeneration Cartridge for Portable Hemodialysis

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Chemica Technologies, Incorporated  
325 Southwest Cyber Drive  
Bend, OR 97702-1076  
taku@chemica.com  
<http://www.chemica.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Takuji Tsukamoto, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 541/385-0355; Fax: 541/385-0390

**Project Number:** H133S030019

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$275,219; FY 04 \$224,627

**Abstract:** This project realizes the development of a light-weight and efficient portable hemodialyzer for children and adults suffering from end stage renal disease (ESRD); greatly improving their quality of life by facilitation hemdailysis in any location. Many ESRD patients and their families are severely limited in their mobility and freedom of life due to the time and effort involved in receiving life-sustaining hemodialysis treatment several times a week at clinics or hospitals. This disabling burden on patients and their families could be significantly lessened if patients had the option of receiving treatment "on the spot," whether at work, school or home, using a portable hemodialyzer. The overall objective of this project is to develop an innovative portable hemodialyzer based on a highly efficient dialysis regeneration cartridge (DRC). The technical objectives for this phase of research are: (1) to perform scale-up production of the DRC and to construct the full-scale DRC, (2) to test the biocompatibility and stability of the DRC, (3) to construct a prototype portable hemodialyzer that contains the DRC and test in vitro, (4) to construct a mini-DRC and test its efficacy and quality in vivo using animal models, and (5) to summarize Phase II work and evaluate the process.

# Technology for Access and Function

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Rehabilitation, biomedical engineering, and assistive technology research has produced results that have helped people with disabilities to achieve and maintain maximum physical function, live in their own homes, attain gainful employment, and participate in and contribute to society. NIDRR's research addresses a broad range of technology, including systems of public technology, such as telecommunications and the built environment and orphan technology for individuals. The research program also encourages universal design practices.

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**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)**  
California

**Technologies for Children with Orthopedic Disabilities**

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Los Amigos Research and Education Institute, Inc. (LAREI)  
Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center  
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Downey, CA 90242  
info@ranchorep.org  
<http://www.ranchorep.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Sam Landsberger, ScD; Donald McNeal, PhD

**Public Contact:** Juan Garibay 562/401-7994 (V); Fax: 562/803-6117

**Project Number:** H133E003001

**Start Date:** November 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$650,000; FY 01 \$760,000; FY 02 \$915,172; FY 03 \$1,560,000; FY 04 \$650,000

**Abstract:** The goal of this RERC is to improve the lives of children with orthopedic disabilities. Activities include: (1) conducting research to advance the state of knowledge; (2) disseminating this information to children and their parents, clinicians, and research investigators; (3) developing and testing prototype devices that are useful and efficacious; (4) transferring prototypes that have proven value to the marketplace; and (5) educating engineering students about the special needs of children with orthopedic disabilities. The research and development program is focused on three of the most important life activities of children: manipulation, mobility, and play and recreation. Three projects address the manipulation needs of children with upper limb deficiencies; one documents current fitting practices of children's prosthetic clinics throughout North America, while a second develops improved elbows and prehensors for young children. A third project adds a power assist to the mobile arm support, a product developed and commercialized during the current grant period. The mobility projects address the needs of children with cerebral palsy, spinal bifida, SCI, muscle disease, and other chronic conditions that affect the child's ability to ambulate. The RERC develops lightweight orthotic components, evaluates the effectiveness of functional electrical stimulation to correct gait abnormalities in children with cerebral palsy, and determines the appropriate time to provide children with wheeled mobility. The RERC program conducts clinical trials at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Shriners Hospital LA, and Children's Hospital LA. This project participates in the NIDRR Scholars program, providing motivated undergraduates with internship experience in disability research.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
California

**RERC on Spinal Cord Injury: Keep Moving: Technologies to Enhance  
Mobility and Function for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury**

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Downey, CA 90242  
sam@ranchorep.org; rwaters@dhs.co.la.ca.us  
<http://www.larei.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Samuel Landsburger, ScD; Robert Waters, MD 562/401-7994; 562/401-7161  
**Public Contact:** Julia LaPlount 562/401-8111; Fax: 562/803-5569

**Project Number:** H133E020732

**Start Date:** November 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$899,974; FY 03 \$899,932; FY 04 \$899,882; FY 05 \$899,961

**Abstract:** This RERC improves the lives of individuals with SCI by promoting their health, safety, independence, and active engagement in daily activities. Activities include: (1) monitoring trends and evolving product concepts that represent future directions for technologies in SCI, (2) conducting research to advance the state of knowledge, (3) disseminating the information to the population, (4) developing and testing prototype devices that are useful and effective and transferring them to the marketplace, (5) advancing employment opportunities for individuals with SCI, and (6) developing ways to expand research capacity in the field of SCI. The R&D program is focused on a key issue for individuals with SCI, the need to maintain mobility for as long as possible in order to enhance independent function. A survey of the user population determines where areas of greatest need exist. An active Mobile Arm Support for adults allows those with limited arm function greater independence. The shoulder-preserving wheelchair, gait training robotic assist device, and adaptive exercise equipment are all specifically geared to preserve or enhance mobility in individuals with SCI. A project on optimized wheelchair suspension keeps people mobile by increasing comfort and reducing tissue loading.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
California

**Smith-Kettlewell Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center**

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The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute  
2318 Fillmore Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
rerc@ski.org  
<http://www.ski.org/Rehab>

**Principal Investigator:** John A. Brabyn, PhD 415/345-2110

**Public Contact:** Deborah Gilden, PhD 415/345-2000; Fax: 415/345-8455

**Project Number:** H133E001002

**Start Date:** August 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$650,000; FY 01 \$650,000; FY 02 \$650,000; FY 03 \$750,000

**Abstract:** This RERC conducts research and development for persons who are blind or who have visual impairments. For infants, the project explores a new objective means of identifying and differentiating vision and cognitive impairments using visually-evoked potentials (VEPs), facilitating the design of optimal rehabilitation plans for each child. For individuals who have co-existing disabilities (in addition to blindness or a visual impairment), the project explores new solutions for wheelchair travel and various technologies for wayfinding. It also investigates independent travel technology for those with combined visual and cognitive impairments. For the older age group, the project explores practical tools allowing lay personnel to screen and assess visual impairments affecting problems unique to this age group, so they can be identified and referred to appropriate clinical or rehabilitation specialists quickly. For consumers who are deaf-blind, the project develops a new generation of communication devices to expand the functions performed by existing products. It also explores novel approaches to graphics access by persons who are blind or who are deaf-blind, using virtual reality, sonification, and force feedback technologies. An innovative program of vocational and daily living technology development includes intensive interaction with service providers and applications of computer vision.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Colorado

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Cognitive Technologies**

University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center  
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Denver, CO 80218  
cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Cathy Bodine

**Public Contact:** 303/315-1281; Fax: 303/837-1208

**Project Number:** H133E040019

**Start Date:** November 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$850,000; FY 05 \$850,000

**Abstract:** The goal of this RERC is to research, develop, evaluate, implement, and disseminate innovative technologies and approaches that will have a positive impact on the way in which individuals with significant cognitive disabilities function within their communities and workplace. The Center incorporates: (1) a consumer-driven model for identifying the most significant barriers to independent living and workforce; (2) an approach that is balanced and uses both well-established and newly emerging technologies in its development projects; (3) a focus both on functional limitations and specific disabilities; and (4) mutually beneficial partnerships with private industry and public agencies. Research activities include: Needs, knowledge, barriers, and uses of AT by persons with cognitive disabilities; technology for remote family support for people with cognitive disabilities; influences on AT use, non-use, and partial, and inappropriate use by persons with traumatic brain injury; AT enhancement of written expression for children and adults; needs assessment: creating affordable, context-aware technologies; and technology to promote decision-making skills and self-determination for students with cognitive disabilities. Development activities include: Design, implementation, and deployment of context aware technologies for persons with cognitive disabilities residing in community living environments; development of HealthQuest, an Internet-based product that enables individuals with intellectual disabilities to become active participants in their own health care; XML repository of common tasks; batteryless micropower sensors for context aware technologies; perceptive animated interfaces for workforce training; and environmentally appropriate behavioral cues for individuals with TBI.

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)**  
District of Columbia

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Hearing Enhancement**

Gallaudet University  
Division of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology  
800 Florida Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
matthew.bakke@gallaudet.edu  
<http://www.hearingresearch.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Matthew H. Bakke, PhD 202/651-5335

**Public Contact:** 202/651-5335 (V/TTY); Fax: 202/651-5324

**Project Number:** H133E030006

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$949,999; FY 04 \$949,024; FY 05 \$949,480

**Abstract:** The mission of this RERC is to build and test components of a new, innovative model of aural rehabilitation tools, services, and training, in order to improve assessment and fitting of hearing technologies and to increase the availability, knowledge and use of hearing enhancement devices and services. Component A: (1) develops and evaluates new methods for field evaluation and fitting of hearing aids; (2) develops and evaluates techniques to enhance auditory self-monitoring; and (3) develops methods for predicting the speech-to-interference ratio and intelligibility of speech for a hearing aid when used with a wireless telephone. Component B conducts a needs assessment survey of people who use hearing technologies and evaluate the use of Bluetooth technology as a means of improving and expanding wireless connection to a hearing aid. Component C investigates environmental factors affecting children's speech recognition abilities in classroom settings. Component D investigates the use of distortion product otoacoustic emission and reflectance for diagnosis of hearing loss and tinnitus; and creates and standardizes sets of synthesized nonsense syllables for use in hearing aid research. Component E develops a new, innovative model for the delivery of aural rehabilitation (AR) services to adults with hearing loss. In addition the RERC conducts a program of training and dissemination that will reach a diverse audience of people, both consumers and professionals.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Florida

## Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging

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Gainesville, FL 32611  
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<http://www.erc.ufl.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** William C. Mann, PhD 352/392-2617

**Public Contact:** Kathy Locklear, Information Coordinator 352/392-2617 (V/TTY)

**Project Number:** H133E010106

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Margaret Campbell, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$900,000; FY 02 \$900,000; FY 03 \$899,999; FY 04 \$900,000

**Abstract:** The RERC-Tech-Aging conducts research, development, education, and information dissemination work on technology for successful aging. Projects of the RERC focus on the closely related areas of communications, home monitoring, and “smart” technologies. The technology driving the focus for this RERC is developing rapidly and requires an understanding of current and emerging technology areas, including wireless technology, computers, sensors, user interfaces, control devices, and networking. Successful integration of this technology into products and systems for older persons requires an understanding of their complex health, independence, and quality-of-life issues. The RERC-Tech-Aging tests currently available home monitoring products and demonstrates their effectiveness in relation to independence, quality of life, and health related costs. The RERC-Tech-Aging also identifies needs and barriers to home monitoring and communication technology, and addresses needs of special populations including rural-living, elders, and people aging with disability. The RERC-Tech-Aging brings together national expertise to meet this challenge, including major universities, industry leaders working in this area, major aging or aging-related organizations, major federal agencies that relate to funding or services in this area, other NIDRR-funded RERCs and RRTC, and service-related organizations that assist in identifying study participants.

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)**  
Georgia

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Mobile Wireless  
Technologies for Persons with Disabilities**

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Georgia Centers for Advanced Telecommunications Technology (GCATT)  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
250 - 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
rerc@gcatt.gatech.edu  
<http://www.wirelessrerc.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Helena Mitchell, PhD; Michael Jones, PhD (Shepherd Center); John Peifer (Georgia Tech) 404/894-0058 (Mitchell); 404/350-7595 (Jones); 404/894-7028 (Peifer)

**Public Contact:** Jennifer Pasley 404/385-4075; Fax: 404/894-1445

**Project Number:** H133E010804

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$1,000,000; FY 02 \$1,000,000; FY 03 \$1,000,000; FY 04 \$1,000,000; FY 05 \$1,000,000

**Abstract:** This RERC develops appropriate and effective applications of wireless technologies that enhance the independence of people with disabilities. With an overall goal of promoting independence and autonomy of people with disabilities, the RERC has two primary aims: (1) ensure equitable access to mobile wireless products and services by people with disabilities of all ages and abilities; and (2) investigate promising applications of mobile wireless technologies in support of employment, independent living, and community integration of people with disabilities. To accomplish these aims, the RERC is organized into three main sections: (1) the Research Section investigates needs, policies, and promising applications of mobile wireless technologies to promote independence. Research initiatives include assessment of user needs, evaluation of emerging technologies, and policy initiatives that influence the practices, policies, and regulations that affect accessibility of wireless technologies, (2) the Development Section includes projects that address universal access, investigation of new applications of wireless technologies, and innovative design solutions to support independent living of people with disabilities, (3) the Training and Dissemination Section promotes the synthesis of new knowledge into practice.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Georgia

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Workplace  
Accommodations**

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Center for Assistive Technology & Environmental Access  
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**Principal Investigator:** Karen Milchus; Jon Sanford 404/894-0393

**Public Contact:** Karen Milchus 800/726-9119 404/894-1414; Fax: 404/894-9320

**Project Number:** H133E020720

**Start Date:** November 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$899,997; FY 03 \$900,000; FY 04 \$899,999; FY 05 \$899,999

**Abstract:** This RERC identifies, designs, and develops devices and systems to enhance the workplace productivity of people with disabilities. Universal design is a primary focus of the Center making the design of products and environments usable by all workers to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. The RERC's research projects evaluate existing workplace products and services and determine areas where further product development is needed. The Center also studies archival materials to identify factors that contribute to successful or unsuccessful outcomes, and analyzes policies and practices that may influence the nature and availability of workplace accommodations for persons with disabilities. The RERC's development activities focus on Remote Services and Universal Design in the Workplace. The Remote Services projects investigate ways that remote technologies such as videoconferencing and telework can be used to facilitate employment and provide technical support services to people with disabilities. The Universal Design projects work with manufacturers to develop new generations of universally designed and accessible products. Digital human modeling tools developed by the project provide visualizations of products or systems with human interaction and movement and reduce the need for preliminary physical prototypes. Products are developed for workers in office, manufacturing, retail/sales, service industry, and other environments. Finally, training, technical assistance, and dissemination activities on workplace accommodations and universal design promote the transfer of new knowledge into practice.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Georgia

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Wheeled Mobility**

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Georgia Institute of Technology  
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**Principal Investigator:** Stephen H. Sprigle, PhD; Randy Bernard 404/385-4302 (Sprigle); 404/385-4691 (Bernard)

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**Project Number:** H133E030035

**Start Date:** November 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$949,988; FY 04 \$949,951; FY 05 \$949,975

**Abstract:** The goal of this RERC is to undertake a major shift in the way wheeled mobility is conceptualized and understood, from the design of assistive devices that enable some individuals to perform some activities, to the design of a broad range of interventions that enable as many individuals as possible to actively engage and participate in everyday community life. Research activities include: (1) User Needs and Design Input uses participatory focus groups to identify needs of wheelchair users; (2) User Needs of Older Adults assesses the needs of older adults living at home and in other residential settings; (3) Effects of Environment and Mobility Technology on Participation and Activity measures the influences of environmental barriers and specialized wheelchair technology on participation and activity in everyday life; (4) Efficacy of Animation and Visualization Training uses computer simulation techniques to investigate their efficacy in improving mobility training; and (5) Clinical and Functional Implications of Seating Standards and Guidelines studies the relationship between standardized measures of cushion performance and actual impact on wheelchair users. Development efforts include: (1) development and marketing of new mobility devices in collaboration with industry design partners; (2) development of a wheelchair for frail elders that can be used in any residential environment; (3) interventions to overcome barriers to participation including guidelines and technologies to help wheelchair users overcome environmental and technological barriers; (4) development of animation and visualization training through computer simulations to improve training in transfers and outdoor mobility; and (5) development of valid wheelchair cushion test methods which enables clinicians to prescribe appropriate wheelchair cushions based on positioning and load distribution.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Illinois

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Recreational  
Technologies and Exercise Physiology Benefiting Persons with  
Disabilities (RERC RecTech)**

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University of Illinois at Chicago  
Department of Disability and Human Development  
1640 West Roosevelt Road, Suite 712  
Chicago, IL 60608-6904  
jrimmer@uic.edu  
<http://www.rercrectech.org>

**Principal Investigator:** James H. Rimmer, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/413-9651; Fax: 312/355-4058

**Project Number:** H133E020715

**Start Date:** November 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$899,536; FY 03 \$899,725; FY 04 \$899,942; FY 05 \$899,756

**Abstract:** This program researches access to recreational opportunities and physical endurance of people with disabilities, targeting four primary areas: (1) increased access to fitness and recreation environments; (2) interventions to increase physical activity and recreation participation; (3) adherence strategies to reduce physical activity relapse and dropout rates; and (4) randomized clinical trials to evaluate improvements in health and function. Research and development projects include: (1) a comprehensive needs assessment that involves ongoing assessment of consumer needs as they pertain to existing and emerging recreational and fitness technologies; (2) research on the use of information technology and a newly designed environmental accessibility instrument for facilitating access to recreational and fitness environments and promoting improved health and function; (3) research on the use of “teleexercise” technology for promoting participation and for monitoring intensity and physiological/psychological outcomes of home-based exercise programs; (4) development of broadly applicable aftermarket accessory kits for adapting existing cardiovascular exercise equipment for use by people with disabilities and determining the efficacy of the new adaptations in improving fitness; (5) development of technology to allow users adaptive control of exercise machines; and (6) development of an online RecTech solutions database of currently available recreational and fitness technologies to make available solutions more accessible to consumers. Two training projects promote capacity building for future recreation, fitness, exercise physiology, engineering, and rehabilitation professionals, and two additional training projects support professional development.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Illinois

**RERC on Rehabilitation Robotics and Telemanipulation: Machines  
Assisting Recovery from Stroke (MARS)**

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345 East Superior Street, Room 1406  
Chicago, IL 60611-4496  
medevitt@rehabchicago.org  
<http://www.smpp.nwu.edu/MARS/mars.html>

**Principal Investigator:** W. Zev Rymer, MD, PhD

**Public Contact:** Mary-Ellen Devitt 312/238-3919; Fax: 312/908-2208

**Project Number:** H133E020724

**Start Date:** November 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$805,453; FY 03 \$874,845; FY 04 \$896,518; FY 05 \$888,042

**Abstract:** This program centers its research and development on restoring function in hemispheric stroke survivors. Five projects assess five different approaches that have the potential to improve performance of the upper extremity, and one project attempts to restore locomotion. These projects include: (1) robotic therapy for force training of the upper extremity in chronic hemiparetic stroke; (2) gait restoration in hemiparetic stroke patients using goal-directed, robotic-assisted treadmill training; (3) development of a robotic system with an augmented reality interface for rehabilitation of brain-injured individuals; (4) rehabilitation of finger extension in chronic hemiplegia; and (5) a home-based telerehabilitation system for improving functional hand and arm movement recovery following stroke. In addition to these projects, the RERC develops tools for training research and development of a variety of client populations including medical students, physician residents, graduate students in engineering and neuroscience, and allied health clinicians, including physical and occupational therapists. The broad intent is to develop devices that assist the therapist in providing treatments that are rationally based, intensive, and long in duration. This project is a collaboration of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C., Catholic University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the University of California at Irvine.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Illinois

## Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center in Prosthetics and Orthotics

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**Principal Investigator:** Dudley S. Childress, PhD; Steven A. Gard, PhD 312/238-6500

**Public Contact:** Resource Unit Help Line 312/238-6524 (V); 312/238-6530 (TTY); Fax: 312/238-6510

**Project Number:** H133E030030

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$949,998; FY 04 \$950,000; FY 05 \$949,999

**Abstract:** This Center conducts ten research projects, three of which are pilot studies. In the area of human locomotion the objectives are to conduct quantitative studies that include non-disabled gait, modeling of gait, roll-over shape influence on transtibial amputee gait, gait initiation, shock absorption studies, the role of the spine in walking, transfemoral socket design studies, and evaluation of stance-control orthotic knee joints. Pilot studies, where preliminary data is not available, are proposed on partial foot prosthesis/orthosis systems, on evaluation of Ankle Foot Orthoses (AFOs) and on the design of a Shape & Roll foot for children. Six developmental projects include a simple gait monitoring instrument (Direct Ultrasound Ranging System), a new prosthetic ankle joint that adapts to inclines, and a manual through which individuals in low-income countries can make their own artificial feet. In addition, two upper-limb prosthetics development projects are proposed that deal with reaching, manipulation, and grasping. Finally, an outcomes measurement tool is developed for prosthetics and orthotics (P&O) facilities in their reporting to the American Board of Certification (ABC). The vision for this RERC is to improve the quality of life for persons who use prostheses and orthoses through creative applications of science and engineering to the P&O field. The goal is to uncover new knowledge and understanding in P&O and to bring more quantification to the field, which will enable them to develop new concepts and devices to improve the quality, cost-effectiveness, and delivery of P&O fittings.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Illinois

## Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology Access for Land Mine Survivors

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Center for International Rehabilitation  
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<http://www.cirnetwork.org>

**Principal Investigator:** William Kennedy Smith, MD; Kim D. Reisinger, PhD; Yeongchi Wu, MD  
312/229-1359 ext. 248

**Public Contact:** Maggie Coleman, Communications Officer 312/229-1359 x248; Fax: 312/229-1359

**Project Number:** H133E030017

**Start Date:** November 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Robert J. Jaeger, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$950,000; FY 04 \$950,000; FY 05 \$950,000

**Abstract:** The Center strives to improve the quality and availability of amputee and rehabilitation services for landmine survivors by focusing on the development of “appropriate technology”, i.e. technology that is most suitable to the limited technical and human resources available in most mine-affected regions through the application of research methodologies, the development of mobility aids, and the creation of educational materials, all of which are designed specifically for mine-affected populations and disseminated through a network of rehabilitation service providers in mine-affected regions. Laboratory-based research projects investigate issues of importance relating to transtibial (TT) alignment, ischial containment socket trim lines as they relate to the gait of transfemoral (TF) amputees, and the evaluation of a non-toxic resin for the direct lamination of prosthetic sockets. Field-based research evaluates an anatomically based transtibial alignment methodology and a wheelchair prototype manufacturing and dissemination strategy. Development projects, many of which contain research components, can be classified into two areas: those that improve the service delivery through improved fabrication techniques, and those that develop appropriate prosthetic components and mobility aids. In order to promote the successful transfer of techniques and technologies that are developed, the RERC creates training materials that describe the manufacture, assembly, and use of the technique or devices developed under the research and development program. Additionally, because the current number of trained prosthetic technicians in developing countries is far from sufficient to adequately meet the needs of landmine survivors, the center produces education and training materials covering the basic science of prosthetics and orthotics. All materials are adapted to the specific languages, culture and needs of the mine-affected regions served by the RERC and distributed through a blended distance learning network.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
New York

**Rehabilitation Engineering and Research Center (RERC) on Universal  
Design and the Built Environment at Buffalo**

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378 Hayes Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14214  
rercud@ap.buffalo.edu  
<http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea>; <http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/rercud>

**Principal Investigator:** Edward Steinfeld, ArchD 716/829-3485, ext. 327

**Public Contact:** Danise Levine 716/829-3485, ext. 330; Fax: 716/829-3861

**Project Number:** H133E990005

**Start Date:** November 01, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$599,965; FY 00 \$599,952; FY 01 \$599,932; FY 02 \$799,835; FY 03 \$799,953; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 10/31/2005)

**Abstract:** The RERC on Universal Design and the Built Environment promotes the adoption of universal design. Research programs include the Prototype Anthropometric Database Project, a research database on anthropometrics of wheelchair users for application to ergonomic design, and The Buildings in Use Project that demonstrates the benefits of universal design by conducting post-occupancy evaluations of buildings currently in use. Product development efforts include development of prototypes for innovative universally designed products, evaluation and testing of these prototypes, and commercialization assistance to facilitate bringing each prototype to market. The Visitability Initiative conducts training and action research in eight cities to develop visitability demonstration projects, and is a collaboration with Concrete Change, a consumer advocacy organization focusing on making housing "visitible" by people with disabilities. The RERC's activities also include universal design education and technical assistance, along with publication and dissemination of universal design resources.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
New York

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology Transfer  
(T2RERC)**

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Center for Assistive Technology  
322 Kimball Tower  
Buffalo, NY 14214-3079  
jimleahy@acsu.buffalo.edu  
<http://cosmos.buffalo.edu/t2rerc>

**Principal Investigator:** Steve Bauer, PhD 716/829-3141, ext. 117

**Public Contact:** James Leahy 716/829-3141 (V); 800/628-2281 (TTY); Fax: 716/829-2420

**Project Number:** H133E030025

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$949,999; FY 04 \$950,000; FY 05 \$950,000

**Abstract:** The activities of this project transfer and commercialize new and improved assistive devices, conduct research to improve technology transfer practice, and support other stakeholders involved in the technology transfer process. Four research projects investigate innovative ways to facilitate and improve the process of technology transfer for all stakeholders: (1) Identify Innovative Technology Transfer Practices - draws critical success factors from examples of retrospective and prospective AT transfer case studies in various sectors; (2) Identify Innovative Technology Transfer Policies - traces the outputs and outcomes of Federal transfer programs supporting AT related projects and assesses their efficacy; (3) Facilitate AT Industry Innovation through Focused Market Research - provides a context for transfer opportunities involving the AT industry and for public policy decision making; and (4) Assess the Efficacy of Transferred Products - determines the extent to which products previously transferred through the T2RERC impact the functional capabilities of consumers. Four development projects increase the number and quality of successful transfers from RERC's and other sources: (1) Transfer Products through a Supply Push Approach - facilitates the movement of new or improved prototype inventions to the marketplace through licenses, sales, or entrepreneurial ventures; (2) Transfer Technologies through a Demand Pull Approach - validates technology needs within the AT industry and introduces advanced technology solutions to address those needs; (3) Improve the Accessibility of New Mainstream Products - extends participatory research to integrate consumers' functional requirements into the design of new mainstream products; and (4) Facilitate RERC Transfer Activity Through Informatics - establishes a pilot informatics infrastructure and assesses its utility for increasing communication, collaboration, and transfers between RERC's.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
North Carolina

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Communication  
Enhancement**

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Division of Speech Pathology and Audiology  
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<http://www.aac-lerc.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Frank DeRuyter, PhD 919/684-6271

**Public Contact:** Kevin Caves, ME, ATP 919/681-9983; Fax: 919/681-9984

**Project Number:** H133E030018

**Start Date:** November 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$949,977; FY 04 \$949,973; FY 05 \$949,974

**Abstract:** The mission of this RERC is to assist people who use AAC technologies in achieving their goals across environments. The goals and objectives of the RERC are to advance and promote AAC technologies through the outputs and outcomes of research and development activities and to support individuals who use, manufacture, and recommend these technologies in ways they value. Research projects cover the following areas: (1) improving AAC technology to better support societal roles; (2) enhancing AAC access by reducing cognitive/linguistic load; and (3) enhancing AAC usability and performance. Projects address issues of literacy, telework, specialized vocabulary, contextual scenes and intelligent agents, improving interface performance, and monitoring and simulating communication performance. Development activities include: (1) technology and policy watch; (2) new interfaces; and (3) reducing the cognitive/linguistic burden on AAC users. Activities address monitoring emerging technologies, standards, and policies; technologies to supplement intelligibility of residual speech, dysarthric speech, and gesture recognition; brain interface; AAC WebCrawling; and enhancing the role of listeners in AAC interactions.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Oregon

## National Center for Accessible Public Transportation

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<http://ncat.oregonstate.edu/>

**Principal Investigator:** Katharine Hunter-Zaworski, PhD

**Public Contact:** Julie Barlow 800/916-0099; Fax: 541/737-3052

**Project Number:** H133E030009

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$949,479; FY 04 \$949,259; FY 05 \$949,044

**Abstract:** This RERC addresses the need for improvements in the accessibility of public transportation. This center is both important and timely because of major changes in the travel industry, and the need to adapt to those changes in a way that provides safe and dignified travel for persons with disabilities. The transportation focus of this RERC is inter-city travel via air, rail, and bus. Air, rail, and over-the-road buses (OTRB) account for nearly all of the inter-city public transportation. Accessibility issues focus on persons with mobility, agility, and hearing disabilities and account for a large percentage of persons with disabilities. Two areas of research are addressed: (1) the biomechanics of wheelchair transfers in confined spaces; and (2) the perceptions, reactions, and attitudes of subjects towards existing and proposed accessibility solutions. The biomechanics studies include the use of a sophisticated six-camera motion analysis system in conjunction with force plates to determine the motions and forces involved in dependent and independent transfers in confined spaces, such as an aircraft aisle. The survey-based study includes comprehensive surveys of six different groups that are directly involved with accessibility issues including travelers with disabilities, non-travelers with disabilities, and employees of airlines and airports, OTRB operators, OTRB manufacturers, aircraft manufacturers, and rail operators. Drawing on results of their research, the RERC focuses on four development topics: (1) vehicle boarding technologies; (2) real time passenger information and communications systems; (3) accessible lavatories; and (4) passenger assistance training tools and techniques.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Pennsylvania

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Wheeled Mobility**

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Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology  
Forbes Tower, Suite 5044  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
dbrienza@pitt.edu  
<http://www.ercwm.pitt.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** David M. Brienza, PhD; Clifford Brubaker, PhD

**Public Contact:** Mary Jo Geyer, PhD, Associate Director 412/383-6571 (V); 412/383-6598 (TTY);  
Fax: 412/383-6597

**Project Number:** H133E990001

**Start Date:** January 01, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$900,000; FY 00 \$900,000; FY 01 \$900,000; FY 02 \$1,064,561; FY 03 \$115,743; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 6/30/2005)

**Abstract:** The RERC on Wheeled Mobility investigates the use of dynamic seating for reducing spasticity and enhancing seating comfort; investigates the biomechanical characteristics of soft tissue related to the risk of developing pressure ulcers and the relationship between pressure measurements and pressure ulcer incidence, develops and validates the use of outcomes measures for seating and mobility intervention; and investigates the use of the web as a seating decision support tool for consumers. This project also develops and evaluates a comparative data source for use in decision support of wheelchair selection, an interface for integrating external devices with powered wheelchairs; wheelchair seating standards, standardized postural measures, injury prevention wheelchair technologies, and enhanced controls for powered wheelchairs.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Pennsylvania

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Wheelchair  
Transportation Safety**

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**Principal Investigator:** Patricia Karg 412/383-6601

**Public Contact:** Jean Webb 412/383-6586; Fax: 412/383-6597

**Project Number:** H133E010302

**Start Date:** November 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$868,840; FY 02 \$899,057; FY 03 \$897,745; FY 04 \$899,264; FY 05 \$898,054

**Abstract:** This RERC aims to improve the safety of wheelchair users who remain seated in their wheelchair while using public and private motor-vehicle transportation. RERC tasks investigate and develop new wheelchair tiedown and occupant restraint system technologies, including wheelchair-integrated restraints and universal docking concepts, that enable wheelchair users to secure and release their wheelchair independently and quickly, and use an effective occupant restraint system without the need for assistance. The RERC also researches the issues and factors involved in providing improved occupant protection to wheelchair-seated drivers and passengers in rear and side impacts, and uses a multifaceted approach, including in-depth investigations of real-world accidents, to investigate the incidence, severity, and causes of injuries to wheelchair-seated occupants in different sizes of vehicles and in different types of crashes and non-impact incidents experienced during vehicle motion. In particular, this RERC explores the need for, and suitability of, using different levels of wheelchair securement and occupant restraint in larger public transit vehicles, with the goal of recommending and developing equipment and systems that provide for a safe ride and that are more compatible with the operational needs of the transit environment. The program includes a comprehensive research and development effort that involves consumers, manufacturers, students, clinicians, transport providers, and rehabilitation technology experts. The RERC also has active programs of information dissemination, training, and technology transfer using personnel, mechanisms, and facilities that have been previously established at the University of Pittsburgh/University of Michigan.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Pennsylvania

## Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Telerehabilitation

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**Principal Investigator:** David M. Brienza, PhD 415/383-6591

**Public Contact:** Jean Webb 412/383-6586 (V); 412/383-6598 (TTY); Fax: 412/383-6597

**Project Number:** H133E040012

**Start Date:** December 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$849,890; FY 05 \$849,930

**Abstract:** The vision of this RERC is to serve people with disabilities by researching and developing methods, systems, and technologies that support remote delivery of rehabilitation and home health care services for individuals who have limited local access to comprehensive medical rehabilitation outpatient and community-based services. Research and development activities include: (1)

Telerehabilitation Infrastructure and Architecture: development of an informatics infrastructure and architecture that builds on existing programs and technologies of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's e-Health System, supports the RERC's research and development activities, meets HIPAA requirements, provides a test-bed for third party telerehabilitation applications, and can be used as a model for future telerehabilitation infrastructure; (2) Telerehabilitation Clinical Assessment Modeling: development of a conceptual model for matching consumers with telerehabilitation technology. The model is user-oriented and driven by consumer experiences regarding satisfaction, simplicity, and reimbursability of telerehabilitation; (3) Teleassessment for the Promotion of Communication Function in Children with Disabilities: development of a web-based teleassessment infrastructure that links therapists and child participants, allowing therapeutic content to be adapted to the child's individual progress and abilities; (4) Remote Wheeled Mobility Assessment: determines if individuals with mobility impairments can obtain appropriate prescriptions for wheeled mobility devices through the use of a telerehabilitation system based upon information and telecommunications technologies; (5) Behavioral Monitoring and Job Coaching in Vocational Rehabilitation: researches technologies to conduct remote delivery of rehabilitation services to individuals who have limited access to rehabilitation services that are necessary to participate in and achieve education and employment outcomes in their community; (6) Remote Accessibility Assessment of the Built Environment: determines the effectiveness of a remote accessibility assessment system in evaluating the built environment of wheeled mobility device users.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Wisconsin

## Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Universal Interface and Information Technology Access

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Trace Research and Development Center  
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<http://trace.wisc.edu/itrerc>

**Principal Investigator:** Gregg C. Vanderheiden, PhD 608/263-5788

**Public Contact:** Kate Vanderheiden 608/265-4621 (V); 608/263-5408 (TTY); Fax: 608/262-8848

**Project Number:** H133E030012

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$1,000,000; FY 04 \$1,000,000; FY 05 \$1,000,000

**Abstract:** The focus of this RERC is on both access to information (e.g., content) in its various forms, as well as access to interfaces used within content and by electronic technologies in general. The research and development program is carefully designed to provide an interwoven set of projects that together advance accessibility and usability in a fashion that takes into account, and supports, the full range of access strategies used by manufacturers and people with disabilities. These strategies range from enhancing the design of mainstream products that can be used by individuals with different ability sets to enhancing the ability of users to deal with the information and interfaces as they encounter them. Key to these projects are the development of new models and approaches for characterization of the functional requirements of current and future interfaces, and a better understanding of the type, diversity, and similarity of functional limitations across etiologies and disabilities. Research activities include: model generation and initial pilot studies for the characterization of interface requirements (current and emerging) and cross-disability user abilities; abstract user interfaces and human interface sockets; emerging technologies and future research needs; and accessible real-time visual information presentation in meetings and virtual meetings. Development projects include: tools to facilitate the incorporation of cross-disability interface features in public information technologies; tools to facilitate AT-IT interoperability; server-based and “virtual assistive technology;” and support for national and international standards and guidelines efforts.

## Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)

Wisconsin

### Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Telecommunication Access

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**Public Contact:** Kate Vanderheiden 608/265-4621 (V); 608/263-5408 (TTY); Fax: 608/262-8848

**Project Number:** H133E040013

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$850,000; FY 05 \$850,000

**Abstract:** The focus of this RERC is on advancing accessibility and usability in existing and emerging telecommunications products for people with all types of disabilities. Telecommunications accessibility is addressed along all three of its major dimensions: user interface, transmission (including digitization, compression, etc.), and modality translation services (relay services, gateways, etc.). Research and development projects cover three areas: (1) development of tools, techniques, and performance-based measures that can be used to evaluate current and evolving telecommunication strategies including visual communication and cognitive access; (2) solving the problems faced by individuals using hearing aids or cochlear implants with digital phones (including development of tools that users can employ to match appropriate hearing technologies with telecommunication technologies); and (3) improving access to emerging telecommunications for people with visual, hearing, physical, and cognitive disabilities – particularly digital and IP-based systems including emergency communication. The RERC looks at advances that have both short- and long-term outcomes related to assistive technologies (AT), interoperability, and universal design of telecommunications. In addition, the RERC provides technical assistance to government, industry, and consumers, training for industry, and education for new researchers in this field. The RERC is a collaboration of the Trace Center at the University of Wisconsin and the Technology Access Program at Gallaudet University.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)  
Wisconsin

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Accessible Medical  
Instrumentation**

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**Principal Investigator:** Jack Winters, PhD; Molly Follette Story, MS 414/288-6640 (Winters); 707/  
578-6839 (Story)

**Public Contact:** June Isaacson-Kailes 310/821-7080 800/832-0524; Fax: 909/469-5503

**Project Number:** H133E020729

**Start Date:** November 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$901,131; FY 03 \$899,614; FY 04 \$899,155; FY 05 \$899,870

**Abstract:** The RERC on Accessible Medical Instrumentation: (1) increases knowledge of, access to, and utilization of healthcare instrumentation and services by individuals with disabilities; (2) increases awareness of and access to employment in the healthcare professions by individuals with disabilities; and (3) serves as a national center of excellence for this priority topic area. Specific research projects include: (1) needs analysis for people with disabilities as both recipients and providers of healthcare services, and for manufacturers of healthcare instrumentation; (2) usability analyses to determine what makes certain medical instrumentation either exemplary or problematic yet essential to healthcare service delivery; (3) accessibility and universal usability analysis to identify classification and measurement approaches that could be used to explore metrics for accessibility of medical instrumentation; and (4) policy analyses to explore how medical policies affect healthcare utilization and employment in the healthcare professions of persons with disabilities. Specific development projects include: (1) development of tools for usability and accessibility analysis; (2) development of modified and new accessible medical instrumentation; (3) monitoring of, and involvement in development of, emerging, accessible healthcare technologies; and (4) development of design guidelines for accessible medical instrumentation and model policies for healthcare service delivery.

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects  
California

## Wayfinding Technologies for People with Visual Impairments: Research and Development of an Integrated Platform

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<http://www.sendergroup.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael May  
**Public Contact:** 530/757-6800; Fax: 530/757-6700

**Project Number:** H133A011903

**Start Date:** December 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$449,065; FY 02 \$449,895; FY 03 \$449,444; FY 04 \$445,486; FY 05 \$447,929

**Abstract:** This project develops a hardware and software platform that provides accessible location and navigation information for people who are blind or who have visual impairments who are traveling in indoor and outdoor environments. Development activities focus on creating an effective user interface and developing a common hardware and software platform that exploits the Global Positioning System (GPS) and other current and emerging navigation technologies. Specific activities include integrating navigation aids that have been developed by Sendero LLC (GPS Talk) and by the University of California-Santa Barbara/CMU group headed by Jack Loomis (the Personal Guidance System, or PGS). The platform also accesses information from other devices, including Talking-Signs type devices, intersection signalization controls, an indoor digital sign system to be developed during this project at the University of Minnesota, a spatialized tactile stimulator to be developed at UCSB, a dead reckoning pedestrian navigation system, and cellular phones with GPS capabilities. For navigating in outdoor environments, a system could aid pedestrians who are blind at complex intersections and roundabouts, and devices could assess and prevent veer.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
California

**Community Research for Assistive Technology**

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California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)  
660 J Street, Suite 270  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
myisha@cfilc.org  
<http://www.atnet.org/CR4AT/Press/Intro.NIDRR.Press.Release.html>

**Principal Investigator:** Tanis Doe, PhD

**Public Contact:** Myisha Reed, Project Coordinator 916/325-1690 (V); 916/325-1695 (TTY); Fax:  
916/325-1699

**Project Number:** H133A010702

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Dawn Carlson, PhD, MPH

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$299,910; FY 02 \$299,893; FY 03 \$229,150; FY 04 \$229,534; FY 05  
\$299,050

**Abstract:** This project increases the capacity of the independent living community to work with its members and stakeholders to collect research data on access and use of AT to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Using a participatory research approach, the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC) is using an ecological model to develop cumulative research data on the use of and access to AT by people with disabilities. University researchers train participants in research methods and assist with data collection and analysis. Community advocates conduct focus groups, surveys, and action research in their respective regions. Advocates also train university students in community-based research related to AT and independent living.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Georgia

### Information Technology Technical Assistance and Training Center (ITTATC)

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Georgia Institute of Technology  
Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA)  
490 Tenth Street, NW  
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**Principal Investigator:** Mimi Kessler

**Public Contact:** 404/894-0953; Fax: 404/894-9320

**Project Number:** H133A000405

**Start Date:** November 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$1,500,000; FY 01 \$1,500,000; FY 02 \$1,500,000; FY 03 \$1,500,000; FY 04 \$1,500,000

**Abstract:** This project provides information, training, and technical assistance to support the implementation of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act to industry, state officials, trainers and consumers. The Center promotes the benefits of universal design to technology manufacturers, product designers and engineers, technical writers, marketers, and purchasers of applicable technologies. It also works closely with federal regulatory agencies including the Federal Communications Commission, the Access Board, the Department of Justice, and the General Services Administration to advance understanding and knowledge utilization of approaches to the requirements of Sections 255 and 508 through training and technical assistance activities. The Information Technology Technical Assistance and Training Center is a collaborative project between the Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access at Georgia Institute of Technology, Inclusive Technologies, World Institute on Disability, University of Iowa Law, Health Policy and Disability Center in Washington DC, Trace Center at the University of Wisconsin Madison, NIDRR's Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers, Ideal-Group, Georgia Tech Research Institute, and ITTATC's National Advisory Council among others. It also has a National Advisory Counsel with representatives from all industries affected by the amended sections and experts in the field of accessibility.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Iowa

### Technology for Independence: A Community-Based Resource Center (TI:CBRC)

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431 Boyd Law Building  
Iowa City, IA 52242  
peter-blanck@uiowa.edu; james-schmeling@uiowa.edu  
<http://www.disability.law.uiowa.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Peter D. Blanck, PhD, JD 319/335-9043

**Public Contact:** James Schmeling, JD 319/335-8458; Fax: 319/335-9098 (Blanck); 319/335-9764 (Schmeling)

**Project Number:** H133A021801

**Start Date:** November 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$299,965; FY 03 \$299,945; FY 04 \$299,951; FY 05 \$299,985

**Abstract:** The CBRC builds and enhances the capacity of community-based and consumer-directed disability organizations to design, implement, and disseminate research activities and projects that promote environmental access and use of technology for independence. The CBRC uses a combination of implementation strategies such as leadership development, training, and technical assistance activities, web-assisted audioconference training, distance education, and three annual onsite symposia in Iowa City, Houston, and Washington, D.C. CBRC activities are directed to selected research teams, research centers, community-based disability organizations, and University research centers. Using multi- and inter-disciplinary models, the CBRC builds and enhances the capacity of these and other entities to conduct research that is both scientifically rigorous and relevant to real-world social, policy, and legal interests. The research team framework pairs researchers from community-based organizations with researchers from university-based research centers to improve existing and future collaborative relationships. The research pairs comprise individuals with diverse backgrounds, in terms of their disability type and severity, ethnicity, and socioeconomic experiences. The participants form close working relationships designed to advance knowledge in the areas related to technology for independence and environmental access. The project merges the national experience and expertise of ILRU regarding independent living and principles of choice and self-determination, with the nationally recognized research expertise of LHPDC in the areas of technology access and use, employment policy, and civil rights.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Kansas

### Mental Retardation and Technology Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project

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University of Kansas  
Beach Center on Disability  
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Lawrence, KS 66045-7534  
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<http://www.beachcenter.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael Wehmeyer, PhD

**Public Contact:** 785/864-0723; Fax: 785/864-3458

**Project Number:** H133A010602

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard E. Wilson II, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$299,871; FY 02 \$299,778; FY 03 \$299,715

**Abstract:** This project supports the ability of people with intellectual disabilities (mental retardation) and other cognitive disabilities to use electronic and information technology as well as assistive technology and technologies that involve universal design. It examines current technology design features, gaps that exist in utilization of technologies, what state-of-the-art technology exists or is emerging that would provide benefits, and what modifications to existing or new technology would enhance this population's inclusion in the community and integration into the workplace. The project includes two national consensus conferences, in conjunction with national conferences held annually or by American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) and The Arc of the United States, to address issues of technology use. Additional activities include reviewing and synthesizing the extant literature, canvassing existing disability-related technology advocates and associations, and product development and refinement. The project has also established a Special Interest Group on Technology and Mental Retardation through the AAMR, which allows stakeholders in the field the opportunity to participate in all project activities. A national expert advisory panel consisting of representatives from national disability organizations, manufacturers, people with mental retardation, experts in the field, and parent/family representatives are involved in all consensus-building activities and advise the project through its duration. The project is a collaboration of the Beach Center on Disability at the University of Kansas, The Arc, the AAMR, AbleLink Technologies, the Coleman Institute on Cognitive Disabilities, the Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas, and the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Missouri

**Assistive Technology in the Community**

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Occupational Therapy  
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walkerc@msnotes.wustl.edu  
[http://enablemob.wustl.edu/Research/NIDRR/at\\_community.htm](http://enablemob.wustl.edu/Research/NIDRR/at_community.htm)

**Principal Investigator:** David B. Gray, PhD 314/286-1658

**Public Contact:** Carla Walker 314/725-6676, ext.101; Fax: 314/721-9964

**Project Number:** H133A010701

**Start Date:** January 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$300,000; FY 02 \$300,000; FY 03 \$300,000

**Abstract:** This project promotes AT as a means of increasing participation in major life activities by people with disabilities. Project activities include: (1) assessing the use, disuse, injury, and effects that AT has on the participation of people with disabilities in major life activities, to determine what technologies are of the most benefit in community settings; (2) implementing a community-based AT program in collaboration with Paraquad, a nationally recognized Center for Independent Living, to improve the satisfaction of participants in their self-chosen life activities; (3) educating consumers, independent living staff, educators, health care professionals, AT industry leaders, and public policy-makers about the influence AT has on major life activities.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
North Carolina

**Advancing Assistive Technology Outcomes**

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Duke University  
Division of Speech Pathology and Audiology  
DUMC-3888  
Durham, NC 27710  
frank.deruyter@duke.edu  
<http://www.AToutcomes.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Frank DeRuyter, PhD

**Public Contact:** Mitzi May 919/681-9983 (V); 919/684-6626 (TTY); Fax: 919/681-9984

**Project Number:** H133A010401

**Start Date:** November 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$449,787; FY 02 \$449,932; FY 03 \$449,967; FY 04 \$449,994

**Abstract:** This program advances the field of AT outcomes measurement. Research activities include: (1) performing a critical analysis of existing approaches to measurement and further developing instruments that are promising; (2) identifying unmet needs and assessing barriers to AT outcomes measurement; and (3) undertaking a prospective longitudinal study of factors associated with assistive device adoption, use, and discontinuance. Development activities include: (1) developing and evaluating independent electronic data collection or computer-assisted systems for the capture, analysis, and interpretation of AT outcomes information; (2) developing and evaluating improved methods and systems for communication of outcomes information among significant stakeholders; (3) automatic log file performance data-capturing for AT outcomes assessment; and (4) development of new or improved AT outcomes tools.ÿ:

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Ohio

### Assistive Technology and Cognitive Disabilities

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University of Akron  
School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
The Polsky Building 188K  
Akron, OH 44325-3001

**Principal Investigator:** Roberta DePompei 330/972-6114

**Public Contact:** Fax: 330/972-3001

**Project Number:** H133A030810

**Start Date:** November 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$375,132; FY 04 \$299,349; FY 05 \$299,947

**Abstract:** This project assesses the use of several types of information technologies by children and adults with cognitive disabilities, specifically individuals with TBI and mental retardation. Outcomes include: (1) a catalog of existing portable devices for memory and organization (2) a list of features that enhance or inhibit use of these general purpose and special-use technologies, (3) results of needs surveys regarding use of these technologies, (4) white papers describing project findings, (5) tip cards to assist families in purchasing devices, (6) stronger partnerships between the consumer and research and development communities, and (7) recommendations for memory and organization device modifications and features for individuals with brain injury and mental retardation. The Brain Injury Association, Inc. leads and administers this collaborative partnership, which includes the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Projects at Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, the Institute on Disabilities/Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities at Temple University, and the University of Akron.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Oregon

**Think and Link: Email for Individuals with Cognitive Disabilities**

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Teaching Research Division  
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Eugene, OR 97401  
mckay@oregon.uoregon.edu  
<http://www.think-and-link.org>

**Principal Investigator:** McKay Moore Sohlberg, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 541/346-2586; Fax: 541/346-0599

**Project Number:** H133A010610

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard E. Wilson II, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$300,000; FY 02 \$300,000; FY 03 \$300,000

**Abstract:** This project improves the access and use of electronic mail by individuals with cognitive disabilities resulting from brain injury. The Internet's email component has created an unparalleled communication network linking people for commercial and social purposes. It holds tremendous potential for lessening social isolation, one of the most pervasive and devastating consequences of brain injury. However, virtually nothing is known about what modifications are required to provide successful access to this technology to people with cognitive disabilities that result from brain injury. In addition, the diverse cognitive impairments confronting people with brain injury render an enormous challenge to the development of assistive devices that could improve accessibility to email. Activities of this project include: (1) identifying the wide range of issues critical for long-term, effective use of email by people with cognitive disabilities; (2) developing a diagnostic protocol, a cyber-evaluation of the potential of a person with cognitive disabilities to use electronic communication; (3) developing a software toolkit that allows caregivers, support persons, and professionals to fit an individual user with a customized email system; (4) creating a virtual clinic that supports widespread dissemination and use of these materials by cognitive rehabilitation professionals. An open-source software site on the web allows other worldwide researchers to use the new tools and contribute tools of their own.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Pennsylvania

**Information Technology for Independence: Community-Based  
Research**

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<http://www.pitt.edu/~curbcut>

**Principal Investigator:** Bambang Parmanto, PhD  
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**Project Number:** H133A021916

**Start Date:** January 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard E. Wilson II, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$299,945; FY 03 \$299,534; FY 04 \$299,534; FY 05 \$299,384

**Abstract:** This project explores methods and technologies to mitigate barriers to computer and Internet use encountered by people with visual impairments. These barriers include limited computer ownership and Internet availability, difficulty in obtaining and using accommodations for functional limitations (including cost issues), psychological barriers arising from inadequate coaching or mentoring, and the limited accessibility of most websites to individuals with visual impairments. Accessibility can be promoted through computer ownership, Internet availability, assistive technologies, and knowledgeably-staffed public computer stations, such as at independent living centers. Evaluation of these barriers and of identified accommodation strategies is the first research task of this project. Preceded by focus groups and a widely-disseminated survey, the match of correct assistive device(s) to the individual and appropriate coaching and mentoring will be tested at community-based computer laboratories. The second research task is to develop and evaluate a new approach to Internet accessibility—a Gateway server. This Gateway transforms the contents of any website, whatever its level of accessibility, into the most accessible format for each Internet user, as Google does for personal digital assistant (PDA) users. The Gateway promotes Internet accessibility without requiring that commercial Web sites follow promulgated guidelines or standards for users with disabilities, something that Web developers often seem to resist. Additionally, this project develops innovative metrics that enable the most rigorous approach to the analysis of Internet accessibility and is conducting large-scale studies of different topical categories of websites to measure progress in accessibility over time and identify the impact (s) of new technologies.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Washington

**ACCESS: Assisted Cognition in Community, Employment, and  
Support Settings**

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<http://cognitivetech.washington.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Kurt Johnson, PhD 206/543-3677

**Public Contact:** Pat Brown, Ed.D 206/616-3714; Fax: 206/543-4779

**Project Number:** H133A031739

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$297,127; FY 04 \$299,171; FY 05 \$298,764

**Abstract:** Project ACCESS investigates the use of assisted cognition as a tool for caregivers in supporting individuals with disabilities in living, working, and fully participating in community activities. The use of assisted cognition devices has the potential to increase an individual's independence and decrease their reliance on the family/friend/caregiver network and community support staff. Devices in development include the activity compass and the ADL Prompter. The activity compass meshes several technologies (Palm Pilot, GPS receiver, and wireless modem). Over time, the device learns a user's typical daily routines, monitors for variations, and then decides whether a prompt is necessary when a routine is unexpectedly changed. The ADL prompter monitors data collected by sensors embedded in a living or work environment. Using artificial intelligence software, the data from these sensors are interpreted and decisions made based upon the needs of the user. Although initially designed for people with Alzheimer's, these devices have applications as support tools for caregivers and people with disabilities since they potentially support "distributed caregiving" wherein the caregiver or family member monitors, prompts, and/or supports from a distance.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Wisconsin

**ATOMS Project: Assistive Technology Outcomes Measurement System**

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**Principal Investigator:** Roger O. Smith, PhD

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**Project Number:** H133A010403

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$450,000; FY 02 \$450,000; FY 03 \$450,000

**Abstract:** The ATOMS Project (Assistive Technology Outcomes Measurement System) targets the definition and pre-development phases of a next-generation AT outcomes measurement system. A comprehensive needs assessment, prototype instrument development, and consensus building activities frame an integrated set of research and development activities to address urgent needs to identify components of a future AT outcomes measurement system. In addition, these activities generate information about the relationships of AT outcomes factors that produce a better understanding of AT use and abandonment.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
California

**Sound Localization with Multichannel Compression Hearing Aids**

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<http://www.ski.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Helen J. Simon, PhD

**Public Contact:** 415/345-2071; Fax: 415/345-8455

**Project Number:** H133G030118

**Start Date:** September 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The primary objective of this research is to evaluate and compare wide dynamic range multichannel compression (WDRMCC) and linear hearing aids on localization (and speech perception through the VA component) since there have been no studies of auditory localization using WDRMCC. The research uses innovative strategies and an extension of previous work, by taking WDRMCC outside of the laboratory to evaluate it in the complexities of the normal auditory environment and looking at effects of hearing aid experience on the ability to localize sounds. In addition to examining the general efficacy of a new wearable WDRMCC hearing aid in localization tasks, the research objectives include detailed study of the specific changes that occur in sound localization with WDRMCC and linear amplification as a function of time and the differences between the two platforms.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

California

### **“Cross Watch”: Development of an Intersection Information System for Blind Travelers Based on Computer Vision**

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San Francisco, CA 94115  
<http://www.ski.org/Rehab>

**Principal Investigator:** John A. Brabyn, PhD 415/345-2110

**Public Contact:** Deborah Gilden, PhD 415/345-2000; Fax: 415/345-8455

**Project Number:** H133G030080

**Start Date:** September 15, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The goal of this project is to develop and evaluate a system, based on computer vision technology, to give a blind traveler more information about intersections than is obtainable through conventional orientation and mobility techniques. Urban intersections (the most dangerous parts of a blind person’s travel, and the places where most accidents happen) are becoming increasingly complex, making safe crossing ever more difficult. The project develops a system named “Cross Watch” to help the blind person find the crosswalk, learn about the shape and nature of the intersection, find the pedestrian signal button, determine when the “walk” light is on, and alert him/her to any veering out of the crosswalk while crossing. The primary input to the system is images from a small camera carried like a pendant around the user’s neck, analyzed by software to extract the desired information. The specific goals are to: (1) gather a database of real images taken by blind persons at a variety of different kinds of intersections; (2) develop algorithms to process the images and extract the desired information; (3) incorporate the camera and algorithms in a portable prototype; and (4) conduct user testing to establish design parameters and human interface optimization. The software is designed to be capable of integration as a module for the “SignFinder” system already in development for finding printed signs in the camera images and reading them aloud to the user. The combined system provides a quantum leap forward in independent travel for blind persons.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
California

**Efficacy of a Custom-fitting Cognitive Orthotic with Automatic  
Planning and Cueing Assistance**

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**Principal Investigator:** Jeffery Englander, MD; Tamara Bushnik, PhD 408/885-2000 (Englander);  
408/793-6446 (Bushnik)

**Public Contact:** Jerry Wright 408/793-6433; Fax: 408/793-6434

**Project Number:** H133G040145

**Start Date:** December 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Joyce Y. Caldwell

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,994; FY 05 \$149,963

**Abstract:** Executive control dysfunction can be the biggest challenge on the recovery path toward social and vocational independence for individuals with cognitive impairment. This project demonstrates the effectiveness of a cognitive aid, the Planning and Execution Assistant and Trainer (PEAT). PEAT not only provides the cueing and organization functions that many current cognitive orthoses contain, but it possesses the algorithms to monitor the progress of task execution. PEAT automatically generates schedules, detects and corrects schedule errors, cues the user to start and stop tasks, monitors performance, and adjusts to changes as they arise. As such, PEAT is a cognitive orthotic that has great potential for improving outcomes across multiple functional domains for people with cognitive impairments. Individuals with executive dysfunction 2° to traumatic or acquired brain injury, as well as other disease processes receive either the PEAT device or standard cognitive aids/strategies. Each subject undergoes three assessments: baseline (before study initiation), 3 and 6 months after study enrollment.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Colorado

# Development of an Assistive Technology Outcomes Measurement System Utilizing the International Classification of Functioning (ICIDH-2/ICF)

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Assistive Technology Partners  
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**Principal Investigator:** Cathy Bodine

**Public Contact:** 303/315-1281; Fax: 303/837-1208

**Project Number:** H133G030187

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,939; FY 04 \$149,933; FY 05 \$149,996

**Abstract:** This project furthers the development of a secure, Health Insurance Privacy and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) compliant, multi-site, web-based assistive technology (AT) outcomes system designed to capture data that enables the measurement of the impact of AT devices and services for children and adults with disabilities. The project results in the design and development of a working prototype complete with instructional support for users. The project is designed for easy addition of data fields to support the ever-evolving schema for outcomes assessment in AT. The use of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH-2/ICF) as the framework for development builds on initial pilot work already completed by faculty of Assistive Technology Partners, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and collaboration with two NIDRR funded national projects focused on AT outcomes development (ATOMS/CATOR). Information gained leads to maximizing the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities; and will lead to improved information and research on the effectiveness of AT devices and evidence-based practices.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Delaware

### Automatic Generation of Optimal Tactile Graphics

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**Principal Investigator:** Kenneth Barner, PhD 302/831-6937

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**Project Number:** H133G020103

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,700; FY 03 \$149,770; FY 04 \$149,539

**Abstract:** This project develops and implements image manipulation algorithms optimal for generating binary tactile graphics. Specifically, the following methods are optimized for the automatic translation of images to binary representations appropriate for tactile display: (1) Edge Detection—boundaries in images often represent important context queues; extracting edges allows these queues to be tactilely represented. This can be accomplished in a multi-resolution approach allowing the user to control the detail level presented. (2) Region Segmentation—graphic content can often be separated into distinct regions, or objects. While edge detection operations frequently yield broken boundaries, resulting in confusing tactile representations; segmentation can produce closed boundaries optimized to retain object integrity that can be combined with texturing procedures. (3) Tactile Texturing—binary texturing can be introduced to yield tactile information on the image gray level or color; such texturing, or halftoning, methods can be adopted from the literature on visual halftones and optimized specifically for tactile representations. The efficacy of each method is tested utilizing human subjects and the results are utilized in the optimization of each algorithm. Software conversion routines and printing algorithms are also developed that allow the methods to be used with existing software packages, such as word processors and web browsers, and to enable direct printing on existing hardware, such as the TIGER printer and microcapsule paper.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Delaware

### Enhancing AAC Communication through Improved Access to Fringe Vocabulary Words

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**Principal Investigator:** Kathleen F. McCoy, PhD

**Public Contact:** 302/831-1956; Fax: 302/831-4091

**Project Number:** H133G040051

**Start Date:** November 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,993; FY 05 \$149,996

**Abstract:** This project examines “fringe vocabulary” access, the means by which an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device user accesses the substantially larger set of words needed in communication. AAC devices typically employ some mechanisms to enhance access to the most frequently used words or “core vocabulary.” However, much communication also involves accessing words that are not in this core. One method of accessing fringe vocabulary is word prediction, which can offer a choice of completed words based on the user’s selection of one or more initial word letters. This project seeks to optimize word prediction for fringe vocabulary. An important factor in this effort is the implementation of context-aware word prediction. Such a system automatically adapts its word predictions in response to changes in the user’s actions and environment. For example, different fringe vocabulary items may be predicted depending on the user’s geographic location, conversational topic, and identity of his/her conversational partner. Researchers study and implement word prediction methods based on observations of patterns of behavior exhibited by users in similar situations.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Florida

# The Development of a Tool to Enhance Communications Between Blind and Sighted Mathematicians, Students, and Teachers: A Global Translation Appliance

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**Principal Investigator:** Arthur I. Karshmer, PhD

**Public Contact:** 863/667-7067; Fax: 863/667-7096

**Project Number:** H133G010046

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,540; FY 02 \$134,111; FY 03 \$139,474; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project builds a translator for several mark-up notations used in scientific, mathematic, engineering, and technological fields. The primary difficulty encountered by students with visual impairments in pursuing studies in science, mathematics, engineering or technology is how to read and write mathematics. To overcome the limited expressiveness of six-dot braille characters, a plethora of notations for marking-up mathematics have been devised, including Nemeth Math code, Marburg code, the French standard, the Stuttgart standard, and others. These notations are braille-based and designed specifically for people with visual impairments, and are not known to sighted individuals; as a result, written technical communication between individuals who are sighted and individuals who have visual impairments is quite difficult. Further, communication between individuals who have visual impairments is also difficult when different notations are used. The new tool allows free conversion among the Marburg code, Nemeth code, Latex and MathML by developing a common intermediate format (CIF) for representing mathematics, and uses logic programming and denotational semantics to translate between supported notations and the CIF. The CIF is also used to develop a mark-up notation independent auditory browser for the understanding of complex mathematical expressions by users with visual impairments. The auditory browser conveys the structure of a mathematical expression as well as its content via speech output. The user also has the ability to navigate the expression interactively and focus on its subparts in order to understand the expression better.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Georgia

# Analyzing Universal Design Resource Needs for Practitioners in Industry and Government

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**Principal Investigator:** Julie A. Jacko, PhD

**Public Contact:** 404/894-2342; Fax: 404/894-2301

**Project Number:** H133G040151

**Start Date:** November 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,391; FY 05 \$149,754

**Abstract:** This project draws from past human factors research which has examined the quality of design guidelines, the design process in general, and needs/task analyses to support design-tool creation. Lessons from the human factors field are considered in relation to studies of universal design practice in industry, and needs analysis to support universal design resource creation. The target population for this project is people who utilize universal design resources in industry and government. The objective of the research is to understand and document actions/behaviors practitioners involved in design or procurement activities in relation to their use of universal design resources. A systems analysis approach has been employed in the design of research activities. The relevant elements of the system are examined through observation and measurement. Four sequential research activities are: (1) an analysis of universal design guidance in the context of practitioner use employing heuristic evaluation, survey and interview methods; (2) a field-based analysis of supply-chain stakeholder activities, which conducts a needs and task analysis using various contextual inquiry methods; (3) controlled laboratory-based usability studies of resource use during universal design projects; and (4) a summative resources and training effects study, which examines how professionals who are new to universal design concepts approach design, and succeed or fail depending on the level of tuition and the level of resource access that they have during design activities.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

### Tools to Help Web Developers Create More Universally Accessible Web Resources to People with Disabilities

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**Principal Investigator:** Jon Gunderson, PhD

**Public Contact:** 217/244-5870; Fax: 217/333-0248

**Project Number:** H133G030079

**Start Date:** August 15, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ellen Blasiotti

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,959; FY 04 \$149,957; FY 05 \$149,993

**Abstract:** The most popular tools used by instructors are non-traditional web authoring tools like Microsoft Office Applications including Power Point, Excel and Word (a recent survey of instructors found 99% use Microsoft Office to create at least part of their web based instructional materials). This project creates web authoring tools that integrate the creation of accessible markup into the default authoring process of publishing Microsoft Office documents to the web. The accessibility is integrated into the authoring process so the author does not need any special knowledge of HTML coding or accessibility techniques, nor to perform extra time consuming steps to add or edit accessible markup after a document is created. The integrated authoring tool does not require awkward post publishing accessibility evaluation and repair steps to determine what accessibility markup is needed for improved accessibility. The HTML generated by the Office plug-ins not only improves accessibility to people with disabilities, but the content is more accessible to everyone by supporting World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) web standards and the interoperability the W3C recommendations provide. The interoperability of W3C recommendations makes information available to any web browser and not just Internet Explorer (currently the default web publishing features of Office support web coding that can only be viewed in Internet Explorer).

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Cost Effectiveness of a Computerized Oral Reading Treatment for Aphasia

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**Principal Investigator:** Leora Cherney, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/238-1117; Fax: 312/238-2635

**Project Number:** H133G010098

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,470; FY 02 \$149,892; FY 03 \$149,732; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This study evaluates the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of an innovative, computerized treatment program for individuals with aphasia, a communication disorder and chronic condition. Aphasia requires long-term treatment to ensure that individuals can participate in a full range of vocational, recreational, and social activities. However, recent health care changes have seriously curtailed the amount of treatment received by patients with aphasia. In this environment effective treatments should be developed that can be easily administered and delivered at minimum cost. Oral Reading for Language in Aphasia (ORLA) was originally developed to improve reading comprehension in individuals with aphasia. Preliminary studies indicate that ORLA is effective in improving reading comprehension in patients with all types of aphasia. In addition to improvements in reading comprehension, cross-modal generalization occurs in some patients, with improvements in auditory comprehension and oral expression evident. The present study compares changes in communication performance for a group of aphasic individuals receiving ORLA from a speech-language pathologist and a group receiving a computerized version of the ORLA treatment.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Selective Dynamic Strength Training to Enhance Upper Limb Coordination Following Stroke

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Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences  
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[http://www.smpp.northwestern.edu/neuroimaging/NMC\\_Dewald.html](http://www.smpp.northwestern.edu/neuroimaging/NMC_Dewald.html)

**Principal Investigator:** Julius Dewald, PT, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/908-6788; Fax: 312/908-0741

**Project Number:** H133G030143

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,998; FY 04 \$149,991; FY 05 \$149,992

**Abstract:** This study investigates the use of a novel selective dynamic strengthening protocol, which incorporates a two-joint robotic device to overcome gravity induced abnormal movement synergies following hemiparetic stroke. The specific objectives are the evaluation and demonstration of the usefulness and effectiveness of this selective dynamic robot-supported training regime for enhancement of quality of life of stroke survivors. The effects of the dynamic training regime on functional arm movements are being investigated in two groups of 20 subjects with chronic hemiparetic stroke. The control group follows an 8-week conventional upper extremity strengthening protocol consisting of shoulder abduction/flexion and elbow extension exercises. This conventional protocol represents an adapted exercise program is available for people with chronic stroke (4.5 million) whom no longer receive formal physical therapy due to a plateau in functional restoration. The experimental group follows a novel robot-supported training regime, which also strengthens subjects with chronic stroke but emphasizes performance of rapid reaching movements while increasing active support of their arm. This enables the subject to progressively deviate from their abnormal torque synergies. The evaluation and training paradigm provides quantitative outcome measures, which can be used to reliably track a patient's progress using technology that is easy to implement with no risk of injury. The long-term goals of this study are the technological development and implementation of a simple, user-friendly robot-supported therapeutic intervention accessible to consumers in both in- and out-patient clinics.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Computer Treatment for Aphasia: Evaluating Efficacy and Treatment Intensity

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Rehabilitation Institute Research Corporation  
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Chicago, IL 60611  
lcherney@ric.org

**Principal Investigator:** Leora R. Cherney, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/238-1117; Fax: 312/238-2208

**Project Number:** H133G040269

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,978; FY 05 \$149,808

**Abstract:** This project implements an innovative computerized treatment program for individuals with chronic aphasia, evaluates its effectiveness, and assesses the impact of treatment intensity on outcome. The treatment, Oral Reading for Language in Aphasia (ORLA), uses state-of-the-art computer technology that allows the individual with aphasia to read aloud, and ultimately speak, sentences at the same time as the words are produced in visible speech by an animated agent. The treatment is based on a theoretical framework that incorporates two lines of work: the neuropsychological models of reading and observation-execution-matching. Individuals with chronic aphasia are randomized to one of three treatment groups: high intensity computer treatment (10 hours per week); low intensity computer treatment (4 hours per week); and a control condition in which subjects participate in non-language computer activities for 4 hours per week. For all groups, treatment continues for six weeks. Language and communication skills are evaluated pre-treatment, immediately post-treatment, and at 6 and 12 weeks after the end of treatment. The primary outcome measure is the Aphasia Quotient of the Western Aphasia Battery. Secondary outcome measures consider the ICFDH-2 categories of body structure/function, activity and participation and include a variety of standard aphasia tests as well as quality of life indices. Aphasia is a chronic condition that requires long-term treatment of the communication disorder to ensure that individuals can participate in a full range of vocational, recreational and social activities.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Iowa

### Computer Training Materials for Deaf-Blind Individuals

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State of Iowa Department for the Blind

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Des Moines, IA 50309

assist@blind.state.ia.us

<http://www.blind.state.ia.us/assist/deafblind-tutorials.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Curtis Chong

**Public Contact:** 515/281-1361; Fax: 515/242-5781

**Project Number:** H133G020196

**Start Date:** August 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$148,870; FY 03 \$147,870; FY 04 \$147,800

**Abstract:** This project creates a comprehensive array of computer training materials tailored to the needs of people who are deaf-blind. Objectives include: (1) developing 45 computer tutorials written for people who are deaf-blind; (2) conducting three seminars to provide information and training to VR professionals and others regarding computer access by people who are deaf-blind; and (3) disseminating training materials to agencies serving people who are deaf-blind. The tutorials use an innovative approach that trains people who are deaf-blind or blind to use a computer with assistive technology. This includes a keyboard-only approach to the graphical Windows interface and information and step-by-step exercises that specifically address the screen reader-braille display combination the individual is using to operate mainstream or communications programs (each screen reader and braille display uses unique keystrokes, configurations, and feedback). This project provides people who are deaf-blind with computer skills they need to obtain and retain good jobs and to pursue computer-based communications and recreational activities. It also provides VR professionals, consumer organizations, and other private and public agencies with professionally developed tutorials they can give to clients for independent work or use in one-on-one or group computer training.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Kansas

### **Reusing AT/DME Acquired Through Public Funds: Developing a Cost-Neutral, Consumer-Driven Program**

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Lawrence, KS 66045-7555  
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**Principal Investigator:** Sara H. Sack, PhD 620/421-8367

**Public Contact:** Pamela Cress, EdD 620/421-6550, ext. 1888; Fax: 620/421-0954

**Project Number:** H133G010102

**Start Date:** September 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,740; FY 02 \$149,991; FY 03 \$149,998; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 8/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This project builds a consumer responsive, cost-neutral program to reuse and redistribute durable medical equipment. The project addresses state and national needs in three critical ways. First, it increases access to durable medical equipment and AT (including previously used technology) that promotes the likelihood that people are able to reach personal goals related to independent living, employment, and improved social lives. Second, using previously owned equipment in good condition spreads the benefit of limited state and federal resources across more people. And finally, the reuse program reduces the consumption of natural resources such as aluminum, glass, plastics, and fuel. The reuse program is composed of four interrelated components, including a data tracking system, a consumer follow-up system, a reuse system through a network of statewide equipment providers, and marketing. This project is a collaboration of the Technology Act grantee for Kansas, the Assistive Technology for Kansans project (ATK), Kansas Medical Policy (Medicaid), durable medical equipment providers, and consumers.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Massachusetts

### Access to Digital Television

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WGBH Educational Foundation  
National Center for Accessible Media  
125 Western Avenue  
Boston, MA 02134  
Mary\_Watkins@wgbh.org  
<http://ncam.wgbh.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Gerry Field

**Public Contact:** Mary Watkins 617/300-3700; Fax: 617/300-1035

**Project Number:** H133G010170

**Start Date:** August 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$150,000; FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000

**Abstract:** In the transition of the nation's television system from analog to digital television (DTV) broadcasts, this "DTV Access" project represents the needs of people with sensory disabilities. Serious technical challenges may prevent Americans from participating in the pending transformation of communications and program delivery technologies if they are deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind or if they have low vision. This project leads the effort to ensure that the next-generation of DTV equipment does not replicate current problems or create new ones in the need to comply with the Federal Communications Commission-mandated digital transition. Project staff are working with broadcasters and standards-setting bodies to develop standards and open protocols, and to support implementation of captions and descriptions in DTV broadcasts. The DTV Access project addresses additional challenges that arise when broadcast programming is delivered via cable, satellite, Internet or wireless technologies. It also works to include people with sensory disabilities in the audience for the wealth of new program enhancements, interactive capabilities, and public and private data services that DTV promises to deliver. The project unites industry, standards-setting bodies, regulatory agencies, and consumers who have disabilities in a national, high-profile collaboration to provide equal access for people with disabilities to DTV programming, enhancements, interactive components, and data services.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Massachusetts

### **Beyond the Text: Access to Images, Audio, and Multimedia in eBooks**

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National Center for Accessible Media  
125 Western Avenue  
Boston, MA 02134  
access@wgbh.org  
<http://ncam.wgbh.org/ebook>

**Principal Investigator:** Geoff Freed 617/300-4223

**Public Contact:** Mary Watkins 617/300-3400; Fax: 617/300-1035

**Project Number:** H133G020091

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project researches, develops, and disseminates recommended practices and demonstration models that enable access to and understanding of images, audio, and multimedia presented within electronic book (eBook) formats for users who are blind or deaf. The eBook format offers online and portable access to all manner of traditional print products, including fiction, nonfiction, textbooks, professional journals, and other content, via personal computer, laptop, library systems, dedicated devices, and personal digital assistants (PDAs). Educators, trainers, and publishers are beginning to explore the learning potential of interactive web-based textbooks that include multimedia (audio and video) and study tools such as highlighting, note-taking, bookmarking, and direct Internet connections to references and other online learning resources. All of these features in the eBook format hold great promise to enhance and improve access to information for users with disabilities. Accessible eBooks could offer learners of all ages who are blind or deaf equal and ready access to trade, text, or scholarly books, training materials, online research libraries, and all manner of electronically published resources— a major leap forward in leveling the playing field for people with disabilities at home, at work, and at school. In order to accomplish this, eBook standards and systems must be designed to facilitate accessible navigation as well as caption and audio description displays, and eBook materials must be properly formatted for screen readers and/or refreshable braille displays. eBook content must include ancillary audio and text information to enable navigation, and to make images, audio, and multimedia accessible.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Massachusetts

### Access to Digital Cinema Systems

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National Center for Accessible Media  
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Boston, MA 02134

**Principal Investigator:** Bradley C. Botkin 617/300-3902

**Public Contact:** Mary Watkins 617/300-3700; Fax: 617/300-1020

**Project Number:** H133G030104

**Start Date:** September 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project builds on WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM's) experience and successes in developing and proliferating MoPix technologies to make digital cinema accessible to people with sensory disabilities. MoPix systems enable the 34 million Americans with hearing or vision loss to enjoy first-run films with their friends and families. As in all NCAM standards initiatives, open specifications are proposed that technology developers can use to enable myriad display options, including, but not limited to, MoPix systems. Project goals are to: (1) Work with standards organizations to ensure inclusion of captions and audio narration in industry specifications for packaging, identification, transport, retrieval and display of digital cinema content; (2) develop solutions and prototypes to support delivery and display of caption and description files, both in current first-generation and future d-cinema systems; and (3) promote review of project solutions and proposed standards through dissemination and high-profile demonstrations, and support implementation by digital cinema systems vendors.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Massachusetts

### Speech Solutions for Next Generation Media Centers

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<http://ncam.wgbh.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Gerry Field 617/300-3496

**Public Contact:** Mary Watkins 617/300-3700; Fax: 617/300-1035

**Project Number:** H133G040143

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project develops a fully operational home media center with voice output capabilities enabled via keyboard and remote control, based on open source technologies. Project activities include: Creation of an accessible Linux-based home media center; publication of source code and specifications for open source media center; speech interface solutions enabled via keyboard and remote control; demonstration model of end user control and navigation of open source media platform via a PDA with Panasonic's small footprint speech interface; publication of end-user interface research; and a final report that details the impact of project solutions and publications. A demonstration model of a small footprint speech interface for this open source media center that previews how emerging speech technologies could be used in new handheld products in development by industry is in development from Panasonic Speech Technology Laboratories. American Foundation for the Blind contributes expertise to the open source solution and conducts comprehensive end-user evaluations that document how blind and low vision users interact with and utilize the speech interface offered by both project solutions.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Minnesota

# Cued-Response to Stimulate Saccade-Step Planning and Mobility in Progressive Supranuclear Palsy

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Minneapolis, MN 55455  
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**Principal Investigator:** Richard P. Di Fabio, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 612/626-4973; Fax: 651/653-0909

**Project Number:** H133G030159

**Start Date:** September 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$149,999; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** Vertical gaze palsy and recurrent falls are cardinal features of progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP). These symptoms interfere with safe ambulation and functional mobility. The deficit in gaze control has a known pathoanatomical origin, but may also involve cognitive dysfunction manifest by a loss of executive cognitive abilities and visual attention. The purposes of this project are to: (1) determine whether a cued-response intervention is effective in promoting gaze saccade function during a step climbing task, (2) determine if improved gaze control leads to a reduction of falls and improved gait mobility, and (3) examine the neurocognitive mechanisms underlying any such improvements. Preliminary research suggests that vertical gaze palsy can be improved by cueing patients with PSP to initiate a new stepping pattern while the subject is under motion toward the object. The cue is presented in a stimulus-response compatibility paradigm, which requires the use of executive cognitive function (planning and problem-solving) to select the appropriate limb for stepping. Two groups of subjects with PSP will be randomly assigned to receive limb-cue plus eye movement training, or walking practice with no training in a cross-over design. A follow-up will evaluate retention and transfer of learning. Outcomes will be assessed using functional tests of mobility and a kinematic analysis synchronized with infrared oculography.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

New Jersey

### Development of an Intelligent Patient Lift and Transfer Device

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<http://www.kmrrec.org/rehabengineering>

**Principal Investigator:** W. Thomas Edwards, PhD

**Public Contact:** 973/324-3539; Fax: 973/243-6984

**Project Number:** H133G040183

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The objective of the project is to develop the Intelligent Patient Lift (IPL) and Transfer Device based upon an advanced state-of-the-art technology that addresses present shortcomings: complexity and safety, cost and availability, level of effort for caregivers, and the number of caregivers needed to complete a transfer. This innovative system incorporates a recently patented concept proven in other lifting applications and developed by project collaborator Yobotics Incorporated. Based on needs identified at KMRREC-KIR, researchers develop and demonstrate refinements of the Patient Lifting frame and sling. The goal is to introduce an intelligent interface that provides both natural and comfortable interactions between the patient/user and the caregiver. The novel features incorporated in the IPL introduce a more intuitive control of the system and improve the quality of user-caregiver interactions by reducing the level of effort and complexity. The new IPL device is demonstrated and evaluated in an active rehabilitation setting. This fundamental lifting technology can be extended to other applications (such as vehicle entry and homecare) to benefit the majority of those with mobility disabilities.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

New York

### Inclusive Indoor Play

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amullick@ap.buffalo.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Abir Mullick

**Public Contact:** 716/829-3485, ext. 322; Fax: 716/829-3861

**Project Number:** H133G040259

**Start Date:** December 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The purpose of this project is research indoor play environments, develop universal design play guidelines and design models of play environments that are safe and accessible to all children. This project: (1) conducts basic research and develops universal design guidelines for indoor play; (2) designs, develops, and tests models of inclusive indoor play environments that promote the highest level of safety, usability, accessibility, and social interaction; and (3) constructs and tests a working prototype of an indoor play environment that demonstrates highest level of access for all children. It researches play and the play environment through literature review, existing products, existing play environments, focus group interviews with participants, expert consultations, children's play designs, and testing of full-scale simulated play environments. The second year of this project focuses on development of design concepts, construction of refined design in full scale, and testing with users. The final year of this project is dedicated to prototype construction and testing.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

New York

# Web-based Student Processes at Community Colleges – Tools for Ensuring Accessibility

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School of Industrial and Labor Relations  
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**Principal Investigator:** Susanne Bruyère, PhD

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**Project Number:** H133G040255

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** Web-based processes (such as student recruitment, information dissemination, applications, course registrations, and online coursework) have become increasingly important to the way post-secondary educational institutions communicate and interact with their potential and enrolled student populations. This project targets Cornell's information technology (IT) accessibility research and development efforts specifically to the national community college network. A multiple-prong approach is used to examine the state of web accessibility in the community college network and identify IT accessibility barriers for students with disabilities and ways to address them. The project includes a review of selected online application processes in 30 community colleges. The focus of the Year Two research is a telephone survey across all community colleges nationally regarding use of web-based/online student recruitment, application, and registration processes and the colleges' awareness of web accessibility issues and policies regarding accessibility. The project is a collaborative effort between EDI and Cornell University's Institute for Community College Development (ICCD).

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**

New York

**Advanced Tissue Vascular and Biomechanical Studies for Improved  
Prosthetic Socket Design**

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Narrows Institute for Biomedical Research  
VA NYHHS  
Rehabilitation Engineering Research (151)  
423 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10010  
vlh3@nyu.edu  
<http://www.med.nyu.edu/rehabengineering>

**Principal Investigator:** Vern L. Houston, PhD

**Public Contact:** 212/951-3339; Fax: 212/951-3342

**Project Number:** H133G030069

**Start Date:** January 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,993; FY 04 \$149,932; FY 05 \$149,936

**Abstract:** The objectives of this project are: (1) to establish the prevalence of prosthesis induced macro-circulatory occlusion; and (2) to determine if the degree of occlusion produced (if any) is of sufficient magnitude and duration to cause ischemia during walking and other physical activities, that can lead to chronic tissue atrophy. Preliminary studies have shown that patellar tendon bearing (PTB) prosthetic sockets can occlude transtibial amputees' residual limb circulation. Specifically, the project researches whether: (1) didactically taught and commonly clinically applied PTB sockets occlude transtibial amputees' popliteal arterial circulation, and (2) the circulatory occlusion so produced causes ischemia in residual limb tissues during periods of moderate to strenuous exercise.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

North Carolina

### **ABC-Link: A Web-Based Literacy Assessment Tool for Students with Significant Disabilities**

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**Principal Investigator:** Karen Erickson, PhD

**Public Contact:** 919/966-8828; Fax: 919/843-3250

**Project Number:** H133G020133

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,733; FY 03 \$149,688; FY 04 \$149,545

**Abstract:** This development project is designed to create a web-based assessment tool, ABC-Link, that provides accessible reading assessment tasks via an innovative interface that simultaneously supports students with severe speech and physical impairments (SSPI) and the adults who assess them. Through its use of state-of-the-art technology, ABC-Link is an interactive site that: (1) guides the assessment as it progresses based on a model of behavioral and test-administration efficiency, (2) feeds the assessment results back to an expert team for interpretation, (3) guides the adult in conducting further assessment as necessary, and (4) provides a suggested plan of intervention.

Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)  
Oregon

**Information Technology Access for Adults with Cognitive Disabilities:  
Participatory Development of a Model for Software Accessibility,  
Training, and Support**

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**Principal Investigator:** Thomas Keating, PhD

**Public Contact:** 541/342-3763; Fax: 541/342-4310

**Project Number:** H133G010162

**Start Date:** September 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Constance Pledger, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,996; FY 02 \$149,994; FY 03 \$149,738; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 12/31/2004)

**Abstract:** This project improves IT access for persons with significant cognitive disabilities through participatory development of a model incorporating accessible life skills software, effective consumer training, and innovative methods for ongoing technical support. Many persons with significant cognitive disabilities are excluded from the benefits of IT because software interfaces are too complex, the content is not relevant to their life management requirements, and not enough is known about their training and technical support needs. This project builds on previous efforts in development of life skills software to produce a field-tested and expanded array of applications along with a replicable model for training and technical support in home, community, and educational settings. Based on the project's participatory development approach, persons with cognitive disabilities are integrally involved in research, development, and dissemination activities.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Oregon

# Oregon Project Rehabilitation of Communication Skills in Dementia Through AAC

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**Principal Investigator:** Melanie Fried-Oken, PhD

**Public Contact:** 503/494-7587; Fax: 503/494-6868

**Project Number:** H133G040176

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The project increases access to AT by revealing which communication related devices are appropriate for persons with dementia. The goals of the research are to demonstrate that alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) use is a promising avenue for improving the lives of adults with dementia and of the families and caregivers who need to communicate with them. The study addresses the input mode of level of symbol that optimizes AAC device use for persons with moderate dementia. It compares the effectiveness of abstract symbols (printed words), two-dimensional symbols (colored photos), and three-dimensional symbols (small objects) in AAC devices. The study also addresses the effect of output mode on conversational skills of persons with moderate dementia. It compares the use of electronic voice-output devices with non-electronic devices.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
Pennsylvania

**The Efficacy of Computer and Sense Wear Technologies for Promoting Health in Adults with Fibromyalgia: A Randomized Clinical Trial**

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**Principal Investigator:** Joan Rogers, PhD; Margo Holm, PhD  
**Public Contact:** Joan Rogers 412/383-6621; Fax: 412/383-6613

**Project Number:** H133G020159

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,996; FY 03 \$149,966; FY 04 \$149,996

**Abstract:** This study uses a cognitive-behavioral intervention to facilitate adoption of a wellness lifestyle in people with fibromyalgia. Specifically, researchers test the efficacy of an Internet-based health promotion computer program used in conjunction with a wearable sensor (SenseWear™) for developing a wellness lifestyle and improving the quality of life of adults with fibromyalgia. Consumers are assisted in: (1) establishing goals in the areas of physical activity, nutrition, participation in meaningful, productive activities, sleep, stress-reducing activities, and emotional state; (2) monitoring progress toward established goals; and (3) assessing the relationship between these areas in one's daily life. In addition, based on consumer input, the program offers suggestions for developing a wellness lifestyle. SenseWear™ provides objective data about activity level and stress level for consumers to use in combination with the self-assessment data provided by the Internet program.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Tennessee

### **Factors Affecting Directional Hearing Aid Performance in Children**

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Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center for Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences  
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**Principal Investigator:** Todd A. Ricketts, PhD

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**Project Number:** H133G020097

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,576; FY 03 \$149,844; FY 04 \$149,915

**Abstract:** This project investigates quantification of the angular position of children's heads in classroom environments and measurements of speech understanding and classroom performance in environments that simulate the most common listening situations children experience. Directional hearing aids represent one of the few technologies that have the potential to positively impact children's speech understanding in classroom environments without requiring hardware external to the child. These instruments work by reducing amplification for sounds arriving from behind the child, relative to that provided for sounds arriving from the front. Therefore the intensity level delivered to a child's ear for sound sources of interest will be greater than that of other sounds, if the assumption is made that the child will face the sound source of interest. Unfortunately, the angle at which children position their heads in classroom environments is unknown. In addition, the magnitude of improvement in speech intelligibility and classroom performance afforded by directional hearing aids in comparison to their traditional, omnidirectional counterparts in real classroom environments is unknown. Results to date indicate that children as young as 4-6 are able to accurately orient their heads towards sound sources. Better accuracy is generally associated with more difficult listening situations, but can be detrimental in others. The specific relationship between directional benefit and environment appears to be predictable and is highly dependent on the location of the sound and noise sources.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Utah

# Bottom-Up Modeling Of Mass Pedestrian Flows: Implications for the Effective Egress of Individuals with Disabilities

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**Principal Investigator:** Keith Christensen, MLA

**Public Contact:** 435/797-3997; Fax: 435/797-7219

**Project Number:** H133G030013

**Start Date:** November 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The purpose of this research project is to improve the exit of individuals with disabilities from buildings and other settings in emergencies. The project researches the effect of the current and proposed Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for the built-environment on the egress of individuals with disabilities during the mass pedestrian flows (MPFs) triggered by health-safety events, and the effect of security-oriented design methods on the egress of individuals with disabilities during health-safety event triggered MPFs. The objective of the project is to measure the emergent behaviors of the diverse sample populations of six representative built-environments (an airport, high school, conference center, multi-story office building, federal development, and secured federal development) during simulated health-safety events. An intervention (modification of the design character of the built-environment) is applied to eliminate conditions occurring during MPFs, which adversely affect the egress of individuals with disabilities.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
Virginia

## **The Braille Power Reader Program**

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Arlington, VA 22203  
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**Principal Investigator:** Daniel E. Hinton

**Public Contact:** Elizabeth Deedee Rosenfeld, Systems Engineer 703/276-3192; Fax: 703/522-6006

**Project Number:** H133G010028

**Start Date:** August 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,839; FY 02 \$149,565; FY 03 \$149,956

**Abstract:** This project develops hardware and software that provides people who are deaf-blind or blind with access to much of the digital media and technology that is available to sighted people in academic and employment environments. Development efforts include both newly designed hardware and software and improvements on legacy products previously designed by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and Tactilics. These products integrate enhanced hardware and software and provide 40-character electronic braille access to computers and all forms of IT. Development of the braille Reader system is initially focused on the needs of people who are deaf-blind because of the close relationship between SAIC and the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC), but the display technology is also important to people who are only blind. The teaming arrangement of SAIC, Tactilics, and HKNC assures that the needs of all people who may benefit from using the system—blind and deaf-blind—are met.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
West Virginia

**Project Safe EV-AC: Safe Evacuation and Accommodation of People  
with Disabilities**

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Job Accommodation Network (JAN)  
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Morgantown, WV 26506  
evac@icdi.wvu.edu  
<http://evac.icdi.wvu.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Richard Walls 304/293-7186

**Public Contact:** Beth Loy, Project Director 304/293-7186; Fax: 304/393-5407

**Project Number:** H133G040318

**Start Date:** September 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,970; FY 05 \$149,949

**Abstract:** The Project Safe EV-AC (Safe EVacuation and ACcommodation of People with Disabilities) Team, which includes the Job Accommodation Network and the National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative, develops high quality, comprehensive, easy-to-use safe evacuation materials that include people with disabilities. The Project Safe EV-AC Team researches prior safe evacuation studies and training products; coordinates a network of expert and end-user Advisor Groups; and produces comprehensive, yet cost-effective, safe evacuation education and training tools using the most appropriate technology for the material. Project Safe EV-AC targets certain audiences, including people with disabilities and emergency responders. The Project uses a continuous improvement model with enhanced feedback loops to ensure that the products created are rigorously evaluated by those who use them. The end product includes a final report for NIDRR articulating the existing gaps in knowledge and product development in the field of safe evacuation and accommodation for people with disabilities.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
Arizona

## Development of a Lightweight Adjustable, Modular Pediatric Wheelchair

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Three Rivers Holdings, LLC  
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Mesa, AZ 85202  
david@3rivers.com  
<http://www.3rivers.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Chris Willems 480/833-2541

**Public Contact:** David Boninger 480/833-1829; Fax: 480/833-1837

**Project Number:** H133S040028

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$74,921

**Abstract:** This project designs a low cost yet highly functional pediatric wheelchair. The pediatric wheelchair accommodates the seating needs of children with disabilities, and provides a tilt-in-space function. The purpose of this research is to create and test prototypes to identify issues that need to be addressed to develop a practical commercial device. The prototype is to be tested to insure that (1) its dimensions fit a wide variety of children with disabilities, (2) it meets or exceeds currently approved ANSI/RESNA wheelchair and seating standards, and (3) it performs equivalently or, better than other comparable pediatric wheelchairs on ANSI/RESNA tests. A consumer and clinician focus group evaluates the prototype models and their feedback is incorporated into the design to be tested for meeting ANSI/RESNA standards.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
California

## Speech Production Training Agent for Children with Language Challenges

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Animated Speech Corporation  
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San Mateo, CA 94403  
info@animatedspeech.com  
<http://www.animatedspeech.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Scott Prevost  
**Public Contact:** Walter Schwartz 650/533-6444

**Project Number:** H133S040105  
**Start Date:** October 01, 2004  
**Length:** 6 months  
**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen  
**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$75,000

**Abstract:** This project validates the effectiveness of its 3D animated talking head software application platform to assist teachers and speech pathologists in the treatment of speech disorders. The platform consists of simple, user-friendly tools to create speech and language lessons which incorporate a lip readable accurate talking head, dubbed "Baldi®." Baldi's skin can be made transparent to show how speech is created by the tongue, jaw (palate, gums, and teeth), and lips. Views from any angle can be supplemented with airflow and vibration indicators and highlighting. The project uses articulation lessons with optimal view configurations for Baldi to demonstrate production of critical speech segments. Children with speech/language impairments, including deaf and hard of hearing children in grades K-6 are trained with this system. The effectiveness is compared against direct instruction and commercially available speech training software alternatives. The long-term goals are to expand and commercialize the application to provide speech therapy to children with a broad spectrum of speech disorders including phonology (speech-sound discrimination), fluency (the flow of speech) and motor speech (movement of oral structures) and children with other contributing conditions such as autism.

## Development and Evaluation of an Accessible Voice Recognition System (AVRS) for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

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Colorado Springs, CO 80903-1158  
steve@assess.net  
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**Principal Investigator:** Steven E. Stock  
**Public Contact:** 719/592-0347; Fax: 719/592-0348

**Project Number:** H133S040085  
**Start Date:** October 01, 2004  
**Length:** 6 months  
**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson  
**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$75,000

**Abstract:** This project proposes research, development and feasibility evaluation of an Accessible Voice Recognition System (AVRS) to enable students and adults with significant cognitive impairments to more independently control and navigate through computer operating systems and to create a variety of personal text documents. Individuals with significant cognitive impairments are among those with the highest incidence of illiteracy. This, combined with the complex and text based interfaces of mainstream computer programs and operating systems, makes typical keyboard input largely inaccessible to this population. Voice recognition technology offers promise to overcoming this barrier, but currently provides the same barriers of excess complexity and text-based interfaces that prohibit access to those with limited conceptualization abilities and reading skills. For example, typical voice recognition software applications employ feature-rich text based drop-down menus and require users to read extensive on-screen text as a means of training the system to their unique voice qualities. This project addresses these issues by employing proven multimedia, error minimization and other universal design software development techniques to create a simplified voice recognition application designed to be independently usable by individuals with a range of intellectual disabilities.

**Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I**  
Colorado

**Web Enhanced Simulated (WES) Braille**

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4093 Speciality Place  
Longmont, CO 80504  
Kay.Ferrell@unco.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Kay Ferrell 720/494-4108

**Project Number:** H133S040021

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$74,967

**Abstract:** This project develops and delivers a high quality, effective, affordable, and efficient web-based braille training system. WES Braille is developed for use by teachers, transcribers, paraprofessionals, and family members. The tool is a computer program that accepts the corded keystrokes necessary to enter braille without prior software downloads or purchase of special equipment. When surrounded by a database of rules, information, drill items, and feedback, this tool becomes the heart of a web-delivered, computer-graded braille drill system.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
Florida

## Multimedia Literacy Software for Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing, and Visual Learners

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Orlando, FL 32817  
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<http://www.vcom3d.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Daniel Roush

**Public Contact:** 407/737-7310, ext. 115; Fax: 407/737-6821

**Project Number:** H133S040099

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$74,907

**Abstract:** This project develops and demonstrates the effectiveness of a multimedia module that presents a highly detailed representation of an animated human that can: Speak selected words and text segments, while demonstrating correct mouth movement to form speech sounds; translate selected words and phrases into American Sign Language (ASL) and/or Signed English; provide ASL definitions of selected English words; and assist students in vocabulary development by suggesting semantically related English words that are found via a sign description look-up search.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
Maryland

**Delivery of Cost-effective, Real-time, Remote Transcription Services**

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**Principal Investigator:** Carl J. Jensema, PhD

**Public Contact:** 301/942-4326; Fax: 301/942-4439

**Project Number:** H133S040017

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$74,999

**Abstract:** Many students with disabilities, especially those who have hearing problems, could benefit from real-time transcription of classroom auditory communication to replace or supplement interpreting. This project develops a training package that allows a school system to set up its own low-cost, school-operated, remote, real-time transcription service in a school building using off-the-shelf equipment and software.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
North Dakota

## Development and Evaluation of an Accessible Voice recognition System (AVRS) for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

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**Principal Investigator:** AnnMaria Rousey DeMars

**Public Contact:** 310/717-9089

**Project Number:** H133S040073

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$74,918

**Abstract:** This project employs proven multimedia, error minimization, and other universal design software development techniques to create a simplified voice recognition application that is independently usable by individuals with a range of intellectual disabilities. Individuals with significant cognitive impairments have among the highest incidence of illiteracy. This, combined with the complex and text based interfaces of mainstream computer programs and operating systems, makes typical keyboard input largely inaccessible to this population. Voice recognition technology offers promise to overcoming this barrier, but currently provides the same barriers of excess complexity and text-based interfaces that prohibit access to those with limited conceptualization abilities and reading skills. For example, typical voice recognition software applications employ feature-rich text based dropdown menus and require users to read extensive on-screen text as a means of training the system to their unique voice qualities. Project activities include research, development, and feasibility evaluation of an Accessible Voice Recognition System (AVRS) that enables students and adults with significant cognitive impairments to more independently control and navigate through computer operating systems and to create a variety of personal text documents.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
Pennsylvania

## Access to Passenger Rail Systems: A Universal Approach

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Lvanroosmalen@marshallelevator.com  
<http://www.marshallaccessibility.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Linda van Roosmalen, PhD 412/401-8194

**Public Contact:** Rob Jamison 412/431-1340

**Project Number:** H133S040061

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$74,974

**Abstract:** As a result of ADA regulations, rail platforms have been adapted to allow level boarding of wheeled mobility devices onto passenger rail systems. Since freight cars often share rails with passenger rail cars, differences in car width results in horizontal gaps between passenger rail cars and platforms, creating safety hazards for not only wheelchair users but also for elderly, visually impaired individuals and other passengers. Existing and formerly proposed solutions to 'bridge the gap' can not be used independently by rail passengers and often require personnel assistance, which easily results in train delays, raised personnel costs and inflexible travel for wheelchair users. This project researches and tests the feasibility of a compact device, retrofitted to existing rail car boarding areas to extend up or down onto the platform to provide quick, safe, easy and independent boarding access for all rail occupants. This technology includes a universal solution to the rail access problem and solves platform to rail access for all potential rail riders including individuals using wheeled mobility, children, visually impaired individuals and the elderly. This device is expected to eliminate rail personnel assistance for individuals with disabilities boarding or exiting trains, ensuring passenger independence for all train riders.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
Texas

## Development of a Nemeth Math to Latex Back-translator

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Plano, TX 75025  
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<http://www.logicalsoft.net>

**Principal Investigator:** Deepa Gopal

**Public Contact:** 972/390-7329; Fax: 972/390-7329

**Project Number:** H133S040145

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$75,000

**Abstract:** This project conducts research to develop a commercial-quality PC-based system for automatically back-translating mathematics encoded in Nemeth Math Braille notation to LATEX. The system greatly facilitates students, scientists, and engineers with visual impairments to communicate with their sighted instructors and colleagues. It also assists in learning of mathematics by elementary, middle, and high school students. Translation of Nemeth Math Braille notation to LATEX is known to be a hard problem. In an earlier NIDRR funded SBIR project, using the novel approaches of denotational semantics and logic programming, this company developed a proof-of-concept system that can back-translate complete mathematical documents containing both Nemeth Math and literary Braille text to LATEX. However, the prototype system developed does not handle all the spatially laid out mathematics (matrices and grade school arithmetic and algebraic addition/subtraction problems). In this project, the company conducts research to extend the prototype system so that spatially laid out arithmetic can be fully handled.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
Texas

## **Lightweight, Durable, Adjustable Composite (LWDAC) Backrest**

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todd@accessibledesigns.com  
<http://www.accessibledesigns.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Todd Hargroder

**Public Contact:** 210/684-6794

**Project Number:** H133S040036

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$75,000

**Abstract:** This project has designed a lightweight, sturdy, user adjustable ergonomically designed backrest support for ultralight weight wheelchairs that provides necessary postural support and provides a variety of positions to ease dressing, propulsion, and seated comfort. The backrest improves user comfort, function, and posture during multiple activities of daily living. The innovative design enables the user to adjust the backrest position while seated in their wheelchair. The benefits of the design are lightweight, high strength, adjustability, and durability. The backrest is adaptable to most ultralight manual wheelchairs. It is designed with a battery of features that benefit the user including height selection, backrest angle adjustment, backrest to axle positioning, and lumbar support. The purpose of the research is to create and test prototypes to identify issues that need to be addressed to develop a practical commercial device. The prototypes are tested to insure that 1) their dimensions fit a wide variety of ultralight wheelchairs, 2) they meet or exceed currently approved ANSI/RESNA wheelchair and seating standards, and 3) they perform equivalently or better than other comparable manual wheelchair backrests on ANSI/RESNA tests. A consumer and clinician focus group evaluates the prototype models and their feedback is incorporated into the design to be tested to the ANSI/RESNA standards.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
Virginia

## **An Adaptive Haptic Interface for Individuals with Disabilities**

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**Principal Investigator:** Aaron B. Olowin  
**Public Contact:** 434/973-1215; Fax: 434/973-4686

**Project Number:** H133S040119

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$74,995

**Abstract:** This project develops an affordable assistive technology in the form of a motorized joystick with position sensors and associated software that permits the individuals with neuromuscular disorders to operate computers, household appliances, machinery, powered wheelchairs, and other vehicles, with a minimum of fatigue. The system adapts quickly and robustly to a wide variety of different disabilities, including manifestations of spasticity, dystonia, rigidity, and tremors. The hardware and software, which incorporates recent advances in dynamical modeling, filtering, and control, also provides refined measures of fatigue and functional motor ability. The technology is evaluated using a rigorous quantitative technique based on established principles.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Arizona

## **Development of Collapsible Folding Manual Wheelchair - Phase II**

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1826 West Broadway Road, Suite 43  
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david@3rivers.com  
<http://www.3rivers.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Chris Willems

**Public Contact:** David Boninger 480/833-1829; Fax: 480/833-1837

**Project Number:** H133S030016

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$247,048; FY 04 \$252,848

**Abstract:** In Phase I, this project designed, built, and conducted bench-top testing of a compact, forward-folding, ultralight manual wheelchair with an innovative design that incorporates “swing-down” access wheels for navigation in confined areas. This facilitates access to narrow environs such as those encountered in compact dwellings, offices, restrooms, and transportation settings. When using the access wheels, the wheelchair also fits down the aisle of airplanes and collapses to be stowed in the overhead compartment. The prototype has an adjustable axle, adjustable backrest and seat angle, and a folding design that acts like a rigid frame. Testing of the prototype confirmed that it met or exceeded ANSI/RESNA standards, and it performed equivalently or better than other comparable ultralight manual wheelchairs on those standards. In Phase II, the project: (1) continues to make design improvements to further maximize functionality and ease of use, (2) verifies that the new design meets ANSI/RESNA standards, (3) has wheelchair users evaluate the prototype after use in an Activities of Daily Living Course, and (4) has users take the chair home for an extended trial-use period that allows for an in-depth evaluation of the prototype wheelchair and allows users to compare the prototype with their personal wheelchair on a wide variety of dimensions.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Arkansas

## Absolute Head Tracking for Accessing Assistive Devices

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<http://www.invotek.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Thomas Jakobs  
**Public Contact:** 479/632-4166; Fax: 479/632-6457

**Project Number:** H133S030165  
**Start Date:** October 01, 2003  
**Length:** 24 months  
**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty  
**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$267,458; FY 04 \$232,542

**Abstract:** This research develops a new absolute head-tracking strategy for people who require an assistive device to manipulate a computer cursor. This absolute system links the position of a computer cursor to the direction in which the user's head is pointing, and stays aligned with the user's head regardless of repositioning movements. This system enables a user to guide a cursor aiming his or her head at a desired target location, simplifying the task of learning and utilizing such a system. The design takes advantage of low-cost infrared camera, and requires only three passive sensors to be attached to the user.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
California

## Automated Closed Captioning

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<http://www.automaticsync.com/caption>

**Principal Investigator:** Kevin Erler, PhD

**Public Contact:** 510/582-3437; Fax: 510/582-3437

**Project Number:** H133S040129

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$249,971; FY 05 \$249,789

**Abstract:** The goal of this project is to produce an automated captioning system that provides significant advantages in cost, turnaround time, and convenience. The project applies automatic speech processing techniques to the automation of captioning. The limitations of speech recognition as commonly found in commercial applications, which must rely on pre-defined grammars that must try to anticipate anything that can be said, or on training to individual speakers, are circumvented using program transcripts to focus on alignment and segmentation in closed captioning display. This tightly constrains the problem domain, and avoids high error rates associated with fully automated recognition. The Phase I prototype showed the feasibility of automating captioning using this approach. In Phase II, the project completes research and development and incorporates enhancements based on trial feedback, including more sophisticated acoustic models robust to real-world data, an improved user interface, performance upgrades based on new user data, and search and indexing capabilities.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Colorado

**Job Quest, an Internet-based, Self-directed Career Exploration and  
Assessment System For Students and Adults with Significant  
Intellectual Disabilities**

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**Principal Investigator:** Daniel K. Davies  
**Public Contact:** 719/592-0347; Fax: 719/592-0348

**Project Number:** H133S040137  
**Start Date:** October 01, 2004  
**Length:** 24 months  
**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson  
**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$250,000; FY 05 \$250,000

**Abstract:** This project develops and evaluates Job Quest, an Internet-based, self-directed multimedia career exploration and assessment system for improved job placement of students and adults with mental retardation. The Job Quest system: (1) facilitates self-directed exploration of jobs and job tasks via a media-enriched computer environment using digital pictures, audio, and video; (2) enables job developers to identify jobs that match the individual's job interests through automated searching of the Department of Labor's O\*NET jobs database; and (3) provides the ability for job developers and employment specialists to customize the content of the system to represent specific jobs which are available in the local community.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Maryland

**StoryTiles: Programmable Manipulatives to Improve Language,  
Sequencing, Theory of Mind, and Play Skills in Children with Autism**

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**Principal Investigator:** Shannon Beltz Mayhew  
**Public Contact:** 301/294-5230; Fax: 301/294-5201

**Project Number:** H133S040132

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$250,000; FY 05 \$250,000

**Abstract:** This project develops and field tests StoryTiles, a device with programmable manipulatives that foster language, sequencing, theory of mind, and play skills among children with autism. Children can use this device to experiment with storytelling, and in doing so, work with sequencing, creative play, and language structures as they manipulate programmable, tangible objects. In this effort, IAI conducts a study using a prototype in a preschool classroom to determine ways StoryTiles can be used for special needs inclusion activities within a mainstream classroom. Software and device designs are improved, and researchers build 15 Phase II StoryTiles devices with accompanying story publishing software. In addition, IAI works with Laureate Learning, Inc. to integrate their language learning software with StoryTiles. IAI also conducts focus group with therapists, teachers, and parents of children with autism to produce material for a StoryTiles instructional guide. Finally, IAI conducts field tests with children with autism to determine the educational effectiveness of the Phase II device.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Maryland

## **Web-Based Telerehabilitation for Home Assessment and Monitoring**

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Silver Spring, MD 20910  
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**Principal Investigator:** Amy Brisben, PhD 301/495-0770, ext. 344

**Public Contact:** Regina Reed 301/495-0770, ext. 348; Fax: 301/585-9075

**Project Number:** H133S030037

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$292,557; FY 04 \$206,879

**Abstract:** This project aims to enhance functionality and clinically evaluate CosmoWeb™, a remote therapy monitoring and teleassessment system. Children with disabilities perform therapeutic exercises while playing interactive software games featuring CosmoBot™, an alien robot. CosmoWeb™ consists of: (1) games; (2) Mission Control, a child-friendly computer interface system with customized and off-the-shelf therapy sensors, designed to interact with CosmoBot™'s games; and (3) video, audio, and data transmission capabilities for telerehabilitation purposes. Custom games address therapy goals more effectively than currently-existing, off-the-shelf games designed for entertainment more than educational or therapeutic purposes. While playing these games using body movement, or gestural interfaces, the child carries out exercises designed to meet therapy goals. CosmoWeb™ allows the therapist to remotely monitor the therapy-game session during or after the session takes place. Data from many sessions can be viewed to evaluate the child's progress in meeting therapy goals over time. Objectives are to finalize CosmoWeb™ design and development and evaluate the system effectively in two telerehabilitation scenarios: between two clinics and between clinic and home.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Maryland

## CD-ROM to Teach Cued Speech

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**Principal Investigator:** Angela Bednarczyk, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 301/942-4326; Fax: 301/942-4439

**Project Number:** H133S030009

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$249,979; FY 04 \$249,999

**Abstract:** This project develops a self-taught, self-paced, interactive computer program to teach Cued Speech. The instructional program is distributed on a CD-ROM. In the previous research phase, all of the content and planning for a Cued Speech instructional computer program was completed and prototype software that showed one introductory section and two classes of materials was created. The current phase involves the refining of the content and the completed design of software containing all introductory and background information and 15 classes. The software is then tested, revised, and prepared for formal production and distribution. This project results in complete development of a CD-ROM that contains a simple-to-use, 15-lesson instructional program in Cued Speech and background information about its history and the people who use it (e.g., professionals, family members).

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Massachusetts

## Natural Language Speech Access of Computers by the Disabled

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**Principal Investigator:** Kenneth R. Ingham, PhD

**Public Contact:** 617/795-0134

**Project Number:** H133S030005

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$219,595; FY 04 \$249,564

**Abstract:** This project implements a natural language processor to facilitate complex interactions and to make the overall system readily usable by the computer non-literate or non-technical. The Phase I work confirmed that a speech-based set of complex applications, using automatic speech recognition for command and control, could be effectively used by people with visual impairments. Mechanisms were implemented and tested that allowed users to avoid becoming lost owing to any form of interruption. The work showed that, while simple commands could be successfully recognized, longer complex commands were more difficult because users tended to lose their place while assembling their precise syntax. Therefore, the design and implementation of a natural language processor to support the issuing of complex instructions was indicated. In this phase, the automatic speech recognition subsystem is improved in accordance with the results of the Phase I work and its vocabularies increased to approximately 120,000 words composed of dynamically variable 50,000 word language models. The resulting large vocabulary recognition system, supporting natural language interaction is evaluated through focus group and human subject testing. The Adept 1, equipped with a natural language processor, can serve as a universal reading system for multipart documents (digital, analog, hypertext, etc.). As an integrated voice-based system, it can also support web access, e-mail, and word processing, thereby becoming a universal access tool for reading and writing. By providing very large vocabulary automatic speech recognition and natural language processing of commands, the technical nature of the computer system is minimized.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
New York

## Development of an Authoring Tool to Allow Teachers to Create Audio-Tactile Materials for Blind and Visually Impaired Students

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Touch Graphics  
330 West 38 Street, Suite 1204  
New York, NY 10018  
sl@touchgraphics.com  
<http://www.touchgraphics.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Steven Landau  
**Public Contact:** 212/375-6341; Fax: 646/452-4211

**Project Number:** H133S030036  
**Start Date:** October 01, 2003  
**Length:** 24 months  
**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins  
**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$232,243; FY 04 \$242,006

**Abstract:** This project focuses on the design, implementation, and evaluation of an authoring tool that allows teachers to create customized audio-tactile educational materials for students who are blind, or have other visual or print disabilities. Teachers create raised-line and textured graphic imagery on pre-made templates sheets, place these sheets on a touch-sensitive device connected to a computer, and program the graphic with descriptive audio “tags.” Later, a student interacts with the system by pressing regions and shapes on the tactile surface to instigate appropriate audio responses. The goals of this project are: (1) creation of a market-ready suite of software applications for creating, reading, and transferring teacher-produced audio-tactile courseware; (2) a software sharing website to encourage wide-scale adoption of the authoring tool product and to proliferate the teacher-generated materials; (3) findings on the potential for adapting a variety of methods for producing tactile graphic images to the authoring tool system; (4) a complete braille tutorial application as a demonstration of the system’s full capabilities, ready for distribution via Internet; (5) results of a large scale evaluation of teacher-produced audio-tactile materials in the United States and in selected foreign countries; and (6) investigation of the potential for the authoring tool system to be adapted for use in the transcription of entire illustrated textbooks and full-scale curricula.

**Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II**

New York

**Visual-Spatial Math Problem Solving Strategy Intervention on a  
Handheld Wireless Device for Math Disabilities**

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Learnimation

53 West 90<sup>th</sup> Street #4

New York, NY 10024

**Principal Investigator:** Sarah Manning

**Project Number:** H133S040123

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$75,000

**Abstract:** This project researches and develops a reliable and valid handheld-based visual-spatial math intervention tool for students with learning disabilities (LD) in grades 1-5. This software intervention, based on validated educational research and effective intervention strategies, helps students with LD build expertise in mathematical problem solving. It provides instruction and practice in the application of visual-spatial schematic representations to model and correctly decode mathematical information. The application operates on a wireless handheld computing device, in the hands of a student, wherever the student is learning mathematics. The tool is specifically designed to develop problem-solving capacity that extends beyond the interactive computing platform. It is designed to integrate teacher input as well as provide explicit feedback to teachers regarding effective intervention strategies.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Pennsylvania

## The Next Generation of Audio-Based Assistive Technology: An Instantaneous Customizable Audio Pegging System

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TranXecute  
1009 Arch Street; 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
lchang@tranxecute.com  
www.tranxecute.com

**Principal Investigator:** Leonard Chang  
**Public Contact:** 215/922-1088; Fax: 215/922-1068

**Project Number:** H133S030030  
**Start Date:** October 01, 2003  
**Length:** 24 months  
**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves  
**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$251,900; FY 04 \$247,520

**Abstract:** This project develops an Audio Pegging System which allows for the instant lacing of an audio source to its corresponding transcript or vice versa, utilizing a human voice rather than a computer synthesizer, and enables the user to click on any part of the text and hear its matching audio immediately. It is akin to a word processor with audio processing capabilities, allowing the user to instantly create a customized text-and-audio-laced file, which users can cut and paste, and e-mail just like a word processor document. More importantly, this product enables users to search efficiently through audio. In Phase I, the project successfully created a proof-of-concept prototype, which has proven the technical merit and feasibility of the Audio Pegging System (APS). Based on this foundation, Phase II expands on the proof-of-concept prototype to construct a full application version of this system to be made available to the general public.v:

**Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II**  
Pennsylvania

**GOODFEEL® Braille Music Translator**

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Dancing Dots Braille Music Technologies, LP  
1754 Quarry Lane  
P.O. Box 927  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0927  
info@DancingDots.com  
<http://www.dancingdots.com>

**Principal Investigator:** William R. McCann  
**Public Contact:** 610/783-6692; Fax: 610/783-6732

**Project Number:** H133S030040  
**Start Date:** October 01, 2003  
**Length:** 24 months  
**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD  
**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$250,000; FY 04 \$250,000

**Abstract:** This project integrates SharpEye's scanning functions and Lime's editor with GOODFEEL to create a single application that allows one to scan, edit, and transcribe a printed page into the equivalent music braille through a single user interface equally accessible to both sighted or blind users. In 1997, Dancing Dots released GOODFEEL®, the world's first Braille music translator. To create braille scores, sighted non-specialists, who need not know braille but who must read printed music, employ mainstream and assistive technology in a three-step process: scanning (SharpEye), editing (Lime), and transcribing (GOODFEEL). Although GOODFEEL produces high-quality music braille, users have too often found it overly labor-intensive and its relationship to mainstream music software difficult to understand, discouraging many overworked or unsophisticated potential users.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Utah

## **Practical Force-Feedback System for Upper-Limb Prosthesis Users**

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Motion Control, Inc.  
2401 South 1070 West, Suite B  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119-1555  
harold@utaharm.com  
<http://www.utaharm.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Harold H. Sears, PhD

**Public Contact:** 801/978-2622; 888/696-2767; Fax: 801/978-0848

**Project Number:** H133S030177

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$249,062; FY 04 \$250,938

**Abstract:** This project develops a practical Grip-Force Feedback (GFF) system for upper-limb prosthesis users, which enables wearers to sense the grip force of their terminal device (TD). During Phase I, successful prototypes of a grip force sensor and a method of direct force feedback to the wearer were developed. Furthermore, several methods for gravity compensation of a body-powered version of the Utah Arm were designed, built, and tested. In Phase 2, Motion Control further develops these systems toward field trial versions, which are tested with prosthesis wearers. Preliminary experiments have demonstrated that force feedback can improve the prosthesis wearer's control of an electric TD. By developing a practical system to implement force feedback into a myoelectric hand, the next generation of myoelectric hand wearers will have potentially greatly improved control, more natural sensation of their prehension, and reduced dependence on visual feedback to moderate grip force.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Virginia

**Remote Access Screen Reader Architecture Math System (RA SRAMS)**

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Automated Functions, Inc.  
7700 Leesburg Pike, Suite 420  
Falls Church, VA 22043  
autofunc@cs.com

**Principal Investigator:** Ronald A. Morford  
**Public Contact:** 703/883-9797; Fax: 703/883-9798

**Project Number:** H133S030012

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$250,000; FY 04 \$250,000

**Abstract:** The objective of the Remote Access Screen Reader Architecture Math System (RA SRAMS) is to design, develop, and test a computer based system, which enables remote access to math by students and teachers with visual impairments. The access is via the Internet so the student and teacher may be at different locations when using RA SRAMS. The software uses successful screen reading architecture to enable visually impaired students to independently manipulate math expressions to solve math problems. RA SRAMS provides tools that make it easier for a student with a visual impairment to succeed in higher math (i.e., Algebra I, Algebra II, Trigonometry, and Calculus). This system provides the means for thousands of visually impaired students to succeed in higher math and therefore be qualified to fill the ever-increasing technical job and educational positions.



# Independent Living and Community Integration

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Independent living recognizes that each person has the right to independence through maximum control over his or her life, based on an ability and opportunity to make choices in performing everyday activities. These activities include: managing one's personal life; participating in community life; fulfilling social roles, such as marriage, parenthood, employment, and citizenship; sustaining self-determination; and minimizing physical or psychological dependence on others. Community integration incorporates ideas of both place and participation, so that a person is physically located in a community setting, and participates in community activities. Issues of consumer direction and control also are integral to concepts of community integration. NIDRR's research program encourages independent living and community integration to achieve more successful outcomes for people with disabilities, and it fosters the development of innovative methods to achieve these outcomes and to measure achievement.

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Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
California

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Personal Assistance  
Services**

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University of California, San Francisco  
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
3333 California Street, Suite 455  
San Francisco, CA 94118-0612  
pas@itsa.ucsf.edu  
<http://www.pascenter.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Charlene Harrington, PhD, RN 415/476-4030

**Public Contact:** 866/727-9577; 415/502-7190 (V); 415-502-5216 (TTY); Fax: 415/476-6552

**Project Number:** H133B031102

**Start Date:** July 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$900,000; FY 04 \$900,000; FY 05 \$900,000

**Abstract:** This project provides research, training, dissemination, and technical assistance on issues of personal assistance services (PAS) in the United States. Center projects focus on: (1) the relationship between formal and informal PAS and caregiving support, and the role of AT in complementing PAS; (2) policies and programs, barriers, and new models for PAS in the home and community; (3) workforce development, recruitment, retention, and benefits; and (4) workplace PAS models that eliminate barriers to formal and informal PAS and AT at work. The Center is based at the University of California, San Francisco, and includes the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center, InfoUse, the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute, the Institute for the Future of Aging Services, as well as faculty members at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Policy Sciences Graduate Program, the West Virginia University Job Accommodation Network, and the University of Michigan's Institute of Gerontology and the Department Health Management and Policy. A Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee of PAS users, disability advocates, business leaders, independent living center leaders, and academics provide guidance to the project.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Florida

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Children's Mental  
Health**

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University of South Florida  
Florida Mental Health Institute  
13301 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard MHC2335  
Tampa, FL 33612-3807  
kutash@fmhi.usf.edu  
<http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Robert Friedman, PhD 813/974-4640

**Public Contact:** Krista Kutash, PhD 813/974-4661 (V); Fax: 813/974-6257

**Project Number:** H133B040024

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$835,000; FY 05 \$835,000

**Abstract:** The Research and Training Center Children's Mental Health conducts an integrated set of research projects designed, in the short run, to enhance knowledge about effective implementation of systems of care, and, in the long run to make it possible for children with serious emotional disturbances to live, learn, work, and thrive in their own communities. The Center has developed a theory of factors that contribute to effective implementation; within that theory is a strong emphasis on the importance of understanding from a systemic perspective the interrelationship between the different factors, and their relationship to the community culture and context in which a service delivery system exists. The Center has a set of six interconnected research projects that use both quantitative and qualitative methods, and are holistic in their focus, to further test and develop its theory. The Center translates new knowledge from research into change in policy and practice through a targeted program of training, consultation, technical assistance, publication and dissemination. To support these efforts, the Center maintains dissemination partnerships with a range of organizations committed to help present research findings in formats well-suited for key audiences of state and local policy makers, family organizations, researchers and representatives of related service sectors.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Illinois

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with  
Developmental Disabilities**

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University of Illinois at Chicago  
Department of Disability and Human Development MC 626  
College of Applied Health Sciences  
1640 Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608-6904  
rrtcamr@uic.edu  
<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/rrtcamr>

**Principal Investigator:** Tamar Heller, PhD 312/413-1537

**Public Contact:** Alan Factor, Associate Director 800/996-8845 (V); 312/413-1510 (V); 312/413-0453 (TTY); Fax: 312/996-6942

**Project Number:** H133B031134

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Margaret Campbell, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$750,000; FY 04 \$749,998; FY 05 \$750,000

**Abstract:** The mission of the RRTCADD is to have a sustained beneficial impact on the health and community inclusion of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) as they age through a coordinated set of research, training, and dissemination activities. Major goals are: (1) improving health and function of adults with I/DD, (2) enhancing caregiving supports and transition planning among older caregivers and other family members, and (3) promoting aging and disability friendly environments that enable adults with I/DD to participate in community life. Each goal is addressed through coordinated and complementary sets of activities within the core areas. Projects promoting health and functioning include: examination of age-related changes, epidemiological surveys, research on health care utilization, and development of community-based health promotion interventions. To enhance caregiving supports and transition planning, RRTCADD research includes epidemiological surveys on family demographic and health characteristics, including families of minority backgrounds and families of persons with dual diagnoses of I/DD and psychiatric impairments; sibling roles and interventions in transition planning; and consumer direction in family support. Projects examining aging and disability-friendly environments include research to identify features of communities and residences that hinder and assist community integration as people with I/DD age, state policies regarding nursing home use, and dementia care in family homes and other community residences. Training and dissemination activities involve collaborations with national provider, professional, and consumer organizations to enhance skills and to promote progressive interventions and policies.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Kansas

## Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Full Participation in Independent Living

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Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies  
1000 Sunnyside Avenue; 4089 Dole  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
rtcfpil@ku.edu  
<http://rtcfpil.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Glen W. White, PhD 785/864-4095

**Public Contact:** 785/864-4095 (V); 785/864-0706 (TTY); Fax: 785/864-5063

**Project Number:** H133B000500

**Start Date:** January 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$499,876; FY 02 \$661,864; FY 03 \$626,364; FY 04 \$499,876

**Other Funding:** FY 02 \$299,999 (NIDRR Dissemination & Utilization)

**Abstract:** Through research, training, and dissemination, this project makes available person-environment strategies that enable full participation in society by persons with disabilities from diverse cultures, varying socioeconomic strata, and emerging disability populations. This mission is implemented through multiple research and training activities that are influenced by independent living (IL) philosophy and values; for example, participatory action research is emphasized, in which consumers take an active role throughout the research process. The RRTC develops, tests, and uses measurement tools to investigate the interactional relationship between personal and environmental factors and their effects on full participation in IL by the designated populations. Based on the project's Analytical Research Framework, the four core areas of intervention development and testing include: (1) increasing the knowledge base about the emerging universe of disability, (2) community participation and wellness, (3) cultural IL accommodations, and (4) personal and systems advocacy.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Massachusetts

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center in Rehabilitation of  
Persons with Long-Term Mental Illness**

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Boston University  
Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation  
940 Commonwealth Avenue West  
Boston, MA 02215-1203  
mfarkas@bu.edu; erogers@bu.edu  
<http://www.bu.edu/cpr/research/rtc2004/>

**Principal Investigator:** Marianne Farkas, ScD; E. Sally Rogers, ScD 617/353-3549

**Public Contact:** E. Sally Rogers, ScD 617/353-3549; Fax: 617/353-7700

**Project Number:** H133B990023

**Start Date:** October 01, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$749,990; FY 00 \$749,990; FY 01 \$350,000; FY 02 \$749,990; FY 03 \$749,990; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 6/30/2005)

**Other Funding:** FY 00 \$300,000 (Center for Mental Health Services); FY 01 \$300,000 (CMHS); FY 03 \$300,000 (CMHS)

**Abstract:** This Center studies the recovery and rehabilitation of people with long-term mental illness and the individual and environmental factors that promote recovery. It is linked by its programmatic focus on three specific core areas of, recovery dimensions, rehabilitation interventions, and alternative interventions; is strengthened by the use of the appropriate research strategies; and is assisted by a vigorous program of training, technical assistance, and dissemination activities designed to maximize the impact of the center at all levels in the field of psychiatric rehabilitation. The research projects are designed to have an impact on the field at the personnel, program, and system levels. Research projects use a participatory research process with significant input from consumers and other stakeholders, and culminate in dissemination, training, or technical assistance activities to maximize the impact of the research program. The Training, Dissemination, and Technical Assistance (TDTA) projects are designed to provide exposure, experience, and expertise to knowledge transfer. The TDTA component produces new technologies in recovery and rehabilitation, and increases the likelihood that researchers, service providers, and others use the cumulative knowledge developed by this Center.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Massachusetts

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center Recovery and Recovery  
Oriented Psychiatric Rehabilitation for Persons with Long Term  
Mental Illness**

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Boston University  
Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation  
940 Commonwealth Avenue West  
Boston, MA 02215-1203  
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<http://www.bu.edu/cpr/research/rtc2004/>

**Principal Investigator:** Marianne Farkas, ScD; E. Sally Rogers, ScD 617/353-3549

**Public Contact:** E. Sally Rogers, ScD 617/353-3549; Fax: 617/353-7700

**Project Number:** H133B040026

**Start Date:** November 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$750,000; FY 05 \$750,000

**Abstract:** This project focuses on the concepts and dimension of recovery and the various factors that inhibit and facilitate recovery from long-term mental illness by a comprehensive and meritorious set of research projects and training, technical assistance, and dissemination activities. The research and the training, dissemination, and technical assistance programs are organized into the following three programmatic areas of investigation and development: concepts and dimensions of recovery; factors enhancing recovery, and factors inhibiting recovery. The research projects are designed to have an impact on the field at multiple levels, including the personnel level as well as the program and system levels. Research projects use a participatory research process with significant input from consumers and other stakeholders, and culminate in dissemination, training, or technical assistance activities to maximize the input of the research program. The Training, Dissemination, and Technical Assistance (TDTA) projects are designed to provide exposure, experience, and expertise levels of knowledge transfer. The TDTA program produces new technologies in recovery and psychiatric rehabilitation, as well as increases the likelihood that researchers, service providers, and others use the cumulative knowledge developed by the RRTC. The RRTC is tied together by its programmatic focus on three specific core areas, strengthened by the use of appropriate research strategies, and assisted by a vigorous program of training, technical assistance, and dissemination activities designed to maximize the impact of the RRTC at all levels in the field of psychiatric rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Minnesota

**Research and Training Center on Community Living (RTC/CL)**

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University of Minnesota  
The Institute on Community Integration  
204 Pattee Hall, 150 Pillsbury Drive, SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
lakin001@umn.edu  
<http://rtc.umn.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Charlie Lakin, PhD 612/624-5005

**Public Contact:** Sheryl Larson, PhD 612/625-6024; Fax: 612/625-6619

**Project Number:** H133B031116

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Dawn Carlson, PhD, MPH

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$750,000; FY 04 \$750,000; FY 05 \$750,000

**Other Funding:** FY 04 \$300,000 (Administration on Developmental Disabilities), \$70,000 (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), \$300,000 (Illinois Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities), \$25,000 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities), \$300,000 (College of Direct Support web-based training program), \$30,000 (Partners in Community Supports), \$60,000 (University of Minnesota)

**Abstract:** The Center conducts research, training, technical assistance, and dissemination to enhance inclusion and self-determination of citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD). The research program has six outcome areas: policy studies, database supports for full participation, self-determination and consumer-control, workforce development, and quality assessment and improvement systems. The research program within the priority areas includes: (1) research syntheses of the state of knowledge and practice; (2) secondary analyses of high quality, topically relevant national and state data sets; (3) case studies of best practices; (4) evaluation of demonstration efforts to improve policy and practice; (5) survey and interview studies of critical issues; and (6) group process studies with key constituencies. An integrated intramural training program addresses the development of skilled disability researchers and community service professionals. Outreach training programs provide training and technical assistance to agencies and individuals providing support to people with ID/DD, including members of their families. The College of Direct Support provides on-line interactive multi media training to thousands of direct support professionals across the US. Outreach programs include conferences and workshops for a wide variety of national, regional, and state audiences, a state-of-the-art conference, annual "Reinventing Quality" conference, and intensive technical assistance with community organizations, including advocacy and self-advocacy organizations. The Center disseminates practical information to targeted audiences through its internal publication program that includes: IMPACT, Policy Research Brief, DD Data Brief, and Frontline Initiative. It maintains high standards for scholarly productivity and publication through books, journal articles and technical reports. About 18,000 people visit Center websites each month for access to view publications or other information on best practices in person-centered services ("QualityMall.org"), national statistics on services and expenditures, the direct support workforce, and other contemporary topics.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
New York

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Independent Living  
Management (RRTC-ILM)**

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The Western New York Independent Living Project, Inc.  
3108 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14214-1384  
jmoffat@wnyilp.org  
<http://www.wnyilp.org/RRTCILM>

**Principal Investigator:** Douglas J. Usiak

**Public Contact:** John Moffat 716/836-0822; Fax: 716/835-3967

**Project Number:** H133B000002

**Start Date:** November 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$600,000; FY 01 \$600,000; FY 02 \$600,000; FY 03 \$600,000; FY 04 \$600,000

**Abstract:** To help Centers for Independent Living (CIL) become integrated more fully with their communities, this project identifies and applies best practices, finding examples from both inside and outside the CIL network. The work is conducted embracing, supporting, and emulating the principles of the independent living philosophy, which encompass consumer control, self-help, advocacy, peer relationships, peer role models, and empowerment. The seven projects of the RRTC-ILM are: (1) developing a database of CIL resources, aggregating the information to develop and implement a set of related research, training, and dissemination projects whose best practices help to build a secure economic foundation for CILs; (2) designing and testing options for generating funding from alternative sources, through collaborations with others that include building business development strategies; (3) identifying best practices and developing test programs that allow CILs to expand their services to older people and youth with disabilities and their families, including those from diverse cultural backgrounds, and to interface with existing educational and transitional programs to prepare the elderly, children and youth for independent living; (4) modifying and testing management models so those strategies benefit CILs; (5) investigating CIL and VR agency policies related to collaborations, and designing strategies for innovative partnerships that promote employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities; (6) coordinating activities with the Rehabilitation Services Administration and providing instruments, curricula, methodologies, resource guides, and research findings; and (7) providing training and information for CIL policy-makers, administrators, and advocates on the RRTC's research findings and identified strategies.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
New York

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Traumatic Brain  
Injury Interventions**

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Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
Research and Training Center  
One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1240  
New York, NY 10029  
wayne.gordon@mssm.edu  
<http://www.mssm.edu/tbinet>

**Principal Investigator:** Wayne A. Gordon, PhD

**Public Contact:** 212/659-9372 (V); 212/241-8978 (TTY); Fax: 212/348-5901

**Project Number:** H133B040033

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$700,000; FY 05 \$700,000

**Abstract:** The research program includes two randomized clinical trials (RCTs) and two projects supportive of better everyday interventions and better research: Research Study 1 (R1) is an RCT of a treatment for depression: cognitive behavioral therapy, adapted to address the unique cognitive and behavioral challenges of people with TBI that often pose barriers to treating depression, a major factor in reducing post-TBI quality of life, is compared to supportive therapy. In R2, a second RCT, a standard day treatment program is compared to a similar program (Executive Plus), augmented with modules to improve executive functioning and attention training. R3, Support for Evidence-Based Practice, evaluates all published research on post-TBI interventions and assessment of outcomes; it serves as a national resource for disseminating the results. It also implements three PAR-based analyses of high priority areas, including meta-analyses if appropriate. In addressing improved outcome measurement, R4 focuses on the PART instrument, a measure of participation currently being tested within eight TBI Model Systems. R4 focuses on creating a subjective approach to serve as a complement to the PART's current focus on objective assessment. A major focus of the RRTC is placed on capacity building of clinical and research professionals: to address the need for better day-to-day interventions in the lives of people with TBI. Often their medical needs are misread, their brain injury goes unidentified and they find services and accommodations inappropriate. Capacity building focuses on students early in their educational career - to help shape career choice and points of view; graduate and post-graduate students; and practicing "gate keepers" in the community, primarily psychologists and physicians.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Oregon

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center to Improve Services for  
Children with Serious Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities and Their  
Families**

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Portland State University  
Regional Research Institute  
School of Social Work  
P.O. Box 751  
Portland, OR 97207-0751  
gordonL@pdx.edu  
<http://www.rtc.pdx.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Barbara Friesen, PhD

**Public Contact:** Lynn Gordon, Associate Director and Conference Coordinator 503/725-4166; Fax:  
503/725-4180

**Project Number:** H133B990025

**Start Date:** October 01, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$725,000; FY 00 \$725,000; FY 01 \$300,000; FY 02 \$725,000; FY 03  
\$725,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Other Funding:** FY 99 \$150,000 (Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)); FY 00 \$155,000  
(CMHS); FY 01 \$570,000 (CMHS); FY 03 \$500,000 (CMHS); FY 04 \$300,000 (CMHS)

**Abstract:** This project conducts an integrated set of research, training, and technical assistance activities to study and promote effective, community-based, culturally competent, family-centered, individualized and strength-based services for children and youth with emotional or behavioral disorders and their families. Research issues include caregivers and employment, inclusive child care, early intervention, education and service planning, service delivery, training and mentoring.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Oregon

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Community  
Integration for Individuals with Disabilities, Strengthening Family and  
Youth Participation in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

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**Project Number:** H133B040038

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$835,000; FY 05 \$835,000

**Abstract:** This project conducts research, training, and technical assistance activities to study and promote effective, community-based, culturally competent, family-centered, individualized, and strength-based services for children and youth with emotional or behavioral disorders and their families. Projects include: (1) "Community Integration (CI) of Transition-Age Youth," designed to gain understanding of CI and related concepts from the perspectives of transition-age youth, young adults, and caregivers; (2) "Transforming Futures: Research on Expanding the Career Aspirations of Youth with Mental and Emotional Disorders," features a web-based intervention connecting youth with adult mentors, employed in a variety of fields, who have experienced mental illness; (3) "Partnerships in Individualized Planning" develops an intervention to increase youth and family member participation in the individualized service planning process, a conceptual framework for understanding recovery in children's mental health, and ways to reduce stigma; (4) "Work-Life Integration" addresses CI for adult caregivers of children and youth with emotional disorders, specifically around maintaining employment. It is designed to influence human resource professionals' practice, and aims to reduce stigma and increase organizations' family friendliness; (5) "Transforming Transitions to Kindergarten" focuses on the preschool-kindergarten transition for young children with challenging behaviors. It develops and tests an intervention promoting children's successful school entry while empowering caregivers; (6) "Practice-Based Evidence: Building Effectiveness from the Ground Up," conducts a case study in partnership with a Native American youth organization and the National Indian Child Welfare Association, and addresses the need to study practices that are believed to be helpful, but for which little evidence exists.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Pennsylvania

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center Promoting Community  
Integration of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities**

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**Principal Investigator:** Mark Salzer, PhD

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**Project Number:** H133B031109

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$749,212; FY 04 \$749,816; FY 05 \$749,803

**Abstract:** The goal of this Center is to insure that people with psychiatric disabilities not only move from institutional care to more integrated settings but also are free to choose to participate in a wide range of roles in their communities. The Center's five year mission focuses on three core areas: (1) Factors Associated with Community Integration develops a coherent conceptual framework for community integration and identifies key factors, intervention models, and appropriate instrumentation and research methodologies; (2) Policies Associated with Community Integration identifies, develops, and assesses the effectiveness of a range of public policies and system strategies promoting community integration and engage key stakeholders in learning about and utilizing the Center's findings; and (3) Intervention Supports that Assist Community Integration identifies, develops, and assesses the effectiveness of support service interventions promoting community integration, and provides training, technical assistance, and dissemination based on those initiatives to change behaviors and practices of key stakeholders. This Center capitalizes upon the longstanding history of collaboration among three Philadelphia-based central partners: The University of Pennsylvania, the peer-operated Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and The Matrix Center at Horizon House, Inc.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Texas

**Rehabilitation and Training Center on Community Integration in  
Persons With TBI**

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**Principal Investigator:** Angelle M. Sander, PhD; Margaret Struchen, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 713/383-5644 (Sander); 713/383-5645 (Struchen)

**Project Number:** H133B031117

**Start Date:** November 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$799,960; FY 04 \$799,968; FY 05 \$799,936

**Abstract:** The research program of this project includes: development and evaluation of a social network mentoring program; an investigation of racial/ethnic differences in acceptance of disability, community integration needs, barriers, and supports; a distance learning program to train family members in rural areas as paraprofessionals; assessment of employers' attitudes toward persons with TBI and a pilot educational intervention to reduce attitudinal barriers in the workplace; a randomized clinical trial to assess the effectiveness of a brief substance abuse intervention; a qualitative exploration of intimacy following TBI; and a study investigating the role of social communication abilities and environmental factors on social integration. Training projects include: a National Information, Educational Resources, Dissemination, and Technical Assistance Center for the Community Integration of Individuals With TBI; development of educational materials for increasing community awareness of TBI and reducing attitudinal barriers; adoption of a social action network program from disability studies for improving positive identity; partnering with artists in the community to implement a Center for Creative Expressions for persons with TBI; training of community healthcare professionals in the community integration needs of persons with TBI; a rehabilitation fellowship in community integration of persons with TBI; and a state-of-the-science conference and book on community integration.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Iowa

### Asset Accumulation And Tax Policy Project

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**Principal Investigator:** Peter D. Blanck, PhD, JD 319/335-9043

**Public Contact:** Michael Morris, JD; James Schmeling, JD 319/335-9043; 202/521-2930 (Morris); 319/335-8458 (Schmeling); Fax: 319/335-9764

**Project Number:** H133A031732

**Start Date:** November 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$299,991; FY 04 \$299,991; FY 05 \$299,991

**Abstract:** This project develops and disseminates a new and comprehensive body of knowledge to multiple target audiences nationwide to improve the economic independence, social empowerment, and community integration of persons with disabilities. Researchers examine systematically the relationship between tax policy and asset accumulation for persons with disabilities, and resultant improvements in economic and community integration. The project investigates the impact of multiple intervention strategies—including financial education, matched savings accounts, expanded financial services, and increased use of state and Federal tax incentives for asset and community economic development—in six states and ten pilot demonstration sites nationwide on youth in transition and adults with disabilities. This project is a collaborative effort of The Law, Health Policy, and Disability Center at the University of Iowa College of Law, Southern New Hampshire University School of Community Economic Development, the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, the World Institute on Disability, and the National Cooperative Bank Development Corporation.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Kansas

**The Impact of Interventions on Self-Determination and Adult Outcomes**

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**Principal Investigator:** Michael Wehmeyer, PhD (University of Kansas); Laurie Powers, PhD (Oregon Health Sciences University) 785/864-7605

**Public Contact:** 785/864-0723; Fax: 785/864-3458

**Project Number:** H133A031727

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$299,313; FY 04 \$299,967; FY 05 \$299,616

**Abstract:** This project conducts three semi-longitudinal, national studies examining the impact of interventions to promote the self-determination of students with high incidence and low incidence disabilities, and students who are at-risk for less desirable adult outcomes on student self-determination, adult outcomes, and quality of life. In all three studies, participants receive instruction for several years (with annual measurements) and adult outcomes are measured during the next two years, post-high school. The first study focuses on students with learning disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities, and emotional/behavioral disorders. The second study focuses on students with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, and severe autism. The third study focuses on students with disabilities from foster systems or juvenile justice system. For the school-based studies of students with learning disabilities and mental retardation, participating school campuses are randomly assigned to treatment conditions. An alternate treatment-control group design ensures that each site obtains training in self-determination related supports, but one level of training does not involve direct instruction with students. Research follow-up in the first and second years post-high school for all study participants will yield information about the impact of services and instruction using self-determination and student involvement during high school and in transition services on the study sample. This investigation will provide a firm evidence base for student-directed learning and self-determination in school and community resource settings.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Oregon

**Identification and Reporting of Violence By People with Disabilities**

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<http://selfdetermination.ohsu.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Laurie Powers, PhD 503/232-9154, ext. 104

**Public Contact:** Elizabeth McNeff, MPA, MHA 503/232-9154, ext. 150; Fax: 503/232-6423

**Project Number:** H133A031724

**Start Date:** December 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Joyce Y. Caldwell

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$300,000; FY 04 \$300,000; FY 05 \$300,000

**Abstract:** The purpose of this project is to reduce the prevalence of violence against people with disabilities. People with disabilities are at substantially higher risk for violence, abuse, and criminal victimization than the general population. The identification and reporting of violence typically involves individuals' self-identifying as victims and accessing safety and reporting information and resources, as well as the availability of sensitive and accessible reporting methods. The goal of this project is to improve the identification, reporting, and response to violence against persons with disabilities living in the community by: (1) validating the efficacy of a culturally sensitive approach to promote violence screening, safety behaviors, disclosure and reporting by women with disabilities; (2) increasing knowledge of the extent to which current crime reporting methods incorporate disability status and accommodation information, and the barriers faced by police jurisdictions across the nation in documenting and facilitating crime reporting by persons with disabilities; and (3) identifying practices and policies that promotes and support violence disclosure and reporting by individuals with disabilities.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Arizona

### **The Texas Trilingual Initiative: Providing Effective Communication for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Hispanic**

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**Principal Investigator:** Roseann Gonzalez, PhD; Paul Gatto, CPhil

**Public Contact:** Paul Gatto, CPhil 520/621-3615; Fax: 520/624-8130

**Project Number:** H133G040115

**Start Date:** November 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,957; FY 05 \$149,957

**Abstract:** The Texas Trilingual Initiative is an innovative and efficient Trilingual Interpreter Certification Program to address an under-recognized “trilingual” language barrier (ASL, English, and Spanish) that affects deaf and hard of hearing Hispanics. This barrier presents access problems for deaf and hard of hearing Hispanics, who may use only American Sign Language (ASL) but must communicate with both English and Spanish speakers, often at the same time. This trilingual language barrier often affects Hispanic deaf and hard of hearing children who learn ASL in school, but whose parents speak Spanish and whose service providers speak English. Providing access to critical educational, health, legal, and social services requires interpreters who can competently bridge these three differing cultures and languages. This certification program—to be conducted in partnership with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services - Division for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services—includes the development, piloting, and validation of beginning and advanced level trilingual interpreting certification tests to assess interpreting capability from Spanish/English to ASL and ASL to Spanish/English.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

California

# Occupational Therapy Evaluation and Training Module to Guide Practice with Parents with Physical Disabilities

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Through the Looking Glass  
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Berkeley, CA 94710-2204  
TLG@lookingglass.org  
<http://www.lookingglass.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Megan Kirshbaum, PhD 510/848-1112

**Public Contact:** 800/644-2666 (V); 800/804-1616 (TTY); Fax: 510/848-4445

**Project Number:** H133G010054

**Start Date:** November 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$150,000; FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project develops an evaluation tool and an evaluation training module that helps occupational therapy students and clinicians in their work with parents with physical disabilities, a currently underserved population. The training module, which consists of a clinical evaluation tool, a manual, and a videotape, guides clinical reasoning and the ability to provide appropriate recommendations and options that take into consideration the baby care roles and adapted baby care equipment needs of parents with physical disabilities who care for (or want to care for) their children. The training module provides a guide to evaluation of baby care needs and intervention in a variety of settings. Parents who have physical disabilities who also have children birth to age 3 inform production, piloting, and field-testing. Further, occupational therapy expertise is needed nationally regarding AT related to parenting. This is especially true as regards evaluation of parents with disabilities whose capability is being questioned, for example in custody, child protection, or adoption situations. This module paves the way for more inclusion of occupational therapist expertise in these evaluation circumstances.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

California

# Total Community Immersion Model for Postsecondary-Age Students with Significant Disabilities: An Outcome-Based Approach to Transition

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**Principal Investigator:** Nicholas Certo, PhD

**Public Contact:** 415/338-2503; Fax: 415/338-0566

**Project Number:** H133G020184

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project develops, implements, and evaluates a Total Community Immersion Model for transitioning students who are 19 and 20 years old from several metropolitan school districts in San Francisco Bay Area. The Oakland Unified School District, and other Bay Area School Districts in collaboration with San Francisco State University, have spent the last three years establishing the Transition Service Integration Model, which has produced a seamless transition to adulthood by integrating services with adult service providers functioning as receiving agencies and the rehabilitation and developmental disability systems at the point of transition. However, that model focuses exclusively on the needs of pending graduates, that is, 21-year-old students during their last year of school, and could benefit from receiving students with well-developed preferences for community living and employment. A new model, developed through this research, eliminates the use of a fixed school site and develops initial work and non-work activities that facilitate inclusion into each individual's neighborhood, as well as other communities in Oakland and the metropolitan Bay Area.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Florida

### RAICES/Promotoras

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<http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu/cfsnews/2003news/RAICES.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Mario Hernandez, PhD 813/974-4651

**Public Contact:** Linda M. Callejas 813/974-4651; Fax: 813/974-7563

**Project Number:** H133G030014

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Joyce Y. Caldwell

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,992; FY 04 \$149,948; FY 05 \$149,992

**Abstract:** RAICES/Promotoras develops and tests a method of service provision that integrates a model known as Promotoras with a locally funded school-linked case management approach known as the Family and School Support Team (FASST). FASST provides school and in-home services for children and their families funded through the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. The RAICES project targets at-risk limited English speaking and Spanish monolingual Latino children or those with serious emotional disturbance enrolled in grades K-5 and their families in rural south Hillsborough County, Florida. The project also targets service providers and school personnel that serve Latino families. "Raices," or "roots," symbolizes building healthy school and family ties upon the foundations present within the family and community. Promotoras, or community educators, are community members who use their knowledge of local resources and their neighborhood's health and social issues to promote healthy living and help community residents access needed health and social services. Case management programs such as FASST face challenges in identifying, mobilizing, and sustaining informal resources to support families. The Promotoras model offers a vehicle to make needed modification of local services through development of more culturally competent methods for linking and engaging Latino families with FASST and schools.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

### University of Illinois at Chicago Mental Health Services Research Program Medication Adherence Program Study (UIC-MAPS)

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**Principal Investigator:** Lisa A. Razzano, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/422-8180, ext. 20; Fax: 312/422-0740

**Project Number:** H133G010093

**Start Date:** September 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$150,000; FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 8/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This project examines the effects of a multifaceted curriculum designed to improve adherence to medication and treatment regimens, explore attitudes regarding physical health and treatment planning, and improve the ability of participants to return to work. The UIC-MAPS intervention comprises several components, including: (1) developing an educational workshop consisting of three one-hour modules regarding health information, use of anti-retroviral medications, treatment planning, maintaining health, detecting early symptoms of illness progression, and other topics; (2) developing individualized medication plans; (3) meeting with clients and their identified sources of social support to address medication and services issues; and (4) hosting monthly peer-led support groups on medication adherence, attitudes toward health and medication regimens, and issues related to health, well-being, and quality of life. The project includes a comprehensive evaluation designed to make significant contributions to the state-of-the-science literature regarding employment and adherence among people living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, information from peer support group leaders regarding their role(s) in working with other individuals living with HIV/AIDS is examined. The Mental Health Services Research Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago is collaborating with Chicago House, a community-based HIV/AIDS services organization on this project.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Moving Out of the Nursing Home and to the Community: Examining and Effecting Social Change

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<http://www.uic.edu/ahs/OT/research.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Joy Hammel

**Public Contact:** 312/996-3513; Fax: 312/413-0256

**Project Number:** H133G010033

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,989; FY 02 \$149,993; FY 03 \$149,981; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project develops, evaluates, and disseminates a social action and networking program with people with disabilities who are transitioning from nursing homes to communities of their choice. The majority of community reintegration program research has focused on individual functional skill development as delivered by professionals. This new social action program, based on disability studies research and disability narratives, targets four major unmet needs for: (1) sustained networking with peers, mentors, and activists who have disabilities who can share experiences and strategies; (2) joining meaningful social reference groups, especially those in which disability identity, pride, community membership, and collective activism are valued and modeled; (3) using information technologies, such as computers and the Internet, to gain knowledge, socialize, and network with identified communities of choice; and (4) gaining access to consultative services and resources to access these technologies and the community environment over time. The project uses a participatory action research collaboration approach to create and research the impact of this social action program on long-term community living, participation, quality of life, social networking, and individual and collective identity development processes and outcomes. The project involves a collaborative partnership to effect social change among two Centers for Independent Living, two departments within the Joint Doctoral Program in Disability Studies at the University of Illinois/Chicago (UIC), the Center on Disability Research at UIC, and state agencies and disability organizations involved in community reintegration and resource allocation to support community living.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Integration at Home: Strengthening Family Relationships of Adults with Disabilities

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**Principal Investigator:** Carol J. Gill, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/355-0550 (V); 312/996-4664 (TTY); Fax: 312/996-7743

**Project Number:** H133G020146

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard E. Wilson II, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,957; FY 03 \$149,976; FY 04 \$149,990

**Abstract:** This study investigates the family relationship issues of adults with physical or mobility disabilities and adults with chronic fatigue syndrome. Phase I involves focus group interviews with adults with disabilities for an open exploration of family relationship issues. Phase II involves in-depth case studies of families experiencing disability who exemplify positive family integration. Phase III involves a randomized control group study to test the impact of a family “intervention” based on the social model of disability.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

### Enabling Self-Determination for People Living with AIDS

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**Principal Investigator:** Gary Kielhofner, PhD; Brent Braveman, PhD 312/996-4973 (Kielhofner);  
312/355-2656 (Braveman)

**Public Contact:** Fax: 312/413-0256

**Project Number:** H133G020217

**Start Date:** January 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,032; FY 03 \$149,337; FY 04 \$149,764

**Abstract:** This project implements and studies a model program of peer-facilitated, empowerment-oriented services for people with AIDS within five supportive living facilities. The facility-based program provides individualized and group services that are tailored to each client's needs and provides clients with necessary environmental supports. The program also empowers clients to access additional resources and services that support their self-determination. This model program, Enabling Self-Determination, is initially offered to clients in three supportive living facilities. Researchers study: (1) the independent living, employment, and community participation outcomes of the model program, and (2) the three facilities' efforts to sustain the program. This condition is compared to a control group comprised of individuals from two other facilities who receive basic educational services. Participatory research methods are used to identify potential obstacles and solutions to program implementation and efficacy, and to evaluate how the services impact upon and are viewed by the clients. Researchers work closely with the two control group facilities to build their capacity to implement the model program. In this way, the five transitional living facilities in Chicago that serve persons with AIDS are empowered to sustain the Enabling Self-Determination program. Finally, the project creates extensive resources for program replication and vigorously disseminates the model program so that community-based supportive living facilities can replicate the program nationwide.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

### **Homeless Mentally Ill: Strategies for Maintaining Residential Stability**

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**Project Number:** H133G040320

**Start Date:** December 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,976; FY 05 \$149,994

**Abstract:** This project implements, evaluates, and disseminates a life skills intervention to increase skills necessary for maintaining housing for 230 homeless adults with psychiatric disabilities to prevent their return to the streets, reinstitutionalization, hospitalization, or jail. These skills include room and self care management, food management, financial management, and safe community participation. This three-year project is conducted in two housing programs: supervised emergency housing and single room occupancy housing with case management. The intervention was developed based on Empowerment Theory, the Transtheoretical Model of Change, Social Learning Theory using a skills training approach, and the Model of Human Occupation. The objective of this intervention is to increase the time an individual remains housed and decrease the evictions that occur secondary to his/her inability to perform the skills and behaviors necessary to maintain housing.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Indiana

# Integrating Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Illness Management and Recovery (IMR) for Clients with Severe Mental Illness (SMI)

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**Principal Investigator:** Michelle P. Salyers, PhD

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**Project Number:** H133G030106

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,458; FY 04 \$149,559; FY 05 \$149,900

**Abstract:** This project targets the subgroup of 20 percent of consumers with severe mental illness identified with the most severe disabilities, that is, the subgroup most often excluded from rehabilitation services and mental health treatment. The project involves: (1) the systematic integration and high-fidelity implementation of two evidence-based practices for consumers with severe mental illness: assertive community treatment and illness management and recovery; (2) enhancing integration by employing a consumer specialist on treatment teams in a well-defined role; and (3) providing the first empirical test of a comprehensive package of techniques designed to help consumers learn to manage their own illness and foster recovery. Outcome measures include achievement of recovery goals, such as competitive employment and independent living, as well as indicators of illness management, such as prevention of hospitalization.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Kansas

# Independent Living for People with Psychiatric Disabilities: Using Contextual Cues to Remove Environmental Barriers

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**Principal Investigator:** Catana Brown, PhD

**Public Contact:** 913/588-7195; Fax: 913/588-4568

**Project Number:** H133G000152

**Start Date:** August 01, 2000

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard E. Wilson II, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$148,765; FY 01 \$136,107; FY 02 \$148,672; FY 03 \$0 (No-cost extension through 4/30/2004); FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 4/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project examines an intervention that reduces environmental barriers by teaching contextual cues. The grocery store, an exemplar of a complex community-based environment, is the focus, and grocery shopping is the designated skill. The hypotheses tests the effectiveness of the intervention in improving knowledge, performance, and application of grocery shopping skills, and the relationship of cognition to skill acquisition. Individuals with psychiatric disabilities from five community-based sites are randomly assigned to either the grocery shopping intervention or a wait-list control group. Outcome measures address all levels of skill acquisition: knowledge, performance (including generalizability and maintenance), and application of grocery shopping skills. In addition, measures of basic cognitive processes and executive functioning determine whether cognition predicts skill acquisition. Consumer collaborators are included in all aspects of the program. The findings provide direction for enhancing this and other skills training interventions.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Louisiana

### **Louisiana Community Housing Advocacy Network (LA-CHAN)**

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Health Science Center  
LSU HSC-HCD #119  
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**Principal Investigator:** Philip Wilson, PhD 504/942-8240

**Public Contact:** Nancy Robertson 504/942-7898; Fax: 504/942-5908

**Project Number:** H133G020211

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The goal of this project is to establish community Housing Advocacy Networks in several areas in Louisiana. The purpose of the advocacy networks is to provide a foundation for collaboration among persons with disabilities, disability service providers, and housing professionals that will: (1) develop local housing policies that are responsive to the housing needs of persons with disabilities, (2) ensure communities access all available national housing resources for persons with disabilities, and (3) establish local programs and service that meet the unique housing needs of persons with disabilities. Anticipated project outcomes include: (1) increased availability of mainstream housing vouchers, (2) increased participation of persons with disabilities in the local Consolidated Planning Process, and (3) the successful transition of individuals from restrictive residential settings to community-based housing options. This project also recruits, hires, and trains individuals with significant disabilities to serve as housing advocates and play an integral role in ensuring individuals with disabilities are active participants in the networks.

Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)  
Michigan

## Stress and Coping over the Life Course: A Perspective on Women with Spinal Cord Injury

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<http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr>

**Principal Investigator:** Denise G. Tate, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 734/936-7052; Fax: 734/936-7048

**Project Number:** H133G020060

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Constance Pledger, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,995; FY 03 \$149,999; FY 04 \$149,997

**Abstract:** This investigation describes the challenges to independent living faced by women with SCI and the strategies they use to manage the stresses of everyday life. The ratio of men to women who sustain SCI is approximately four to one, with current national prevalence of women estimated to be 36,900. Much of the research on SCI has focused on men and may not reflect the experiences of women with SCI. Even more than their male counterparts, women with SCI endure multiple minority status, poverty, lack of education, job discrimination, and restricted choices, and are often burdened by extra care-taking responsibilities, all of which may elevate their risk for stress-related disorders. This study: (1) documents, from a contextual life perspective, the ways women with SCI perceive and respond to stressful life events; (2) explores, in depth, effective and ineffective ways of coping; and (3) assesses the impact these strategies have on quality of life.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
Michigan

**Community Participation After Spinal Cord Injury: Idioms of Beliefs  
and Behaviors**

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Wayne State University  
Institute of Gerontology  
87 East Ferry Street  
Knapp Building, Room 231  
Detroit, MI 48202  
c.lysack@wayne.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Catherine Lysack, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 313/577-2297; Fax: 313/875-0127

**Project Number:** H133G020151

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,959; FY 03 \$149,974; FY 04 \$149,539

**Abstract:** This study identifies and describes the self-defined forms of community and the modes of community participation found meaningful to persons living with SCI. The five specific aims are to: (1) discover and describe the self-defined forms of community that people with SCI envision and pursue in daily life; (2) identify and describe the cultural and individual idioms of beliefs and behaviors by which people with SCI create a sense of identification and participate in personally valued communities; (3) identify the barriers to participation in desired communities, and strategies and techniques (if any) that persons with SCI use to overcome these barriers; (4) compare and contrast persons in two groups (new onset SCI and more longstanding duration) in terms of the forms of community, idioms of identification, and strategies used to overcome barriers and achieve meaningful community participation; and (5) evaluate preliminary qualitative hypotheses about the nature and modes of community participation actually envisioned by persons with SCI themselves.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**

Minnesota

**National Study on the Impact of SSI Redetermination of 18-Year-Old Youth with Disabilities on Employment, Independent Living, and Community Participation Outcomes**

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University of Minnesota  
Institute on Community Integration  
102 Pattee Hall  
150 Pillsbury Drive SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0223  
johns006@umn.edu

**Principal Investigator:** David R. Johnson, PhD 612/624-1062

**Public Contact:** Jane Fields 612/625-0350; Fax: 612/624-9344

**Project Number:** H133G000201

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$149,988; FY 01 \$149,946; FY 02 \$149,955; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 3/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This project performs three specific types of studies and analyses on the impact of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) redetermination: (1) individual and family case studies: in-depth case studies in three or four states, to understand better the impact of SSI redetermination policies and practices on individuals and families; (2) research integration/synthesis: previous post-school outcome, policy, and service delivery research studies and reports focusing on Social Security Administration (SSA) policies and practices, reviewed, synthesized, and reported in a comprehensive monograph; and (3) an expert panel/best practices review: "promising" or "best" practices related to SSA's SSI redetermination policies and practices, identified and reviewed.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Minnesota

### **National Training Institute for Frontline Supervisors (NTIFF)**

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University of Minnesota  
Institute on Community Integration  
214B Pattee Hall, 150 Pillsbury Drive, SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
larso072@umn.edu  
<http://rtc.umn.edu/ntiffs/main/index.asp>

**Principal Investigator:** Sheryl Larson, PhD 612/624-6024

**Public Contact:** Nancy McCulloh 612/626-7765; Fax: 612/625-6619

**Project Number:** H133G030058

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Joyce Y. Caldwell

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project refines, tests, and delivers a national train-the-trainer and technical assistance model to assist community organizations that provide supports and services to persons with developmental and other severe disabilities to recruit, retain, and train direct support and frontline supervisor staff members. The model includes: (1) assisting organizations to assess their recruitment and retention challenges; (2) providing web-based training on recruitment and retention strategies; (3) conducting 2 intensive train the trainer institutes for 10-15 organization representatives; (4) supporting organizational representatives to provide training to 70-100 frontline supervisors; (5) providing on-site as well as remote technical assistance support and training to organizational representatives; (6) supporting technical assistance efforts by organizational representatives for frontline supervisors; (7) supporting ongoing follow-up measurement to assess the effectiveness of interventions and to guide future intervention work; and (8) developing project products and reports to share the project outcomes with policy makers, provider organizations, and other interested persons.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Missouri

### PeerLink: Empowering Persons with Disabilities to Manage Their Own Information

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University of Missouri  
Department of Health Psychology, DC046.46  
1 Hospital Drive  
Columbia, MO 65211  
schoppl@health.missouri.edu  
<http://www.telerehab.net>

**Principal Investigator:** Laura Schopp, PhD

**Public Contact:** 573/882-8847; Fax: 573/884-4540

**Project Number:** H133G020065

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William V. Schutz, PhD, MSW, MPH

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$145,379; FY 03 \$145,911; FY 04 \$146,099

**Abstract:** This project develops an information management system that allows users to share personal and local community resource information instantaneously and selectively, according to their own specifications. The PeerLink team provides expertise in disability issues, informatics, and adaptive computing. PeerLink creates information innovation in three major goal areas: (1) peer-to-peer inspired information transfer model: developing, seeding, and implementing a highly disseminated, agile information system to promote effective service integration by enabling efficient consumer-directed information transfer; (2) knowledge management: converting implicit local resource information held by knowledgeable community members with disabilities in order to make vetted information more broadly available to other community members when and where they need it; and (3) graphic representation: capitalizing on an existing information dissemination user interface to allow access to geographically-based visualization of data for local disability resources.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

New York

# Evaluating Independent Living Outcomes for Blind and Visually Impaired Older People: Development of a Nationally Standardized Minimum Dataset (NSMD)

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American Foundation for the Blind  
11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300  
New York, NY 10001  
corinne@afb.net  
<http://www.afb.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Corinne Kirchner, PhD; Alberta L. Orr, MSW

**Public Contact:** 212/502-7640; Fax: 212/502-7773

**Project Number:** H133G010183

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$150,000; FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project develops and pilot tests a Nationally Standardized Minimum Dataset (NSMD), through which research can be conducted on the outcomes of services for older persons with visual impairments. This population has traditionally been underserved by public programs including the VR system and the aging network. The NSMD is piloted in several agencies throughout the country and includes: (1) pre-service consumer data, (2) a post-service consumer profile, (3) a functional outcomes assessment, and (4) a consumer satisfaction and perceived outcome survey. Public agency administrators and staff are the primary audience. Secondary target audiences are private agencies for the blind, centers for independent living, and consumers.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

New York

# A Longitudinal Study of Psychosocial Outcomes and Subjective Quality of Life Many Years After Traumatic Brain Injury

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Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
One Gustave Levy Place, Box 1240  
New York, NY 10029-6574  
marcel.dijkers@mssm.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Marcel Dijkers, PhD

**Public Contact:** 212/659-8587; Fax: 212/348-5901

**Project Number:** H133G030026

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,999; FY 04 \$149,999; FY 05 \$149,999

**Abstract:** This project is a longitudinal study of individuals with TBI who are on average 18 years post-injury. Between 1994 and 1997, the Research and Training Center on the Community Integration of Individuals with TBI at Mount Sinai School of Medicine conducted extensive quality of life and health interviews with over 800 individuals with TBI, spinal cord injury (SCI) and no disability (NO). The researchers for the current project will re-interview these same individuals eight to nine years after their initial interview, using most of the original measures. This project has three main objectives: (1) to document long-term psychosocial functioning post-TBI and its change over time; (2) to examine longitudinally subjective quality of life post-TBI as a primary indicator of adjustment to TBI; (3) to determine the predictors of change in subjective quality of life. The comparison groups provide a means of examining whether the changes observed in individuals with TBI reflect the unique experience of living with a TBI, the broader experience of living with a disability (comparison with the SCI group), or the general challenges we all face in conducting our daily lives (comparison with the NO group). Results of the study are disseminated through public conferences for both professionals and consumers, through publications in journals for consumers and professionals, and through the development of reports specifically targeted to individuals with TBI.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
Oregon

## **Getting A Life: Research on Individual and Person-Centered Planning Processes in Oregon**

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Educational and Community Supports  
1235 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1235  
ralbin@oregon.uoregon.edu  
<http://www.uoecs.org/grants/ECSprojects.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Richard Albin, PhD

**Public Contact:** 541/346-2464; Fax: 541/346-5517

**Project Number:** H133G010167

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$149,999; FY 02 \$149,999; FY 03 \$149,997; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project researches the relative merits of forms of Person-Centered Planning (PCP), including the Individualized Support or Service Plan (ISP) system, Essential Lifestyle Planning (ELP), and others. Activities include the following three studies: (1) surveying the features of individual planning systems used in Oregon at the start of the project and in Year 3 after large scale systems change efforts have occurred; (2) creating a causal-comparative 3-by-2 factorial group design, where study participants are assigned to groups based on whether they are experiencing a defined set of significant life challenges and the types of service planning they receive, with groups balanced or blocked based on demographic variables; and (3) creating a multiple-baseline single subject design in which the outcomes of three service planning approaches (ISPs, ELPs, and PCP) are compared related to specific outcomes for six individuals who experience challenging behavior.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**  
Oregon

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**Resilience in Students with TBI: A Longitudinal Investigation**

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Western Oregon University  
Teaching Research Division  
99 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 370  
Eugene, OR 97401  
anng@oregon.uoregon.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Ann E. Glang, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 541/346-0594; Fax: 541/346-0599

**Project Number:** H133G030179

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,950; FY 04 \$149,999; FY 05 \$149,966

**Abstract:** The project extends the work of Project PSO, a project investigating post-secondary outcomes for young adults with TBI, tracking this sample into their early 20's, a time when the subjects are making significant life adjustments in the areas of post-secondary education, employment, independent living, and interpersonal relationships. The Project's quantitative and qualitative data reveal that some of the 92 subjects appear to be resilient, achieving successful post-injury adjustments, while others are experiencing difficulty, becoming dependent on family members for instrumental and social support. The data suggest that access to specific types of educational interventions and support services account for these differences in adjustment. In addition, this project investigates factors that facilitate and impede delivery of services and support to young adults with TBI from key agencies, including VR, Social Security Administration, and state social service agencies serving individuals disabilities.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Oregon

# Community Environmental Assessment Project: A Multi-Method Approach to Identify Barriers, Assets, and Engage Communities for Change

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Oregon Health and Science University

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Portland, OR 97207-0574

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<http://cdrc.ohsu.edu/oodh>

**Principal Investigator:** Charles Drum, JD, PhD 503/494-8047

**Public Contact:** Amber Roberts 503/494-3331; Fax: 503/494-6868

**Project Number:** H133G020125

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Unknown

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project develops a multi-method approach to measure a community's level of accessibility. The project measures accessibility of communities through a process of community engagement and use of extant data. Effectively measuring community accessibility through the explication and depiction of extant data at the local level can provide the means for participatory social change at low cost, using available resources. The project's major objectives and activities include: (1) identifying access issues in different communities through a call-back survey of people with disabilities, summarizing results by type and location of community; (2) engaging community members through a community engagement methodology to identify local needs and resources and measurable indicators of barriers and facilitators; (3) developing community profiles based on measurable indicators (including statistical data and maps with geographic information systems); (4) evaluating community access at the local community level by reviewing all data and maps to address future plans, policies, or interventions to improve access with disability experts, community leaders, service and government agencies, and planners; and (5) developing and disseminating a handbook that summarizes the multi-method approach. The project summarizes procedures and findings and disseminates them nationally.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Oregon

### Healthy Lifestyles Evaluation Project

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Oregon Health and Science University

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Portland, OR 97207-0574

drumc@ohsu.edu

<http://cdrc.ohsu.edu/oodh>

**Principal Investigator:** Charles Drum, JD, PhD 503/494-8047

**Public Contact:** 503/494-3331; Fax: 503/494-6868

**Project Number:** H133G020231

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Constance Pledger, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project evaluates the effectiveness of the Healthy Lifestyles for People with Disabilities training curriculum. To achieve this goal, the project: (1) conducts ten Healthy Lifestyles training events for persons with disabilities through local Centers for Independent Living within the Portland metropolitan area and statewide; (2) assesses the level of wellness and the healthy lifestyles attitudes, knowledge, and skills of participants over the course of the project (before and after participating, and over time, to evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum in establishing and maintaining long-term lifestyle changes); (3) assesses participants' completion of lifestyle change goals; and (4) compares participants' wellness and healthy lifestyles attitudes, knowledge, and skills to that of controls.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

South Carolina

# Stability of Vocational Interests Two Years after Spinal Cord Injury: Relationship with Employment, Participation, and Subjective Well-Being

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Medical University of South Carolina  
College of Health Professions  
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences  
Research Office  
19 Hagood Ave, Suite 910; PO Box 250822  
Charleston, SC 29425  
cokerj@musc.edu

**Principal Investigator:** James S. Krause, PhD 843/792-1337

**Public Contact:** Jennifer Coker, MPH 843/792-2605; Fax: 843/792-1107

**Project Number:** H133G030151

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Joyce Y. Caldwell

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$149,944; FY 04 \$149,913; FY 05 \$149,352

**Abstract:** The primary objectives of this study are to identify how much interests change in the first two years after SCI onset, factors related to change, and the extent to which interest type and interest change are associated with employment, participation, and subjective well-being. Return to gainful employment has been widely endorsed as fundamental rehabilitation goal after the onset of a SCI, yet employment rates for people with SCI rarely exceed 30 percent. This high unemployment rate is generally attributed to the dramatic impact of SCI on ability to perform job functions requiring physical strength and dexterity. However, successful employment is related to both the extent to which the individual is able to perform the needed job functions and the degree to which the job environment and job tasks are intrinsically interesting to the individual. Unfortunately, research has shown that SCI often occurs selectively to people whose interests are in physically challenging activities that may no longer be possible given the physical limitations imposed by SCI. The impact of no longer being able to perform intrinsically rewarding activities not only poses a threat to successful return to work, but also to overall participation in society and subjective well-being. By helping rehabilitation professionals to better understand the relationships of both interest type and interest stability with employment, participation, and well-being, this study lays a foundation for intervention strategies that maximize opportunities for participation and help people with SCI to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives.es:

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Texas

# Depression and Rural Women with Disabilities: Testing a CIL-Based Self-Management Program

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Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Center for Research on Women with Disabilities  
3440 Richmond Avenue, Suite B  
Houston, TX 77046-3403  
rhughes@bcm.tmc.edu  
<http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/crowd>

**Principal Investigator:** Rosemary B. Hughes, PhD

**Public Contact:** 713/960-0505; Fax: 713/961-3555

**Project Number:** H133G030170

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project evaluates a depression self-management intervention for reducing and preventing depression in rural women with disabilities, implemented in ten rural centers for independent living (CIL). Each of the ten CILs identifies two women with disabilities (one CIL staff counselor with a disability and another woman with a physical disability) to serve as co-leaders for the intervention and select a licensed mental health professional to intervene with crises and provide resources and referral services as needed. Approximately 200 women are randomly assigned: 100 to the traditional CIL services plus an 8-session self-management of depression intervention group, and 100 to the traditional CIL services-only group. The intervention is designed to increase participants' understanding and self-management of depression as it relates to experiences of secondary and chronic health problems, stress, lack of support, chronic pain, and abuse. The goals of this project are to (1) develop and implement a depression self-management program for women with physical disabilities, including women with newly recognized disabilities such as chronic fatigue immune deficiency syndrome and fibromyalgia; and (2) disseminate the findings to rural women with disabilities, rural independent living counselors, researchers, and mental health service providers.h:

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**

Texas

**Caregiver and Environmental Influences on Outcome for Infants and Preschoolers with Traumatic Brain Injury**

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University of Texas  
Health Science Center at Houston  
7000 Fannin, Suite 2401  
Houston, TX 77030

**Principal Investigator:** Mary R. Prasad 713/500-3876

**Project Number:** H133G040279

**Start Date:** November 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,225; FY 05 \$149,970

**Abstract:** This project is guided by a transactional model of development which postulates that child's eventual outcome is a result of transactions between the child's biological risk factors and a continuum of environmental conditions. Project 1 assesses predictors of outcome in infants and preschoolers with moderate or severe TBI who are 6 to 47 months of age in relation to socio-demographically matched comparison children. Child behavior, caregiver stress, and family functioning are expected to have a direct impact on outcome from TBI; however, the effect of brain injury on developmental outcomes is also expected to be partially mediated through the influence of these factors on the caregiver-child interaction. Project 2 pilots a randomized controlled home-based caregiver-focused intervention for infants and preschoolers with TBI that enhances caregiver skills for stimulating cognitive development.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Washington

# Multi-Family Group Intervention for Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury Patients and Families

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Inland Northwest Health Service  
105 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
Spokane, WA 99204-2318  
beckerb@st-lukes.org

**Principal Investigator:** Bruce Becker, MD

**Public Contact:** 509/473-6048; Fax: 509/473-6978

**Project Number:** H133G020006

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard E. Wilson II, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project establishes two SCI and two TBI multi-family group (MFG) interventions to support and teach families and patients about the disability process and management strategies. MFG is a structured management strategy that has been extensively tested in the management of chronic schizophrenia and more recently adapted for other chronic disabling conditions. This strategy brings together groups of six to eight families with two MFG group clinician/facilitators in a psycho-educational problem-solving format, over a period of 18 months. Families are given the opportunity to discover and share problems and solutions about the process of living with other families and patients through the implementation of practical guidelines for effective coping. The intervention has been highly effective in reducing relapse and hospitalizations, and improving symptom control and quality of life, for persons with schizophrenia. This project compares TBI and SCI MFG groups for ease of implementation, efficacy (process and outcome), and cost, adapting measures previously studied in schizophrenia with those used in assessing family stress in SCI and TBI.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase I  
Colorado

**Interactive CD ROM Technology for Home-Based Autism Intervention**

Acanthus, Inc  
1506 Buttonwood Drive  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
jcjjones@aol.com; mjohnson@lamar.colostate.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Jan Jones

**Public Contact:** M.L. Johnson, PhD 970/495-0532; Fax: 970/495-0532

**Project Number:** H133S040124

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 6 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$75,000

**Abstract:** The long-term objective of this project is to produce a comprehensive set of research validated interactive CD ROM training packages that can be used by parents-as-teachers to foster independence of autistic individuals in school, community, and the workplace. The goals of Phase I are to produce the first two interactive training packages and then field-test them for parent training efficacy.

Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), Phase II  
Maryland

## Development and Testing of LD/LEP Friendly Computer Textbooks in Diverse Subjects, Classrooms, and Formats

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Visibooks, LLC  
10 Norva Avenue  
Frederick, MD 21701  
chris@visibooks.com  
<http://www.visibooks.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Christopher Charuhas  
**Public Contact:** 301/560-4611; Fax: 208/279-5336

**Project Number:** H133S030008

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 24 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$326,950; FY 04 \$155,160

**Abstract:** This project determines if textbooks based on a Phase I prototype help students with learning disabilities and low-English-proficiency (LEP) learn computer subjects better, faster, and easier. The study also determines if these textbooks are suitable for mainstream students, and if the books are effective when used in electronic format. Twenty Phase I-type textbooks on common computer subjects are produced and distributed to high school, college, and adult education computer classes containing LD, LEP, and mainstream students. One group of classes uses bound copies, another uses electronic copies, and a control group uses textbooks currently on the market. At the beginning of the semester, students in each class take a pre-test to measure existing knowledge. At the end of the semester, they take a post-test to measure what they've learned. Test data from two semesters is used to compare the progress of students in the bound, electronic, and current-book test groups.



## Associated Disability Research Areas

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Related disability research emphasizes knowledge areas that are cross-cutting and essential to the support and refinement of disability research generally. The common theme linking disability statistics, outcome measures, and the emerging fields of disability studies, rehabilitation science, and disability policy research is that they all provide essential frameworks and building blocks for the research and address important issues in a meaningful way.

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Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Illinois

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Measuring  
Rehabilitation Outcomes and Effectiveness**

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Feinberg School of Medicine  
Northwestern University  
Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research  
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago  
345 East Superior Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
a-heinemann@northwestern.edu  
[http://www.ric.org/research/outcomes/rrtc\\_projects.php](http://www.ric.org/research/outcomes/rrtc_projects.php)

**Principal Investigator:** Allen W. Heinemann, PhD 312/238-2802

**Public Contact:** Trudy Mallinson, PhD 312/238-1623; Fax: 312/238-2383

**Project Number:** H133B040032

**Start Date:** December 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$700,000; FY 05 \$700,000

**Abstract:** The purpose of this RRTC is to provide national leadership on the functional assessment, outcomes, and health policy issues facing the medical rehabilitation community and the diverse consumers it seeks to serve. The Center conducts research; hosts forums for discussion; publishes in the rehabilitation, health policy, and consumer literature; trains researchers in rehabilitation-focused health services research; and disseminates information to diverse consumer, provider, and academic audiences. The RRTC's research seeks to (1) enable comparison of functional status measures across post-acute settings so information can be provided to consumers and other rehabilitation stakeholders about the outcomes and effectiveness of various post-acute care settings; (2) develop an innovative measure of community participation in a meaningful, reliable, and valid manner in order to better describe the long-term outcomes of rehabilitation services; (3) increase the efficiency of outcome data collection so more resources can be directed to patient care; (4) examine how format and presentation style influences patient understanding of rehabilitation quality outcome indicators in order to provide information in ways that are helpful for consumers when selecting rehabilitation services. The project uses recent developments in item response theory and computer adaptive testing and stakeholder input in test development, outcomes reporting and quality indicator reporting. The expected outcomes are a rational basis for provision of rehabilitation services post-acute care settings, increased efficiency of data collection, a better measure of community participation, and outcome reporting that is responsive to stakeholder needs. Dissemination activities include post-graduate and post-doctoral training opportunities, conferences, and a website that provides information on measurement of rehabilitation outcomes across the continuum of post-acute settings.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
Kansas

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Policies Affecting  
Families of Children with Disabilities**

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University of Kansas  
Center for Research, Inc.  
Beach Center on Disability  
Haworth Hall, Room 3136; 1200 Sunnyside Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66045-7534  
turnbull@ku.edu  
<http://www.beachcenter.org>

**Principal Investigator:** H.R. Turnbull, LLM; Ann Turnbull, EdD

**Public Contact:** H. R. Turnbull, LLM 785/864-7600; Fax: 785/864-7605

**Project Number:** H133B031133

**Start Date:** November 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$749,951; FY 04 \$749,960; FY 05 \$749,997

**Abstract:** This center conducts eight research projects on the effects of the policies of governments, systems, networks, and agencies on the family quality of life and community integration (FQOL/FCI) of families who have children with developmental disabilities and emotional-behavioral disabilities or both. Researchers identify four target populations: families, providers, policy-leaders, and networks (all at the federal, state, and local levels). Three policy challenges are prisms through which the effects of policy on families can be understood: early intervention, alternative schools, and consumer control of funding. For each policy challenge, researchers inquire into whether the applicable federal and state policies and practices, and the applicable network policies, advance FQOL/FCI; whether the policies across education, social services, and health care are mutually consistent with each other and advance FQOL/FCI; and whether the practices of agencies in those systems advance FQOL/FCI. The center's analytical framework holds that the core concepts shape policies; policies shape services; policies and services should be coordinated and delivered through partnerships; enhanced FQOL/FCI occurs when there is coherence among core concepts, coordinated policies delivered through partnerships, and coordinated services delivered through partnerships; and influencing factors must invariably be taken into account.

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)**  
Massachusetts

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Measuring  
Rehabilitation Outcomes**

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Boston University  
Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
635 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, MA 02215  
rmonarch@bu.edu  
<http://www.bu.edu/cre/rehaboutcomes>

**Principal Investigator:** Alan M. Jette, PhD 617/353-2704

**Public Contact:** Roseanne Monarch 617/353-1297; 617/353-3277; Fax: 617/358-1355

**Project Number:** H133B990005

**Start Date:** September 01, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$699,736; FY 00 \$699,868; FY 01 \$699,745; FY 02 \$698,812; FY 03 \$699,946; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 2/28/2005)

**Abstract:** This Center develops new, more effective outcomes measurement tools and applies these tools to determine the effectiveness of medical rehabilitation interventions. Research components include: (1) identifying gaps in existing outcome measures and developing new instruments that address these gaps as part of a rehabilitation outcomes system; (2) critically evaluating the newly developed instruments against tools currently in use; (3) implementing the newly developed outcome instruments across impairment groups and across rehabilitation settings to assess their feasibility, responsiveness, and validity; (4) investigating the extent to which specific rehabilitation interventions affect outcomes following the onset of a stroke; and (5) applying modern psychometric techniques to develop dynamic outcome instruments that can also be used with individual patients in a clinical setting. Several components have been designed to enhance the translation of research findings into rehabilitation practice and to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to provide input into the Center including surveys of the use of medical rehabilitation outcomes data, consensus conferences, institutes, fellowships, a web site, and a consumer guide to choosing postacute care services.ha:

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)  
New York

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Demographics and  
Statistics**

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Cornell University  
Ives Hall, Room 331  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
ajh29@cornell.edu  
<http://www.disabilitystatistics.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Andrew J. Houtenville, PhD

**Public Contact:** 607/255-5702 (V); 607/255-2891 (TTY); Fax: 607/255-3274

**Project Number:** H133B031111

**Start Date:** December 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$750,000; FY 04 \$750,000; FY 05 \$750,000

**Abstract:** The RRTC on Demographics and Statistics (Cornell StatsRRTC) bridges the divide between the sources of disability data and the users of disability statistics. The project conducts research exploring the reliability of existing data sources and collection methods, and studies the potential to improve current and future data collection efforts. In addition, the project utilizes existing data sources to provide a comprehensive and reliable set of statistics, increase access to and understanding of how statistics can be used effectively to support decision making. Cornell StatsRRTC works with key organizations to determine their needs and helps them maximize the use of disability statistics in their ongoing efforts to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families. As members of the Cornell StatsRRTC, the American Association of People with Disabilities, the Center for an Accessible Society, and InfoUse provide vital expertise and resources needed to reach the users of disability data and statistics. The Cornell StatsRRTC includes researchers from Cornell University, Mathematica Policy Research, the Urban Institute, and the Institute for Matching People and Technology, all of which bring extensive expertise in working with and creating sources of disability data.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Massachusetts

**Emergent Disability, Systems Change, and Employment of People with Disabilities**

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University of Massachusetts  
Institute for Community Inclusion  
100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02115  
susan.foley@umb.edu  
<http://www.communityinclusion.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Susan Foley, PhD; Doris Hamner, PhD 617/287-4317 (Foley); 617/287-4364 (Hamner)

**Public Contact:** Susan Foley, PhD 617/287-4317; Fax: 617/287-4352

**Project Number:** H133A021503

**Start Date:** December 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$300,000; FY 03 \$300,000; FY 04 \$299,640; FY 05 \$299,640

**Abstract:** This project examines state service systems to document the impact of federal policies and practices on systems change and how such changes affect people with disabilities. Research activities include: (1) analysis of national, state, and local data collection systems and actual employment outcomes for people with disabilities; (2) documentation of data sets being used by state agencies to measure effectiveness and how these could be used to examine outcomes for people with disabilities; and (3) examination of how people with disabilities fare within the existing system and challenges they may face through direct consumer research. The goals of the project are: (1) to develop a clear description and presentation of how federal policies impact systems change efforts; (2) to identify how these policies and practices affect the lives of people with disabilities; (3) to identify procedures for a more integrated approach to gathering data that better explains the consumer outcomes of these services; and (4) to document how people with disabilities progress within the service system.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Colorado

### National Study Of Disability Finance

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University of Colorado Health Sciences Center  
4001 Discovery Dr., Suite 210  
Boulder, CO 80303  
braddock@cu.edu

**Principal Investigator:** David L. Braddock, PhD

**Public Contact:** 303/492-0639

**Project Number:** H133G030149

**Start Date:** December 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The project is a unique and comprehensive longitudinal study of the financial and programmatic structure of public spending for disability in each state of the US and at the national level. The study develops and maintains a state-by-state and national database on public spending for mental, physical, and sensory disability during 1997-2004, and investigates the determinants of that spending. The project includes a wide-ranging dissemination and technical assistance program on innovative financing of disability programs in the US, based on the results of this research. The project also includes a consortium of dissemination and technical assistance partnerships with five national organizations: the National Conference of State Legislatures, the 100-agency-member Washington DC-based Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, the National Council on Independent Living, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and the grassroots ADAPT organization (Americans Disabled for Attendant Programs Today).

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# An Analysis of the Demography of Living Standards, Health, and Poverty of Persons with a Disability Living in Third World Nations Based on Data from the World Bank

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1640 West Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608-7205  
gfujiura@uic.edu  
<http://www.uic.edu/depts/idhd/ced>

**Principal Investigator:** Glenn T. Fujiura, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/413-1977; Fax: 312/413-4098

**Project Number:** H133G010139

**Start Date:** November 01, 2001

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$150,000; FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 (No-cost extension through 10/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This project analyzes World Bank economic development data in 24 developing nations of the world. The goal of the analysis is to describe basic demographics and their relationship to the living standards of persons with a disability. The overall goals of the project are to elevate awareness of disability issues globally, to assist local advocacy efforts in raising awareness of disability as a basic development issue, and to stimulate a dialogue regarding the international role in the evolving paradigm of disability. Primary areas of emphasis are: (1) characterization of employment, economic status, and social well-being (i.e., access to health services, supports, assets); (2) estimation of the magnitude of disablement within nations; (3) identification of subgroups within each nation that are most vulnerable to disablement; (4) analysis of the status of women with disabilities; (5) identification of unique regional concerns; and (6) broad comparisons of the living standards in the developing world to those of the U.S. The project employs systems initiated by the World Bank in 1980 called the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) project, which involves sophisticated population-based household surveys on economic behavior and living standards in underdeveloped nations. This project is a collaborative effort by the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois/Chicago and Disabled Peoples' International. The project operationalizes the principles of participatory action research by employing the expertise of regional representatives of the DPI, a consumer-driven, cross-disability network with member organizations in more than 158 countries, of which more than half are in the developing world.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Illinois

# Differences in Mental Health Service Satisfaction Among Clients Interviewed by Consumer and Non-Consumer Researchers Using Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) Technology

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University of Illinois at Chicago  
RRTC on Psychiatric Disability  
104 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60603  
pickett@psych.uic.edu  
<http://www.psych.uic.edu/mhsrp/capi.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Susan Pickett-Schenk, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/422-8180, ext. 17; Fax: 312/422-0740

**Project Number:** H133G020027

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** To better understand mental health consumers' evaluations of the services they receive, this study compares differences in service satisfaction ratings made by clients interviewed by researchers who are and are not mental health consumers. In a randomized design, 400 clients complete satisfaction surveys administered by mental health consumer researchers and 400 clients complete satisfaction surveys administered by non-consumer researchers. Computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) technology is used to administer the satisfaction surveys. Study results provide important information on clients' satisfaction with community mental health programs, the effect of researchers' consumer status on program satisfaction ratings, and the use of CAPI technology in mental health program evaluation.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Massachusetts

### **Rehabilitation Readiness Tool for Latinos with Psychiatric Disabilities**

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Boston University  
Latino Initiatives at the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation  
940 Commonwealth Avenue West  
Boston, MA 02215  
mertoro@bu.edu  
<http://www.bu.edu/cpr>

**Principal Investigator:** Maria Restrepo-Toro, MS; Marianne Farkas, ScD

**Public Contact:** Maria Restrepo-Toro, MS 617/353-3549; Fax: 617/353-7700

**Project Number:** H133G020181

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,776; FY 03 \$149,897; FY 04 \$149,944

**Abstract:** This project develops a Rehabilitation Readiness Tool for Latino Consumers with Serious Psychiatric Disabilities. Based on information gathered about the experience of Latino consumers with psychiatric disabilities. This tool can be used by professionals and /or the person's family or natural support system to assess and develop the individual's readiness for rehabilitation in an effective and culturally appropriate way. To implement the project the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Boston University is collaborating with Maria Sardinias Center (MSC) and South Bay Guidance Center (SBGC), both programs of Community Research Foundation in San Diego, CA, and Center House, Inc., and Casa Primavera, both programs of Bay Cove Human Services in Boston, MA. The present proposal addresses several barriers related to Latino service underutilization, including a lack of understanding of how to begin services in a way that matches the Latino clients' needs (i.e., readiness to engage) and the absence of accompanying readiness educational materials in Spanish. The tool generated by this project allows rehabilitation professionals, family members, and /or other natural supports to help Latinos engage more successfully in the rehabilitation process. This innovation helps to provide a bridge between existing rehabilitation services and the potential Latino consumer.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

Minnesota

# Secondary Analyses of Persons with Disabilities in the 1994-1995 Disability Supplement to the National Health Interview Survey and in 1999 and 2000 NHIS Surveys

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Institute on Community Integration  
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150 Pillsbury Drive Southeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
larso072@umn.edu  
<http://rtc.umn.edu/nhis>

**Principal Investigator:** Sheryl Larson, PhD; Charlie Lakin, PhD 612/624-6024 (Larson); 612/624-5005 (Lakin)

**Public Contact:** 612/624-6024; Fax: 612/625-6619

**Project Number:** H133G020037

**Start Date:** August 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$135,670; FY 03 \$140,139; FY 04 \$140,349

**Abstract:** This project conducts and disseminates the results of focused secondary analyses of data on persons with developmental and other disabilities within the 1994-1995 Disability Supplement to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS-D) and within 1999 and 2000 NHIS surveys. The combined 1994 and 1995 NHIS-D is the most comprehensive survey of non-institutionalized persons with disabilities ever conducted in the United States and is the first national survey to include persons with disabilities of all ages. The analyses focus on the 3,076 sample members with mental retardation (MR) and/or developmental disabilities (DD), and on the 12,078 adults and 1,536 children who have one or more substantial functional limitations but who do not have MR or DD. The analyses build on earlier research using the NHIS-D in which operational definitions for mental retardation, developmental disabilities, and functional limitations were developed and used for estimating prevalence, demographics, and service use of persons with MR and/or DD. Data analysis topics include: (1) demographic, functional, and health characteristics; (2) in-home services and supports; (3) access to health care; (4) services, devices, and technology; (5) households with parents who have disabilities; and (6) social roles and experiences of adults. In each of these areas, four disability groups are examined: those with mental retardation only, those with developmental disabilities only, those with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and those with substantial functional limitations but not mental retardation or developmental disabilities. Of particular interest is the comparison between working-age adults with developmental disabilities and those with three or more functional limitations whose disabilities first occurred in adulthood.

**Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)**

New York

**Utilization and Analysis of Census 2000 Data to Inform Disability  
Advocacy and Employment Policy**

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Cornell University  
Program on Employment and Disability  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
ajh29@cornell.edu  
<http://www.disabilitystatistics.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Andrew J. Houtenville, PhD

**Public Contact:** 607/255-5702 (V); 607/255-2891 (TTY); Fax: 607/255-3274

**Project Number:** H133G020117

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project analyzes and disseminates disability employment statistics gleaned from the long-form dataset of the 2000 U.S. Census. A unique feature of the statistical summary is the disaggregation of data at the state and, if possible, county level. The project generates a “user friendly” report and web site designed for advocacy groups and other end users of disability employment statistics. The web site is designed in a “question-and-answer” format, based on a model currently employed by Cornell’s RRTC for Economic Research on Employment Policy. The project also analyses and disseminates Public Use Microdata Sample files, which allow the summary and reporting of data at the state and local level. Research also includes testing of statistical models purporting to describe the “disablement process” and barriers to employment.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

New York

# Using the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Employment Discrimination Charge Data System for Research and Dissemination Purposes

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Cornell University  
Employment and Disability Institute  
School of Industrial and Labor Relations  
201 ILR Extension Building  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
smb23@cornell.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Susanne Bruyère, PhD

**Public Contact:** 607/255-9536 (V); 607/255-2891 (TTY); ; Fax: 607/255-2763

**Project Number:** H133G040265

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** Using data from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Charge Data System (CDS), this project analyzes trends in employment discrimination charges related to the ADA and other laws. The CDS collects data on employment discrimination charges covered under Title I of the ADA, as well as data on charges related to other laws. It contains information on (a) the demographic characteristics of charging parties, such as gender, racial and ethnic status, age, location, and type of disability (e.g., back impairment, depression), (b) type of discriminatory behavior, such as refusal to hire, failure to provide reasonable accommodation, unfair discharge, harassment, and (c) charge outcomes, such as withdrawal with benefits, settlements, and other such outcomes. The project uses these data to explore trends over time and across the states, and investigate whether these trends are related to changes in the composition of the population with disabilities and changes in labor market conditions. Using regression analysis, it explores the relationship of the ADA-related charge rates to state-level economic conditions, government program participation by people with disabilities, and other state-level characteristics. It also examines the changes in the composition of charges over time with respect to the characteristics of charging party, the size and industry of the employer, the type of alleged discriminatory treatment, and the EEOC ratings (A, B, C); it looks for the potential impact of Supreme Court decisions within changes in these compositional changes. To achieve a better understanding of patterns in ADA-related charges, researchers seek input from and work with the EEOC and selected disability advocacy organizations, such as the law firm of Powers, Pyles, Sutter, and Verville, the American Association of Persons with Disabilities, and representatives of the National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems network.

## Field Initiated Projects (FIPs)

South Carolina

# A Six-Year Longitudinal Study of Community Integration, Subjective Well-Being, and Health After Spinal Cord Injury: Relationship with Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Environmental Factors

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Medical University of South Carolina  
College of Health Professions  
77 President Street  
Charleston, SC 29425  
cokerj@musc.edu

**Principal Investigator:** James S. Krause, PhD 843/792-1337

**Public Contact:** Jennifer Coker, MPH 843/792-2605; Fax: 843/792-0710

**Project Number:** H133G020218

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,734; FY 03 \$149,941; FY 04 \$149,840

**Abstract:** This longitudinal study identifies changes in quality of life and health outcomes over a six-year period as a function of gender, race/ethnicity, and environmental factors. Follow-up data are collected from 466 participants from three collaborating sites that include the Shepherd Center, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, and Craig Hospital. The same core outcome measures that were used during the preliminary data collection in 1997-98 are being re-administered by phone. Measures include the Craig Handicap Assessment Reporting Technique, the Older Adult Health and Mood Questionnaire, the Reciprocal Support Scale, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey and the Life Situation Questionnaire. In addition, newly developed measures are being used to identify the relationship between environmental factors and adverse outcomes. These measures include the Craig Hospital Inventory of Environmental Factors; Acculturation, Integration, Marginalization, and Segregation; and the assimilation factor of the Community Integration Measure. A 2x4x2 longitudinal factorial design is being used to analyze the data. A mediational model is being used to identify the extent to which differences in environmental factors explain any associations of gender and race-ethnicity with participation, subjective well-being, health behaviors, and health outcomes.



## Knowledge Dissemination and Utilization

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Dissemination and utilization are the tools through which to ensure that people with disabilities become fully integrated and participating members of society. NIDRR's dissemination and utilization efforts ensure the widespread distribution, in usable formats, of practical scientific and technological information generated by research, demonstration, and related activities. NIDRR's challenge is to reach diverse and changing populations, to present research results in many different and accessible formats, and to use technology appropriately.

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**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Alabama

**National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center**

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University of Alabama/Birmingham  
SRC 515  
1717 Sixth Avenue, South  
Birmingham, AL 35249-7330  
nscisc@uab.edu  
<http://www.spinalcord.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=24480>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael J. DeVivo, DrPH 205/934-3320

**Public Contact:** Vicki Farris 205/934-5049; Fax: 205/934-2709

**Project Number:** H133A011201

**Start Date:** July 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Kristi E. Wilson, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$349,988; FY 02 \$350,000; FY 03 \$350,000; FY 04 \$350,000; FY 05 \$350,000

**Abstract:** The Statistical Center has the following objectives: (1) establish the appropriate IT system; (2) train and provide technical assistance to the Model SCI centers; (3) communicate with NIDRR and the centers to ensure quality of the items in the database; (4) demonstrate the capacity to conduct and facilitate research from the database; (5) link to other related databases; (6) incorporate culturally appropriate methods of data collection and dissemination, including culturally sensitive measurement approaches; (7) demonstrate the capacity to provide technical assistance to the Model SCI centers and other related projects regarding database development and maintenance.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
California

**National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities**

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Through the Looking Glass  
2198 Sixth Street, Suite 100  
Berkeley, CA 94710-2204  
tlg@lookingglass.org  
<http://www.lookingglass.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Paul Preston, PhD

**Public Contact:** 510/848-1112 (V); 800/644-2666 (V); 800/804-1616 (TTY); Fax: 510/848-4445

**Project Number:** H133A040001

**Start Date:** January 01, 2004

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Phillip Beatty

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$500,000; FY 05 \$500,000

**Abstract:** The National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities focuses on the 10.9 percent of U.S. families with children in which one or both parents have a disability—nearly 9 million parents. The Center provides: (1) accessible and disability-appropriate information regarding parenting with a disability to parents, potential parents, disability advocates, and legal, medical, and social service providers; (2) training to parents with disabilities, potential parents, and service providers; (3) technical assistance that increases informed practice and informed decisions; (4) program consultation that increases local and regional services that are accessible and disability-appropriate. To accomplish these goals, project researchers: (1) consolidate and disseminate information and resources, (2) synthesize and disseminate materials from other agencies and organizations, (3) develop and disseminate new materials tailored to address the specific needs of parenting with disabilities and service providers, (4) expand the national availability of training and technical assistance to parents with disabilities and service providers, and (5) develop curricula to train future service providers. Parenting areas designated as highest priority are: custody, pregnancy and birthing, adoption, adaptive parenting equipment, and general parenting information. The project is staffed by nationally recognized experts regarding parents with disabilities, the majority of whom are parents with disabilities or family members of parents with disabilities.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
California

**Ideas for the New Millennium**

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World Institute on Disability  
510 - 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Oakland, CA 94612-1520  
kathy@wid.org  
<http://www.wid.org>; <http://www.disabilityworld.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Kathy Martinez 510/251-4326

**Public Contact:** Jennifer Geagan 510/251-4310; Fax: 510/763-4109

**Project Number:** H133A990006

**Start Date:** October 01, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Eva M. Gavillan, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$400,000; FY 00 \$400,000; FY 01 \$400,000; FY 02 \$400,000; FY 03 \$400,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 12/31/2004)

**Abstract:** The ideas for the new millennium project creates a productive international exchange of information and expertise on disability and rehabilitation, connecting disability research and advocacy leadership in ten target countries with their peers in the United States. At the heart of this exchange is an online information system that captures innovation, links government officials, policy-makers, disability leaders, rehabilitation specialists, researchers, and innovators in a lively exchange of ideas, networks, resources, and contacts. This sustainable network of information and resources on substantive disability issues is available across professions, cultures, and communities. The issues critical to the information exchanges are: (1) disability rights and independent living, (2) employment and entrepreneurial activity, (3) access and technology, (4) mass media images, and (5) influence through governance. Using a civil rights perspective, the project addresses disability policy, law, advocacy, research, and related developments in the ten countries. The project systematically promotes international exchange, reports results, and analyzes their significance in consumer-friendly formats and forums, including a comprehensive database, five annual symposia, as well as a bi-monthly webzine, [www.disabilityworld.org](http://www.disabilityworld.org), in English and Spanish. The project collaborates with four disability-led organizations with substantial international experience.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Massachusetts

### Web Accessibility Initiative, Phase II

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
W3C Web Accessibility Initiative  
MIT/LCS Room NE43-355; 200 Technology Square  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
jbrewer@w3.org  
<http://www.w3.org/WAI>

**Principal Investigator:** Tim Berners-Lee 617/253-5702

**Public Contact:** Judy Brewer 617/258-9741

**Project Number:** H133A000500

**Start Date:** October 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William Peterson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$499,999; FY 01 \$499,998; FY 02 \$500,000; FY 03 \$499,999; FY 04 \$500,000

**Abstract:** The Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) Phase II develops technical solutions and educational resources to increase accessibility of the Web for people with disabilities, and works with organizations around the world to promote awareness and implementation of Web accessibility solutions. For millions of individuals with visual, hearing, physical, cognitive and neurological disabilities, accessibility of the Web means access to the information society: to educational opportunity, employment, commerce, government services, and more. WAI Phase II activities include (1) ensuring accessibility support in a broad range of Web technologies through ongoing review of all World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) specifications for new Web technologies, and through liaison with other organizations developing Web technologies; (2) developing advanced guidelines and techniques for accessible Web content, for browsers and media players, and for authoring tools, and providing in-house technical assistance to software developers on implementation of accessibility guidelines in their products; (3) developing expanded techniques and resources for more effective evaluation of Web site accessibility; (4) developing a broad array of educational and outreach resources and activities promoting awareness and implementation of Web accessibility, including online and hard-copy resources, introductory materials for general audiences and technical materials for more advanced audiences, best-practice training resources and events, reference lists of tools, policies, and events, and liaison to other standards organizations interested in Web accessibility; and (5) analysis of potential accessibility issues in research and development related to advanced Web technologies.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
New Jersey

**Traumatic Brain Injury National Data Center**

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Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research and Education Corporation (KMRREC)  
1199 Pleasant Valley Way  
West Orange, NJ 07052  
kwood@kmrrec.org  
<http://www.tbindc.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Mitchell Rosenthal, PhD 973/243-6971

**Public Contact:** Kenneth Wood, PhD 973/243-6871; Fax: 973/243-6990

**Project Number:** H133A011403

**Start Date:** July 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$348,187; FY 02 \$348,133; FY 03 \$348,064; FY 04 \$348,075; FY 05 \$348,088

**Other Funding:** FY 03 \$10,000 (NIDRR Supplement)

**Abstract:** Goals of this TBI National Data Center include: (1) data collection improvements through development of an interactive web-based syllabus for the use of Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) staff, researchers and others that improves the quality and cost-effectiveness of data collection efforts; (2) a new web site featuring a searchable TBI Model Systems Research and Publication Registry; (3) enhanced statistical and technical consultation services to streamline the database, employ innovative statistical techniques to compensate for incomplete or missing data, make comparisons with other datasets, improve measurement tools and prediction models, and enhance analysis of longitudinal data; (4) improved data collection methods based on the "focus group" feedback received from the data collectors at the other centers, which include awareness and incorporation of techniques designed to improve cultural sensitivity of data collection instruments and data collection methodologies used in the model systems; (5) consumer dissemination of the latest TBIMS research results through a partnership with the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA); (6) continued leadership in TBIMS dissemination activities through *Facts and Figures*, TBIMS and BIAA web sites, NCDDR dissemination programs, journal publications, and TBIMS conferences; (7) continued development of policies that allow for public access to data, while protecting the confidentiality of subjects in the database and incorporating the perspectives of both NIDRR and the TBIMS researchers and data management teams; (8) collaboration with the NIDRR SCI and Burn Data Centers to develop advanced methods of database function, data acquisition, data quality assurance, and general Data Center operations; (9) exploring feasibility of new projects with Center for Disease Control and other programs whose database have similar TBI populations; and (10) conducting site visits to each TBIMS to assure the highest levels of data quality and database integrity.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

New York

### Center for International Rehabilitation Research Information and Exchange (CIRRIE)

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State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo

Center for Assistive Technology

515 Kimball Tower

Buffalo, NY 14214

ub-cirrie@buffalo.edu

<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** John Stone, PhD 716/829-3141, ext. 125

**Public Contact:** Marcia E. Daumen 716/829-3900, ext. 146; Fax: 716/829-2211

**Project Number:** H133A990010

**Start Date:** September 01, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Eva M. Gavillan, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$400,000; FY 00 \$400,000; FY 01 \$400,000; FY 02 \$400,000; FY 03 \$400,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 8/31/2005)

**Abstract:** The mission of this Center is to improve rehabilitation services by obtaining and disseminating information on international rehabilitation research and practices. CIRRIE has four primary objectives: (1) develop and maintain an international research database, searchable from an accessible web site and organized according to the major types of rehabilitation research, as delineated in the NIDRR Long-Range Plan; (2) assist grantees of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) to establish an international component within their domestic conferences by facilitating and subsidizing participation by international experts and involve U.S. experts in international conferences; (3) conduct an international exchange of research and technical assistance experts based on requests from rehabilitation research centers in the U.S. and other countries; and (4) disseminate information to rehabilitation service providers on the cultural issues relevant to meeting the needs of recent immigrants. Publications include monographs addressing the relevant cultural issues for the top ten countries of origin of foreign-born people in the U.S. The monographs are based on a model of the service provider as a "culture broker," with the first monograph in the series addressing the theory of culture brokering and its relevance to rehabilitation practice. A workshop on this topic is also available.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Texas

**National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR)**

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory  
211 East Seventh Street, Suite 400  
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<http://www.ncddr.org>

**Principal Investigator:** John Westbrook, PhD

**Public Contact:** Lin Harris, Information Specialist 800/266-1832 (V/TTY); Fax: 512/476-2286

**Project Number:** H133A990008

**Start Date:** September 30, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ellen Blasiotti

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$750,000; FY 00 \$750,000; FY 01 \$750,000; FY 02 \$750,000; FY 03 \$750,000; FY 04 \$750,000

**Abstract:** The goal of the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR) is to promote the utilization of research results developed through NIDRR grants/contracts. Major areas of work of the NCDDR include: (1) Research designed to collect information that assists in identifying the needs and most likely strategies that assist in matching dissemination practices with intended user audiences. Activities include conducting annual surveys, focus groups, surveys, and annual reporting of state-of-the-art information about NIDRR grantees' dissemination successes. (2) Demonstration conducted to determine the effectiveness of new strategies and approaches in achieving intended dissemination and utilization outcomes. Activities include developing and using innovative web-based mechanisms, increasing common portal access to substantive English and Spanish language resources of grantees, and developing outreach strategies for under-represented audiences. (3) Dissemination and Utilization implemented not to support the simple distribution of materials and other resources but rather the use of research outcomes in meaningful ways by those that can most benefit from their use. Activities include production of print and web-based informational products, networking of grantees to maximize outreach impact, and developing networks with a variety of research stakeholder groups for information and strategy exchanges. (4) Technical Assistance provided to NIDRR grantees to build understanding, skills, and resources related to the dissemination and utilization of their disability research outcomes. Activities include providing onsite and offsite assistance in planning effective dissemination efforts, providing direct assistance to grantees with targeted dissemination efforts, and assisting in designing evaluation strategies to measure dissemination and utilization outcomes.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Texas

### Research Utilization Support and Help (RUSH) Project

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Southwest Educational Development Laboratory

211 East Seventh Street, Suite 448

Austin, TX 78701-3253

mlinder@sedl.org

<http://www.researchutilization.org>

**Principal Investigator:** John Westbrook, PhD

**Public Contact:** Mark Linder, Communications Assistant 800/761-7874 (V/TTY); Fax: 512/476-2286

**Project Number:** H133A031402

**Start Date:** June 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ellen Blasiotti

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$350,000; FY 04 \$350,000; FY 05 \$350,000

**Abstract:** The RUSH project develops and tests models for increasing the effective use of NIDRR research results. The RUSH Project intends to assess utilization successes in terms of benefits produced for intended user audiences including: people with disabilities and their families, disability researchers, and disability service providers, among others. The goal is to expand awareness, strategies, and evaluation of knowledge utilization outcomes among NIDRR-supported researchers in order to increase access and use of research results by those who can benefit the most from them. The objectives for the RUSH Project are: (1) to assess the use of and obstacles to the dissemination/utilization of NIDRR-supported disability research by a wide range of potential target audiences; (2) to develop a variety of strategies and approaches designed to accommodate differing topics of disability research information and diverse target audiences; (3) to demonstrate a variety of new strategies and approaches to improve/achieve utilization outcomes of disability research findings; (4) to disseminate information about knowledge utilization models and their associated effectiveness by topic, target audience, and level of knowledge transfer needed in order to increase the use of NIDRR grantees' research outcomes; (5) to provide new and current NIDRR researchers with information they can use to strengthen their dissemination and utilization approaches; and (6) to provide technical assistance to NIDRR researchers to build understanding, skills, and resources in developing, implementing, and evaluating knowledge utilization models within NIDRR project designs.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Texas

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**Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems Dissemination Center**

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The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR)  
1333 Moursund Street  
Houston, TX 77030-3405  
khart@bcm.tmc.edu  
<http://www.msdisseminationcenter.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Karen A. Hart, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 713/797-5946; Fax: 713/797-5982

**Project Number:** H133A011501

**Start Date:** September 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$150,000; FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems (MSCIS) Dissemination Center is a collaborative effort that includes the NIDRR-funded Model Spinal Cord Injury Centers and SCI collaborative research projects. The Center provides information about MSCIS research and publications to inquirers and model system staff members via the Internet, the telephone, and surface mail. Overall objectives of the project are: (1) documenting the scientific productivity of the Model SCI Centers and Collaborative Research Projects and providing a history of the Model Centers' publications; (2) verifying that the publications are peer-reviewed by downloading citations from Medline, Current Contents, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), and Psychology Literature (PsychLit); (3) ensuring the accuracy of the citations through verification by Center and author semi-annually; (4) maintaining, on a semi-annual basis, the listing of web-accessible citations hosted on web site of the Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia; (5) documenting and verifying the accuracy and currency of published book chapters and textbooks; (6) storing information electronically in Reference Manager in a format that can be uploaded to Reference Web Poster on the Center's web site; (7) gathering structured data from each of the Model SCI Centers and Collaborative Research Projects that describes the educational products produced and the presentations given; (8) classifying the educational products and presentations produced by the Model SCI Centers and Collaborative Research Projects to provide a variety of accurate retrieval options for interested constituents; (9) developing a data storage system that facilitates uploads into the program's web site in accessible format for interested constituents such as individuals with SCI, organizations, NIDRR, NCDRR, NARIC, the Model SCI Centers, libraries, rehabilitation facilities, professionals, and students; (10) disseminating efficiently and effectively to the greatest number of constituents the publications, educational products, and presentations produced by the Model SCI Centers and the Collaborative Research Projects as an aggregate representation of this NIDRR program's contribution to the field of SCI; (11) providing a mechanism for NCDRR and NARIC to verify that they have complete and accurate information about all the Model SCI Centers and their accomplishments so that NCDRR and NARIC can achieve their dissemination objectives; and (12) reaching the greatest number of individuals possible with information and education about SCI by efficient use of NIDRR-funded resources and personnel.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Washington

**National Center on Accessible Information Technology in Education**

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University of Washington  
Center on Human Development and Disability  
Box 357920  
Seattle, WA 98195-7920  
accessit@u.washington.edu  
<http://www.washington.edu/accessit>

**Principal Investigator:** Kurt Johnson, PhD 206/543-3677

**Public Contact:** Alan J. Knue 866/968-2223 (V/TTY); 206/616-2223 (V); 866/866-0162 (TTY);  
Fax: 206/543-4779

**Project Number:** H133D010306

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$700,000; FY 02 \$700,000; FY 03 \$700,000; FY 04 \$700,000; FY 05 \$700,000

**Abstract:** This program, working nationwide with NIDRR-funded Disability Business and Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs), serves to increase the access of individuals with disabilities to information technology in educational institutions at all academic levels nationwide. The Center facilitates the implementation of policies, procedures, and practices that promote the procurement and use by educational entities of accessible information technology that applies universal design principles and meets recognized standards. By providing training, support, dissemination materials, and technical assistance to the DBTACs, AccessIT utilizes and builds on this existing infrastructure for information dissemination and technical support. Additionally, information and training to educational institutions is provided through the Center's website and presentations at educational events. The website includes accessibility checklists, best practices, knowledge base articles, links to resources, and case studies, tailored to applications of information technology in education. The Center also conducts training sessions and presentations at major educational, disability, and technology conferences to inform target audiences about how to make information technology in education accessible to individuals with disabilities and of the availability of resources from AccessIT and of technical assistance from the DBTACs. Leading the efforts of the Center are the University of Washington's Center for Technology and Disability Studies and Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking and Technology, NIDRR-funded Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers and the IT Technical Assistance and Training Center, DBTACs, project EASI (Equal Access to Software and Information), and Microsoft Corporation are among its many partners.

Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Projects  
Georgia

**assistivetech.net - Internet Site on Assistive Technology**

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Georgia Institute of Technology  
Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA)  
490 Tenth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
beth.bryant@arch.gatech.edu  
<http://www.assistivetech.net>

**Principal Investigator:** Elizabeth A. Bryant 404/894-0254

**Public Contact:** Robert Todd, Project Director 404/894-6895; 800/726-9119 (V/TTY); Fax: 404/894-9320

**Project Number:** H224B020002

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$250,000; FY 03 \$250,000; FY 04 \$250,000

**Abstract:** The National Assistive Technology Internet Site ([www.assistivetech.net](http://www.assistivetech.net)) increases the availability of, and ease of access to, information about assistive technology (AT), services, and resources available for people with disabilities. The web site provides 24-hour access to AT information for those with Internet connectivity, and a toll-free telephone number for those without it. The site serves all people but focuses particularly on people with disabilities, their families, service providers, educators, and employers. The assistivetech.net web site features: access to information about more than 15,500 AT devices, innovative automated intelligent agents to assist with AT definition and selection, vendor data entry interface to enable vendor involvement in maintaining AT information, and over 1,000 electronic links to appropriate and accessible public and private resources and information related to all types of disabilities, including low-level reading skills. Enhancements to the site include: natural language search interface to enhance site usability, a forum for user-submitted accommodations and strategies, and improved, easier-to-use access to AT product information.

Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Projects  
New York

## National Assistive Technology Advocacy Project

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Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.  
Disability Law Unit  
Ellicott Square Building  
295 Main Street, Room 495  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
jsheldon@nls.org  
<http://www.nls.org>

**Principal Investigator:** James R. Sheldon Jr., Esq.  
**Public Contact:** 716/847-0650; Fax: 716/847-0227

**Project Number:** H224B020004

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Dobak

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$160,000; FY 03 \$160,000; FY 04 \$160,000

**Abstract:** This project provides management- and advocacy-related technical assistance to attorneys and advocates who work for the 56 Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (P&AAT) projects, as well other public entities with an interest in the funding of AT. Advocacy-related training is provided through an annual project conference; sessions at the annual National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems (NAPAS) conference; sessions at statewide or regional conferences sponsored by protection and advocacy programs or State AT Act projects; and distance training events on special education, funding of work-related AT, and other topics to be determined. Management-related training is provided at four annual training events sponsored by NAPAS. The project prepares publications on the funding of AT through a variety of funding sources and acts as a clearinghouse for funding-related documents through in-house resource libraries containing administrative hearing decisions; a wide range of court-related documents, including briefs and complaints; and model policies, procedures, and practices for delivery of AT in special education systems. A national AT email list provides a low-cost, efficient way to communicate with a nationwide network of AT advocates. The project also maintains a web site containing information relative to the funding of AT, including many of the project's publications and links to other web-based resources to support AT advocacy efforts.

## NIDRR Contracts

North Carolina

### **Technical Support for Data Collection Development: Implementation of NIDRR's Web-Based Performance Reporting System Data Collection**

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RTI International  
Center for Research in Education  
3040 Cornwallis Road  
P.O. Box 12194  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194  
cat@rti.org  
<http://www.rti.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Christene A. Tashjian

**Public Contact:** 919/541-6128; Fax: 919/541-5849

**Project Number:** ED-01-CO-0052

**Start Date:** April 18, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Mary Darnell

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$175,000; FY 03 \$175,000; FY 04 \$178,433

**Abstract:** This project ensures the continuation of technical assistance activities for NIDRR staff and grantees of 8 programs (ARRT, D&U, DBTAC, DRRP, FIP, Model Systems, RERC, RRTC) using a web-based reporting system for collection of annual performance information. RTI staff, in consultation with NIDRR, developed the system and is responsible for ongoing system maintenance and implementation. The system meets Section 508 accessibility requirements; access is restricted to current grantees who are assigned unique passwords they must enter (along with their federal award number) to use the reporting system. RTI staff assist grantees with technical and programmatic questions they may have while inputting their annual data into the system. RTI is responsible for updating program-specific instruction manuals, reviewing the technical assistance logs to suggest possible changes to the system to make it more 'user-friendly', and providing NIDRR with quarterly updates of the data base. Project staff conduct periodic briefings for NIDRR staff on the individual grant programs. Based on NIDRR's specifications, RTI staff will analyze grantee data and submit a program performance report.

**Utilization Projects**  
Maryland

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**National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC)**

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HeiTech Services, Inc.  
4200 Forbes Boulevard, Suite 202  
Lanham, MD 20706  
naricinfo@heitechservices.com  
<http://www.naric.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Mark X. Odum

**Public Contact:** Information Specialists 800/346-2742 (V); 301/459-5984 (TTY); 301/459-5900 (V);  
Fax: 301/459-4263

**Project Number:** ED-02-CO-0002

**Start Date:** January 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ellen Blasiotti

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$740,000; FY 03 \$695,972

**Abstract:** The National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC) maintains a research library of more than 65,000 documents and responds to a wide range of information requests, providing facts and referral, database searches, and document delivery. Through telephone information referral and the Internet, NARIC disseminates information gathered from NIDRR-funded projects, other federal programs, and from journals, periodicals, newsletters, films, and videotapes. NARIC maintains REHABDATA, a bibliographic database on rehabilitation and disability issues, both in-house and on the Internet. Users are served by telephone, mail, electronic communications, or in person. NARIC also prepares and publishes the annual NIDRR Program Directory, available in database format from NARIC's web site.

Utilization Projects  
Maryland

## ABLEDATA Database Program

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ORC Macro  
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 930  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
abledata@orcmacro.com  
<http://www.abledata.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Katherine Belknap 301/608-8998, ext. 100

**Public Contact:** Katherine Belknap 800/227-0216 (V); 301/608-8998 (V); 301/608-8912 (TTY);  
Fax: 301/608-8958

**Project Number:** ED-02-000128

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ellen Blasiotti

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$516,829; FY 03 \$589,408; FY 04 \$635,313

**Abstract:** This project maintains and expands the ABLEDATA database, develops information and referral services that are responsive to the special technology product needs of consumers and professionals, and provides the data to major dissemination points to ensure wide distribution and availability of the information to all who need it. The ABLEDATA database contains information on more than 26,000 commercially produced and custom-made assistive devices. Requests for information are answered via telephone, mail, electronic communications, or in person.



## ADA Technical Assistance Programs

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) opens more opportunities for persons with disabilities. It also places certain responsibilities on employers, transit and communication systems, state and local governments, and public accommodations. To assist covered parties to understand and comply with the ADA, NIDRR has funded a network of grantees to provide information, training, and technical assistance to businesses and agencies with duties and responsibilities under the ADA.

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**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Region I - CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT

**New England ADA Center and Universal Design in Educational IT  
(Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center - Region I)**

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Adaptive Environments Center, Inc.  
374 Congress Street, Suite 301  
Boston, MA 02210-1807  
oharrison@adaptiveenvironments.org; vfletcher@adaptiveenvironments.org  
<http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Valerie Fletcher 617/695-1225, ext. 26

**Public Contact:** Oce Harrison, EdD, Project Director 800/949-4232 (V/TTY in CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT); 617/695-1225, ext. 27 (V/TTY); Fax: 617/482-8099

**Project Number:** H133D010211

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$850,000; FY 02 \$850,000; FY 03 \$850,000; FY 04 \$850,000

**Abstract:** The New England DBTAC provides technical assistance, training, and information dissemination for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The new grantee retains relationships with previously contracted state affiliates, the statewide coalitions, the annual incentive grants, and the newsletter. Groups with rights or responsibilities under the ADA that are targeted for expanded outreach include self-advocacy organizations and the ARC; libraries; human resources trade groups; the hospitality industry, including visitor and convention bureaus; schools; and health care professionals. Annual regional training initiatives include day-long workshops for state, municipal, and county ADA coordinators; half-day trainings for centers for independent living; training for architects on ADA updates; outreach and training in minority and immigrant communities both to people with disabilities and business owners; and voter accessibility training. Implementation of the education-based IT component of the project includes: (1) establishing regional linkages to educational entities for cooperation/collaboration; (2) establishing the capacity in each state to coordinate and build skill, using resources of state organizations and the state infrastructure to reach large audiences through familiar, local methods; (3) training using a variety of distance learning techniques tailored to target audiences; (4) convening a collaborative conference on universal design on the web with the Rhode Island School of Design; (5) running a public awareness campaign that puts the issue of universal design on the educational IT agenda; and (6) identifying best practices in the region to be written up as case studies each year.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Region II - NJ, NY, PR, and VI

**Northeast Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center - Region  
II**

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Cornell University  
Program on Employment and Disability; School of Industrial and Labor Relations  
107 ILR Extension Building  
Ithaca, NY 14853-3901  
northeastada@cornell.edu  
<http://www.northeastada.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Susanne Bruyère, PhD 607/255-7727

**Public Contact:** Andrea Haenlin-Mott, Project Director 800/949-4232 (V/TTY, in NJ, NY, PR, and VI); 607/255-8348 (V); 607/255-6686 (TTY); Fax: 607/255-2763

**Project Number:** H133D010205

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$1,100,000; FY 02 \$1,100,000; FY 03 \$1,100,000; FY 04 \$1,100,000

**Abstract:** The Northeast ADA & Accessible Information Technology Center provides technical assistance, training, and information dissemination for New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands on the ADA and accessible information technology. A new focus for the project is information, training, and technical assistance to educational entities in Region II, on the procurement and use of accessible information technology for students and employees with disabilities. Services are comprehensive, involving effective use of existing networks and collaborations with regional partners and organizations that currently deliver services to educational organizations, parent organizations, disability advocacy organizations, employers, labor unions, and state and local government. The Program on Employment and Disability at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations takes the lead in a regional collaborative effort that includes the following partners: Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities for New York state; AccessPoint Solutions in New Jersey; the Department of Architecture and Center for Assistive Technology at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo; the Assistive Technology Project at the University of Puerto Rico; the University Affiliated Program at the University of the Virgin Islands; and various local agencies and organizations.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Region III - DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV

**Mid-Atlantic Disability Business Technical Assistance Center - Region  
III**

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TransCen, Inc.  
451 Hungerford Drive, Suite 607  
Rockville, MD 20850-4151  
adainfo@transcen.org  
<http://www.adainfo.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Marian S. Vessels, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/949-4232 (V/TTY, in DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV); 301/217-0124 (V/TTY); Fax: 301/217-0754

**Project Number:** H133D010212

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$1,099,998; FY 02 \$1,099,998; FY 03 \$1,099,998; FY 04 \$1,099,998

**Abstract:** The Mid-Atlantic DBTAC provides technical assistance, training, and information dissemination for Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Activities are organized under two major goals: (1) provide technical assistance, training, and information dissemination about the ADA; and (2) provide technical assistance, training, and information dissemination about accessible education-based IT. Individual activities to meet these goals and project objectives are designed to build capacity among State and local agencies, including centers for independent living, so that the Center's impact and effectiveness is maximized. Approximately 20,000 individuals and organizations are directly impacted through project activities each year.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Region IV - AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, and TN

**Southeast Disability Business Technical Assistance Center - Region IV**

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Georgia Tech Research Corporation  
Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA)  
490 Tenth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
sedbtacproject@catea.org  
<http://www.sedbtac.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Shelley Kaplan, Project Director 404/385-0636

**Public Contact:** 800/949-4232 (V/TTY, in AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, and TN); 404/385-0636 (V/TTY); Fax: 404/385-0641

**Project Number:** H133D010207

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$1,450,000; FY 02 \$1,450,000; FY 03 \$1,450,000; FY 04 \$1,450,000

**Abstract:** The Southeast DBTAC provides technical assistance, training, and information dissemination for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The project: (1) provides expert technical assistance to promote voluntary and effective implementation of the ADA among entities with rights and responsibilities; (2) facilitates widespread use, particularly in educational entities, of accessible and usable electronic and IT; (3) fosters and facilitates regional capacity-building by cultivating collaborations between the regional Educational Leadership: Team and the existing ADA Leadership Network; (4) expands training programs by incorporating enhanced distance learning methods, including teleconferences, web-based training, and electronic discussions, that are designed in a fully accessible and useful manner; and (5) identifies and disseminates “Best Practices” in employment and IT in order to encourage and support replication. To build on its ten-year history of regional capacity building, the DBTAC: (1) strengthens its ADA Leadership Network of eight state and 80 local affiliates; (2) shares expertise about IT through the Georgia Tech Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA)’s Information Technology Technical Assistance and Training Center (ITTATC) project; and (3) facilitates accessible education-based IT across the educational spectrum via the newly-established Educational Leadership Team.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Region V - IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, and WI

**Great Lakes Disability Business Technical Assistance Center - Region V**

University of Illinois at Chicago  
Department of Disability and Human Development  
1640 West Roosevelt Road, Room 405  
Chicago, IL 60608-6904  
gldbtac@uic.edu  
<http://www.adagreatlakes.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Robin A. Jones, Project Director 312/996-1059

**Public Contact:** 800/949-4232 (V/TTY, in IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, and WI); 312/413-1407 (V/TTY);  
Fax: 312/413-1856

**Project Number:** H133D010203

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$1,450,000; FY 02 \$1,478,750; FY 03 \$1,450,000; FY 04 \$1,450,000

**Abstract:** The Great Lakes DBTAC provides technical assistance, training, and information dissemination for Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The project's audiences include business, government, and education organizations and individuals with disabilities and their families. The Center assists these audiences in understanding their rights and responsibilities under the ADA. For example, technical assistance and training are provided to educational entities regarding their responsibility to ensure that the IT they purchase and use is accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The aim is that within the education system administrators, educators, staff, students, and parents have full and equal access to programs, services, and information used or disseminated through a variety of information technologies. The Center programs and services are coordinated through a network of collaborators at the local, state, and regional level representing business, government, education entities and people with disabilities. Services and programs include direct technical assistance, training, and materials dissemination utilizing a variety of methods and strategies.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Region VI - AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX

**Southwest Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center**  
**(Southwest DBTAC-Region VI)**

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The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR)  
Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU)  
2323 South Shepherd Boulevard, Suite 1000  
Houston, TX 77019-7024  
dlrp@ilru.org  
<http://www.dlrp.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Lex Frieden 713/502-0232

**Public Contact:** Wendy Wilkinson, Project Director 800/949-4232 (V/TTY, in AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX); 713/520-0232 (V); 713/520-5136 (TTY); Fax: 713/520-5785

**Project Number:** H133D010210

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$1,099,997; FY 02 \$1,099,997; FY 03 \$1,099,997; FY 04 \$1,099,997

**Abstract:** The Southwest DBTAC provides a comprehensive array of training, technical assistance, and dissemination services on the Americans with Disabilities Act, accessible information technology (IT), and other disability-related laws in the five states of Federal Region VI. The Southwest DBTAC uses a collaborative structure of partners in all states, which enhances its ability to offer all services on a state and local basis. Key partners include the New Mexico Technology Assistance Project, the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory and several centers for independent living (CILs).

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Region VII - IA, KS, MO, and NE

**Great Plains ADA and Information Technology Center - Region VII**

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University of Missouri/Columbia  
100 Corporate Lake Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203  
ada@missouri.edu  
<http://www.adaproject.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Jim de Jong, Project Director 573/882-3600 (V)

**Public Contact:** 800/949-4232 (V/TTY, in IA, KS, MO, and NE); 573/882-3600 (V/TTY); Fax: 573/884-4925

**Project Number:** H133D010201

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$850,000; FY 02 \$850,000; FY 03 \$850,000; FY 04 \$850,000

**Abstract:** The Great Plains DBTAC provides technical assistance, training, and information dissemination for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. In order to facilitate successful implementation of the ADA and accessible education-based IT in Region VII, the project and its collaborating partners: (1) provide training and technical assistance, and disseminate materials to individuals and entities with responsibilities and rights under the ADA regarding the ADA's requirements as well as developments in case law, policy, and implementation; (2) increase the capacity of organizations at the state and local level, including centers for independent living (CILs), to provide training on the ADA; (3) provide training and technical assistance, and disseminate material on the legal obligations of educational entities to provide accessible IT to students and employees; (4) provide information to CILs, parent training information centers, and regional resource centers on accessible education-based IT; (5) increase the capacity of organizations at the state and local level, including CILs, to provide technical assistance; (6) provide technical assistance to educational entities to enable them to conduct self-evaluations on the accessibility of their IT; and (7) provide technical assistance, either directly or through referral, regarding how to make existing IT accessible and ensure that new IT acquisitions are accessible.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Region VIII - CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY

**Rocky Mountain Disability Business Technical Assistance Center -  
Region VIII**

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Meeting the Challenge, Inc.  
3630 Sinton Road, Suite 103  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907-5072  
RegionVIII@mtc-inc.com  
<http://www.adainformation.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Robert H. Gattis, Jr., Project Director 719/444-0252

**Public Contact:** 800/949-4232 (V/TTY, in CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY); 719/444-0268 (V/TTY); Fax: 719/444-0269

**Project Number:** H133D010204

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$849,716; FY 02 \$849,157; FY 03 \$849,576; FY 04 \$849,993

**Abstract:** The Rocky Mountain DBTAC provides technical assistance, training, and information dissemination for Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The project builds the capacity for reaching every individual, business, public entity, and educational institution with training, materials dissemination, and technical assistance on the ADA and educational-based IT accessibility. A comprehensive program expands a collaborative network consisting of key agencies and organizations throughout the region. This project also operates and maintains the ADA Impact Measurement System (AIMS), a web-based system that collects customer survey data. This system allows the ten regional DBTACs to evaluate the outcomes of the DBTAC program quantitatively.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Region IX - AZ, CA, HI, NV, and the Pacific Basin

## **Pacific ADA & IT Center (Pacific DBTAC)-Region IX**

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Public Health Institute  
555 12<sup>th</sup> street  
Suite 130  
Oakland, CA 94607-4046  
adatech@pdbtac.com  
<http://www.pacdbtac.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Erica C. Jones, Project Director 510/285-5600 (V/TTY)

**Public Contact:** 800/949-4232 (V/TTY, in AZ, CA, HI, NV, and the Pacific Basin); 510/285-5600 (V/TTY); Fax: 510/285-5614

**Project Number:** H133D010209

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$1,450,000; FY 02 \$1,450,000; FY 03 \$1,450,000 FY 04 \$1,450,000

**Abstract:** The Pacific DBTAC provides technical assistance, training, and information dissemination for Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Basin. The latest funding cycle includes a series of innovative initiatives and approaches to enhance compliance with ADA rules and regulations. There is also an integrated action plan to enhance the availability of accessible IT equipment in Federal Region IX, primarily through a focus on educational institutions as key sites for adopting the principles of Section 508, and for ensuring full access to IT for young people with disabilities. The Pacific DBTAC's interdisciplinary, multilevel management strategy ensures that all project objectives are tracked and attained and that Center services are fully integrated and delivered in an effective, cost-efficient, and accessible manner. The DBTAC provides quality training, federally approved materials, and technical assistance services to requesters who seek support, advice, and information and it conducts proactive strategic outreach and education services that promote adherence to ADA regulations and principles at all levels of society. Education-Based Information Technology, being a key focus, uses best practices to promote utilization throughout school systems.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**

Region X - AK, ID, OR, and WA

**Northwest ADA/IT Center (Disability Business Technical Assistance  
Center - Region X)**

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Oregon Health and Science University  
Oregon Institute on Disability and Development  
P.O. Box 574  
Portland, OR 97207-0574  
nwada@ohsu.edu  
<http://www.nwada.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Charles Drum, JD, PhD 503/494-8047

**Public Contact:** 800/949-4232 (AK, ID, OR, and WA only); 503/494-6747; Fax: 503/494-6868

**Project Number:** H133D010002

**Start Date:** October 01, 2001

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 01 \$850,000; FY 02 \$850,000; FY 03 \$850,000; FY 04 \$850,000

**Abstract:** The Northwest DBTAC/Information Technology Center provides technical assistance, training, and information dissemination for Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Audiences include people with disabilities, state and local governments, and businesses in Region X. In addition to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other state and federal disability laws and regulations, the Center also provides technical assistance, training, and dissemination to educational entities regarding “best practices” information on accessible IT. The sources of such information include the new National Center on Accessible Education-Based Information Technology.

**ADA Technical Assistance Projects**  
Virginia

**National ADA Program Assistance Coordinator**

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CESSI  
6858 Old Dominion Drive, Suite 250  
McLean, VA 22101  
adata@adata.org  
<http://www.adata.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Shelia Newman

**Public Contact:** Jennifer Eckel, Project Director 703/448-6155 (V); 703/448-3079 (TTY); Fax: 703/442-9015

**Project Number:** ED-02-CO-0008

**Start Date:** May 03, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$557,883; FY 03 \$577,566; FY 04 \$597,152

**Abstract:** The role of the ADA Program Assistance Coordinator (PAC) is to enhance the performance of the organizations that are members of NIDRR's nationwide ADA Technical Assistance grant program. These include ten regional Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs), and the National Center for Accessible Information Technology at University of Washington (AccessIT). The Program Assistance Coordinator conducts: (1) coordination services, (2) collaborative assistance, (3) public relations, and (4) reporting activities. In addition, the PAC organizes and manages the semi-annual Project Directors' meetings. It facilitates legal review of grantee generated materials and conducts periodic searches for legal proceedings on the ADA and disability related laws in federal and circuit courts. The PAC identifies and distributes appropriate materials from federal agencies, related NIDRR research projects, and private and public sector organizations. As a gateway to the national ADA technical assistance grant program, the PAC maintains a national Web site, develops and disseminates promotional materials, and provides the DBTACs with daily news updates to assure they have timely information on disability related legislation.



## Capacity-Building for Rehabilitation Research and Training

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NIDRR funding for capacity building supports advanced instruction for researchers and service providers, and training for consumers in applications of new research and technology. This involves training researchers across disciplines, training rehabilitation practitioners and service providers to use research-generated knowledge and new techniques, and training consumers to participate in research efforts. Distinguished and Merit Fellowships are provided for a one-year period of intense research.

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## Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)

Illinois

### **UIC National Research and Training Center on Psychiatric Disability**

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University of Illinois at Chicago  
Department of Psychiatry  
104 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60603-5902  
<http://www.psych.uic.edu/uicnrtc>

**Principal Investigator:** Judith A. Cook, PhD 312/422-8180, ext. 19

**Public Contact:** Jessica A. Jonikas 312/422-8180, ext. 18 (V); 312/422-0706 (TTY); Fax: 312/422-0740

**Project Number:** H133B000700

**Start Date:** September 30, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** David W. Keer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$450,000; FY 01 \$450,000; FY 02 \$450,000; FY 03 \$450,000; FY 04 \$450,000

**Other Funding:** FY 00 \$300,000 (CMHS); FY 01 \$300,000 (CMHS); FY 02 \$300,000 (CMHS)

**Abstract:** This Center conducts a comprehensive series of research and training projects that focus on increasing self-determination for persons with psychiatric disabilities. The Center's current projects are composed of five core areas: (1) choices in treatment decision-making; (2) economic self-sufficiency; (3) consumer advocacy under managed care; (4) career development through real jobs for real wages; and (5) strengthening self-determination skills and self-advocacy. These core areas reaffirm that people with psychiatric disabilities have the right to maximal independence, which grows out of making choices in the decisions that affect their lives. Project activities are implemented by multidisciplinary workgroups composed of consumers, families, service providers, state agency administrators, researchers, and Center staff. Outcome and measurement tools developed for each core area assess key outcomes and program policies related to self-determination. The project includes a collaboratively planned state-of-the-science conference and workshop series on self-determination and psychiatric disabilities and a comprehensive report on self-determination in this area. Advanced technology is incorporated into each project's objectives and Center training and dissemination activities. Multimedia formats ensure widespread accessibility of the Center's products and materials to multiple constituents. Additionally, the Center conducts evaluation and basic research; trains consumers, families, and rehabilitation, education, and mental health service providers. The staff also develops and provides information for public policy initiatives.

**Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects**  
Connecticut

**Building Research Capacity through Collaboration among American  
Indian Tribes in Connecticut and Rhode Island**

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Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation  
1 Matt's Path  
Mashantucket, CT 06339  
vellien@mptn-nsn.gov fwilkins-turner@mptn-nsn.gov

**Principal Investigator:** Valerie Ellien, PhD CRC  
**Public Contact:** 860/396-2105; Fax: 860/396-2282

**Project Number:** H133A031706

**Start Date:** November 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Delores Watkins

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$294,057; FY 04 \$336,824; FY 05 \$349,984

**Abstract:** This project builds capacity among four American Indian Tribes to improve the quality of health and disability service information available for Tribes in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Four objectives achieves this goal: (1) to investigate access to, and acceptance rates for VR services, types of services provided, and VR costs for American Indians with disabilities; (2) to ensure the optimal collaboration of Connecticut and Rhode Island Indian Tribes and others in disability and rehabilitation research, (3) to maximize potential for recruitment of American Indian researchers; and (4) to investigate and evaluate the participation of American Indians in disability and rehabilitation research activities and direct service delivery, and determine to what extent participation leads to improved VR outcomes. All staff was trained in the Participatory Action Research Model, and Culturally Appropriate Research Methodology utilizing the expertise of the American Indian Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at Northern Arizona University. An experienced senior rehabilitation researcher is used as mentor to the Research Coordinator, through development of two surveys for data collection. Two graduate students analysis the data and served as mentors for the Research Tech (Tribal Members) who are hired to collect the data within their own communities. Data results are shared with each of the four participating tribes (Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, and Narragansett) and with the Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services through the Advisory Council of the Mashantucket Pequot Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Illinois

### Center for Strategic Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research

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University of Illinois/Chicago  
Department of Disability and Human Development  
1640 West Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608  
<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/empower>

**Principal Investigator:** Fabricio E. Balcazar, PhD 312/413-1646

**Public Contact:** 312/413-1806 (V); 312/413-0453 (TTY); ; Fax: 312/413-2918

**Project Number:** H133A040007

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$600,000; FY 05 \$600,000

**Abstract:** The Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research (CBMDR) increases the capacity of community-based organizations (CBOs like Centers for Independent Living and other agencies) serving minorities with disabilities and State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies (VR) to involve consumers in identifying service needs and developing improvement strategies through program evaluation research. The CBMDR center utilizes participatory research methodologies to promote organizational change and culturally appropriate services. The Center's mission is to accomplish this by developing long-term relationships with CBOs and VR agencies, conducting participatory research and demonstration projects, engaging in active dissemination efforts, and providing state-of-the-art training and technical assistance to professionals and researchers in the field. The center primarily targets agencies serving African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans with disabilities-although participating organizations may serve additional minority groups.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Louisiana

### Rehabilitation Research Institute for Underrepresented Populations (RRIUP)

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Southern University A&M College  
Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies  
229 Blanks Hall  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813  
kundusubr@aol.com

**Principal Investigator:** Alo Dutta, PhD

**Public Contact:** Madan Kundu, PhD 225/771-2819; Fax: 225/771-2293

**Project Number:** H133A031705

**Start Date:** December 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$350,000; FY 04 \$350,000; FY 05 \$350,000

**Abstract:** The goal of this project is that of improving the quality and utility of research related to individuals with disabilities from traditionally underserved racial/ethnic population to enhance knowledge and awareness of issues related to these populations, to help maximize the full inclusion and integration of individuals with disabilities into society, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act. The objectives of this project are: (1) to expand the existing and proven work alliance of three minority and two non-minority entities, e.g., Southern University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Crownpoint Institute of Technology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Independent Living Research Utilization respectively, for strengthening the disability-related multicultural research framework and improving long-term rehabilitation outcomes of culturally diverse groups; (2) to investigate, evaluate, and modify five measures to assess the capacity and competence of the disability and vocational rehabilitation workforce to provide quality services to individuals with disabilities from traditionally underserved racial and ethnic populations; (3) to investigate and develop culturally appropriate research capacity and infrastructure building techniques to ensure the optimal participation of minority entities and Indian tribes in disability and rehabilitation research; and (4) to develop and evaluate outreach, recruitment, training, reinforcement, retention, and dissemination strategies to enhance participation of students and investigators from traditionally underserved populations as rehabilitation researchers, administrators, and educators.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

New York

# Toward Equity: Innovative, Collaborative Research on Interpreter Training, DBT, and Psychological Testing

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University of Rochester  
Department of Psychiatry; Deaf Wellness Center  
300 Crittenden Boulevard  
Rochester, NY 14642  
Robert\_Pollard@urmc.rochester.edu  
<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/dwc/scholarship/Equity.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Robert Pollard, PhD

**Public Contact:** 585/275-3544; Fax: 585/273-1117

**Project Number:** H133A031105

**Start Date:** July 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Bonnie Gracer

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$299,900; FY 04 \$299,848; FY 05 \$299,985

**Abstract:** The research activities of this project focus on three thematic categories: mental health interpreting, dialectical behavior therapy, and psychological testing. The interpreter training project builds upon the Deaf Wellness Center's (DWC) prior innovations in interpreter training and applies them to four geographically dispersed urban settings. A team of experts in the mental health interpreting field employs the DWC's demand-control schema approach and implements a five-month program of training and supervision with a local interpreter pool. Dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) is a highly structured treatment approach focusing on emotional regulation and behavioral self-control. The three-part DBT project adapts DBT materials and methods to maximize treatment access and efficacy with three deaf consumer populations: those with language skills, those with limited language, and those with comorbid psychiatric and substance abuse problems. The Signed Paired Associates Test and the ASL Stories Test are tests of verbal learning and memory for sign language users. The extensive data that exists at the DWC regarding the tests' psychometric properties and clinical utility implications are analyzed. This research has implications for the assessment of dementias, retardation, learning disabilities, etc. A second testing project is the development of a psychosis symptom rating scale. The goal is to produce a tool that clinicians can employ to reliably and validly identify the nature and severity of psychotic symptomatology in deaf individuals. Finally, the project includes a psychological testing casebook, written based on reviews of hundreds of DWC psychological testing case files. Most of the studies are multi-site, collaborative ventures.

## Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

Texas

### Minority Scholar/Champion Research Training Project

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Texas Southern University

3100 Cleburne Avenue

Houston, TX 77004

<http://www.tsu.edu/academics/continue/research/index.asp>

**Principal Investigator:** Irvine E. Epps, EdD 713/313-7224

**Public Contact:** Darrell K. Simmons, Project Coordinator 713/313-7753; Fax: 713/313-7579

**Project Number:** H133A031704

**Start Date:** December 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$350,000; FY 04 \$349,655; FY 05 \$349,889

**Abstract:** The Minority Scholars/Champions Research Training Project develops, implements, and evaluates the effectiveness of a train-the-trainer “Scholar/Champion” model to facilitate increased and improved vocational rehabilitation (VR)/disability research among the targeted Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). More specifically, the project develops an innovative research infrastructure of institutional “cores” that partner an HBCU, Texas Southern University (TSU), with a majority research institution, Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). Together, these partner institutions create a collaborative research infrastructure that increases research capacity and helps build an institutional research infrastructure at five additional HBCUs in Texas. These “cores” are: (1) the Administrative, Planning, and Evaluation Core directs the Center, selects Center participants, and supervises evaluation of all project activities, budgets, and reports; (2) the Training Core uses innovative methods of onsite and off-site training to recruit, support, and mentor minority investigators in the areas of research design, development, and implementation, including analysis of racial and cultural factors related to VR/disability research; (3) the Community Collaboration and Dissemination Core partners with communities and VR/disability agencies to engage individuals with disabilities in research and training, using a model of participatory action-oriented research, and disseminates culturally-sensitive information related to VR/disability research to community groups, agencies, and VR/disability researchers; and (4) the Research Core works with the HBCU Scholar/Champions to conduct innovative and rigorous pilot research projects as well as write fully developed research proposals that address racial disparities in VR/disability research.

## Fellowships (Merit)

Illinois

# Body Mass Index and Disability In Older Adults: The Health and Retirement Study

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Xiaoxing He, MD, MPH  
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Chicago, IL 60611-3059  
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**Principal Investigator:** Xiaoxing He, MD, MPH

**Public Contact:** 312/695-1811; Fax: 312/695-0951

**Project Number:** H133F030023

**Start Date:** September 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$45,000

**Abstract:** This project conducts focused secondary analyses of public data from the Health and Retirement Survey (HRS). The HRS data collection is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and conducted by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Designed to investigate health outcomes, retirement decisions, and economic security during retirement, the HRS targeted community-dwelling U.S. adults who were born between 1931 to 1941. In-home interviews were conducted in English or Spanish in 7,702 households (82.0% response rate), yielding 12,652 participants at baseline 1,992. Follow-up telephone interviews were conducted every two years through 2000. Vital status was determined through the National Death Index and household contacts. The analyses address major public health concerns with obesity, obesity-related disability, and physical inactivity. The specific study objectives are: (1) to determine the relationship between body-mass index, physical activity, overall health, and physical functioning; (2) to examine changes in body-weight from 1992 to 2000 among adults in late middle age and associated factors; and (3) to explore racial/ethnic differences on patterns of physical activity and how much of the differences can be explained by socioeconomic, and health status.

## Fellowships (Merit)

Iowa

### **Understanding Ethical Decision-Making and Behaviors: An Important Prelude to Improved Service Delivery and Employment Outcomes**

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**Principal Investigator:** Jodi L. Saunders, PhD

**Public Contact:** 319/335-5278; Fax: 319/335-5291

**Project Number:** H133F030016

**Start Date:** July 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$45,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 3/31/2005)

**Abstract:** The purpose of the study is to examine the ethical decision-making of rehabilitation counseling students and professionals. The study has both quantitative and qualitative components. The quantitative aspect is designed to examine cognitive complexity, five personality dimensions, and moral reasoning of students and professionals in rehabilitation counseling with various levels of experience (novice, experienced, and expert). Descriptive analyses, regression analyses, and analysis of variance are conducted in this qualitative aspect of the study. Structural equation modeling is used to examine the hypothesized relationship among the variables identified in this study in an attempt to transform a theory into a model that can be statistically tested. The second aspect of the study is a qualitative approach to understanding ethical decision-making. Individuals with various levels of experience (novice, experienced, and expert) are asked to process ethical dilemmas “out loud” and the actual cognitive process of ethical decision-making behavior is analyzed. As a result, the outcome of this study provides both quantitative and qualitative data regarding ethical decision-making and provides valuable information in regard to the development of effective curricula, interventions, and strategies for improving the skills of service providers and the services and outcomes they provide to people with disabilities.

**Fellowships (Merit)**  
New York

**Journal Writing Intervention in Alleviating Psychological Distress of  
Korean Mothers of Children with Developmental Disabilities**

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Su-Je Cho, PhD  
75 Oceana Drive, East Unit 1G  
Brooklyn, NY 11235  
scho@fordham.edu

**Principal Investigator:** Su-Je Cho, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 718/646-8255; Fax: 212/636-6452

**Project Number:** H133F030018

**Start Date:** July 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$45,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 8/31/2005)

**Abstract:** This project investigates the effects of a journal writing intervention on Korean-American mothers of children with developmental disabilities. Fifty Korean-American mothers who have children with developmental disabilities diagnosed within the year participate. Based on pretest results, the participants are randomly assigned to either the experimental or the control group. The experimental group receives a journal notebook and written instructions designed to help them write about stressful events associated with their child's disability while the control group is given written instructions for writing about trivial events. All returned journal notebooks are transcribed verbatim, translated, and analyzed to explore if any specific items in the journal writing instructions are more effective or any modification is necessary in the instructions.

## Fellowships (Merit)

New York

# The Practice of a Functional Bimanual Task By Children With Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy

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Physical Therapy Program  
4200 East Ninth Avenue, C244  
Denver, CO 80262  
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**Principal Investigator:** Joanne Valvano, PhD, PT  
**Public Contact:** 303/372-9545; Fax: 303/372-9016

**Project Number:** H133F030020

**Start Date:** September 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$45,000; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 8/31/2005)

**Abstract:** The project explores the effects of part-task practice on the learning of a bimanual motor skill by children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy (HCP). HCP is a category of cerebral palsy that primarily affects motor control in the arm and leg on one side of the body. The bimanual experimental task, in this project, requires the child to cut a curved line on a paper with an adapted scissors apparatus. The scissors apparatus, operated by the hand affected with HCP, requires a simple tapping movement to open and close the blades of the scissors. The hand, not affected by HCP, holds and adjusts the position of the paper at the blades of the scissors, so the child can accurately cut along the line. Part-task practice involves practice of the scissors tapping component prior to performance of the whole bimanual task. Twelve children with HCP are assigned to one of the following practice conditions: Part-task practice, part-task practice combined with whole-task practice, or whole task practice. The dependent variables are the distance cut along the line for each practice trial and measures of coordination of the tapping movements, derived from the displacement of the scissors apparatus. The effects of part-task practice are also examined in 12 children with typical development, to aid in interpretation of the performance by children with HCP.

**Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects**  
**Clinician Researchers and Engineers: Advanced Rehabilitation Research**  
**Training**

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Marquette University  
Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Engineering Center  
735 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street; PO Box 1811  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
depps@mcw.edu  
<http://www.orec.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Gerald F. Harris, PhD 414/288-0698

**Public Contact:** Deborah Epps, Project Administrator 414/288-0696; Fax: 414/288-0713

**Project Number:** H133P040008

**Start Date:** September 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This program provides advanced education and training in rehabilitation research to selected engineers and clinician researchers. The overall goal is to develop expertise, enthusiasm, and productivity in rehabilitation research which results in an increase in the number of rehabilitation-trained physicians and engineers. Fellows are trained to conduct independent transdisciplinary research on problems related to disability and rehabilitation. The specific goal is produce productive career researchers. The program is specifically designed to give the postdoctoral trainees the skills needed to become independent rehabilitation researchers. The postdoctoral trainees experience a program designed to provide each candidate with a unique set of capabilities to succeed as a rehabilitation researcher. The capstone experience for the postdoctoral trainees is the submission of an extramural research proposal. Three research areas have been selected that provide opportunities to participate in advanced-level research: motion analysis, spasticity, and accessible medical instrumentation. Four clinical areas give participants clinical experiences to link to their research experiences: spasticity management, pain management, spinal cord injury, and motion analysis. As part of the professional development of the postdoctoral trainees and to increase the exposure to rehabilitation research, cross-disciplinary teaching is encouraged. At the completion of the program, all trainees have completed a directed independent research project, written and submitted scientific manuscripts, prepared a complete extramural grant proposal, and gained experience in managing a functional research team.

Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects  
California

**Advanced Rehabilitation Research Program: Ed Roberts Fellowship in  
Disability Studies**

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University of California

IURD

104 Wheeler Hall MC 1870

Berkeley, CA 94720-1870

sschweik@uclink.berkeley.edu

<http://www-iurd.ced.berkeley.edu/Press/2003-02-12disability-studies-fellowship.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Susan Schweik

**Public Contact:** 510/642-4874 (V); 510/549-1865; 510/913-5791; Fax: 510/643-9576

**Project Number:** H133P020009

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Other Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This program trains scholars who have PhD, MD, or other advanced professional degrees, conferred in the last five years, to be leaders in disability studies and rehabilitation research, teaching and mentorship. Based at the University of California, Berkeley, a San Francisco Bay area-wide consortium of universities, research institutes, and disability agencies recruits people who want to broaden their theoretical outlook and their disability research methodological skills. In particular, the project recruits scholars with significant disabilities from minority groups who have not had the opportunity for collaborative cross-disciplinary research study of disability that includes social science and the humanities. The project supports three nine-month-long (September to May) Ed Robert Postdoctoral Fellowships a year for each of the five program years. Fellows devote their full-time effort to Fellowship activities on site. Funding includes a stipend and travel funds.

Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects  
Florida

**Interdisciplinary Rehabilitation Research Post-Doctoral Program**

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University of Florida  
Department of Occupational Therapy  
P.O. Box 100164  
Gainesville, FL 32610-0164  
wmann@hp.ufl.edu  
<http://www.hp.ufl.edu/rehabsci/>

**Principal Investigator:** William C. Mann, PhD

**Public Contact:** 352/392-2617; Fax: 352/846-1042

**Project Number:** H133P020005

**Start Date:** August 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Margaret Campbell, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project addresses the shortage of rehabilitation researchers through an interdisciplinary postdoctoral training program in rehabilitation research. The focus is on recruiting and training postdoctoral fellows with backgrounds in professions of high need, specifically rehabilitation engineering, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. There is also a strong focus on recruiting members of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in rehabilitation research positions. The participating faculty for this program have large funded programs of rehabilitation research and also have considerable experience in serving as mentors for advanced research training. The program offers postdoctoral fellowships from two to three years to qualified individuals interested in rehabilitation research. Postdoctoral fellows focus in an area related to one of the levels of these models: neurological rehabilitation, rehabilitation engineering, and rehabilitation outcomes research.

## Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects

Illinois

### Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training

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University of Illinois at Chicago

Department of Disability and Human Development; College of Health and Human Development Sciences

1640 West Roosevelt Road

Chicago, IL 60608-6904

theller@uic.edu

<http://www.uic.edu/dhd>

**Principal Investigator:** Tamar Heller, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/413-1537; Fax: 312/996-6942

**Project Number:** H133P000005

**Start Date:** April 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Margaret Campbell, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$150,000; FY 01 \$150,000; FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project provides an intensive interdisciplinary postdoctoral training program for disability and rehabilitation research scholars. The program combines immediate immersion in an ongoing research program with a focused didactic training experience, providing trainees with knowledge of the critical values, current issues, and innovative approaches in contemporary disability research. The training is offered through a cooperative effort of three units within the College of Health and Human Development Sciences: the Department of Disability and Human Development, Department of Occupational Therapy, and the Department of Physical Therapy. These departments have an established record of successful collaboration in advanced training, including creating the Interdisciplinary in Disability Studies at UIC, a unique interdisciplinary doctoral program that addresses the multidimensional nature of disability. A central theme of this program is that the current fragmentation of knowledge regarding disability can be rectified only by preparing future scholars and researchers who have a coherent, integrated, and in-depth knowledge of the multidimensional nature of disabilities. All three academic units offering this advanced research training have senior faculty with established, ongoing research programs capable of guiding postdoctoral training in three specialized content areas of disability research: disability measurement, disability experience, and disability service and policy.

## Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects

Illinois

### Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Project in Rehabilitation Services Research

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Northwestern University  
Rehabilitation Institute Research Corporation  
Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research  
345 East Superior Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
a-heinemann@northwestern.edu  
<http://www.ric.org/research/fellowships.php>

**Principal Investigator:** Allen W. Heinemann, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/238-2802; Fax: 312/238-2383

**Project Number:** H133P030002

**Start Date:** July 01, 2003

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project develops a five-year fellowship program in rehabilitation-related health services research at Northwestern University's Institute for Health Services Research and Policy Studies and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. It uses available expertise and collaborators to train postdoctoral fellows in rehabilitation health services research. Over two years the program includes course work, a practicum, original research, and grant writing. Fellows new to health services research have six core courses, as well as the two additional courses for all fellows. The first year concentrates on beginning Masters in Public Health (MPH) courses. The second year includes intermediate MPH course work plus electives. Each fellow is expected to develop an individual research project by the end of the first training year, a publishable article by the end of the first year, and two articles by the end of the second year, in addition to submitting at least one grant application related to the research activity.

## Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects

Illinois

# Rehabilitation Science for Basic Scientists & Engineers: An Advanced Training Program

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Northwestern University  
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago  
345 East Superior, Room 1406  
Chicago, IL 60611-4496

**Principal Investigator:** W. Zev Rymer, MD, PhD

**Public Contact:** 312/238-3919; Fax: 312/238-2208

**Project Number:** H133P040007

**Start Date:** May 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Thomas Corfman

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$149,625; FY 05 \$149,922

**Abstract:** The goal of this program is to increase the number of PhD engineers and basic scientists trained to perform research aimed at solving problems of people with disabilities. To meet this objective, the project trains postdoctoral scientists in three areas of special expertise: musculoskeletal biomechanics; neurorehabilitation; and prosthetics, orthotics, and biomaterials. Targeted technical training is coordinated with intensive clinical instruction and experience. Postdoctoral trainees, including scientists and engineers from minority or disability groups, are recruited by regional and national advertising and via the Internet. Many training faculty are based within the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, providing access to active clinical rehabilitation programs, and interaction both with clinical faculty and people with disabilities.

## Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects

Massachusetts

### **An Integrated Rehabilitation Engineering Research Training Program**

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Boston University  
44 Cummington Street  
Boston, MA 02215  
jcollins@bu.edu

**Principal Investigator:** James J. Collins, PhD

**Public Contact:** 617/353-0390; Fax: 617/353-5462

**Project Number:** H133P990003

**Start Date:** February 01, 1999

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Robert J. Jaeger, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 99 \$149,915; FY 00 \$149,915; FY 01 \$149,915; FY 02 \$149,915; FY 03 \$149,915; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 1/31/2005)

**Abstract:** The goal of this project is to establish a clinically oriented, scientifically grounded educational program for training biomedical engineering (BME) postdoctoral fellows in rehabilitation engineering. The overall objective of the program is to produce biomedical engineers who are capable of communicating and interacting with physician investigators in a significant and meaningful manner, and who are capable of defining and solving clinically relevant problems in rehabilitation engineering. The specific objectives of this project are: (1) to establish a core faculty and administrative structure for the training program; (2) to provide BME postdoctoral fellows with the opportunity to participate in clinical educational rotations in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) and geriatrics; (3) to provide BME postdoctoral fellows and medical trainees in geriatrics or PM&R with the opportunity to collaborate on clinically relevant research projects; and (4) to establish a rehabilitation engineering curriculum that includes didactic sessions on clinical research methodology, as well as a seminar series to expose trainees to leaders in the field and develop their own expertise in giving scientific presentations. Accordingly, this program trains a new cadre of biomedical engineers with the knowledge and skills to develop innovative rehabilitation technologies that directly benefit individuals with disabilities.

**Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects**  
Massachusetts

**Advanced Research Training Program in Psychiatric Rehabilitation**

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Boston University  
Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
940 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, MA 02215-1303  
zlatka@bu.edu; ellison2@bu.edu  
<http://www.bu.edu/SARPSYCH>

**Principal Investigator:** Zlatka Russinova, PhD; Marsha Ellison, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 617/353-3549; Fax: 617/353-7700

**Project Number:** H133P020011

**Start Date:** September 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Cate Miller, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,984; FY 03 \$149,991; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project prepares a cadre of six advanced-level researchers in the area of psychiatric rehabilitation. The recruitment efforts target consumers, with the expectation that one or more consumers will be selected for the training program. Six fellows are recruited over the course of the project. The training program consists of two consecutive cycles of 2.25-year postdoctoral fellowships in psychiatric rehabilitation research. In order to optimize the training experience, three fellows are in residence during each cycle. While the fellowship is designed to provide broad-based intensive training in psychiatric rehabilitation research, the six fellows develop a particular expertise in conducting recovery-oriented research, given the current research profile of the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Boston University. Through a variety of training modalities fellows acquire competencies in the following areas: psychiatric rehabilitation and recovery oriented systems, recovery framework and consumer issues, research design/methodology, statistics, computer literacy, conduct of applied rehabilitation research, and grant and professional writing.e:

**Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects**  
Michigan

**The UMHS/MSU/AACIL Rehabilitation Research Training Program**

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University of Michigan  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Rehabilitation Psychology  
D4100 MPB; 1500 East Medical Center Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0718  
dgtate@umich.edu  
<http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/arrtp/>

**Principal Investigator:** Denise G. Tate, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 734/936-7052; Fax: 734/936-7048

**Project Number:** H133P030004  
**Start Date:** September 01, 2003  
**Length:** 60 months  
**NIDRR Officer:** Unknown  
**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000

**Abstract:** The University of Michigan Health System (UMHS), Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (AACIL) with consulting faculty from Michigan State University (MSU) and Wayne State University (WSU) have developed a training program to train six PhD and ten MD fellows. Training opportunities include the existing research programs funded at UMHS, the academic doctoral level rehabilitation counseling program at MSU, the multidisciplinary rehabilitation program at WSU, and opportunities for research training at a community-based agency, the AACIL. Emphasizing the consumer-scientist-practitioner model, this multidisciplinary research training program utilizes faculty and resources from 3 universities and from the AACIL to train 16 new fellows. Fellows and resident trainees may select from a curriculum that focuses on three content areas: (1) health rehabilitation outcomes; (2) independent living and community re-integration; and (3) social/environmental aspects of rehabilitation, including assistive technology.

**Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects**  
New Jersey

**Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Center on Outcomes and  
Intervention Effectiveness**

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University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, B261  
150 Bergen Street  
West Orange, NJ 07103  
mjohnston@kmrrec.org  
[http://www.kmrrec.org/KM/careers/outcomes\\_fellows.php3](http://www.kmrrec.org/KM/careers/outcomes_fellows.php3)

**Principal Investigator:** Mark V. Johnston, PhD 973/243-6810

**Public Contact:** Mark V. Johnston, PhD 973/243-6810; Fax: 973/243-6963

**Project Number:** H133P020012

**Start Date:** March 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$149,847; FY 04 \$149,500

**Abstract:** This postdoctoral research training program develops researchers who advance knowledge of the impact of interventions—medical, activity-based, social-psychological, and environmental—on outcomes for persons with physical and neurological disabilities. The program emphasizes the actual conduct of research, leading to publication. Outcomes-related study topics include research on prognosis and severity adjustment, treatment guidelines, quality improvement strategies, cost-effectiveness, and issues of health policy. Fellows typically begin by participating in one or more research projects suggested by their mentor and studying to improve their knowledge and skills. Fellows also develop their own research grant proposals. The program is supported by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/New Jersey Medical School and the Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research and Education Corporation.

**Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects**  
New York

**Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training**

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Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
One Gustave L. Levy Place  
New York, NY 10029-6574  
mary.hibbard@mssm.edu  
<http://www.mssm.edu/tbinet>

**Principal Investigator:** Mary R. Hibbard, PhD  
**Public Contact:** 212/659-9374; Fax: 212/348-5901

**Project Number:** H133P000001

**Start Date:** September 01, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Margaret Campbell, PhD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$138,006; FY 01 \$140,382; FY 02 \$140,341; FY 03 \$144,215; FY 04 \$149,949

**Abstract:** This project provides advanced rehabilitation research training to nine postdoctoral psychology fellows. Each fellow participates in the ongoing research of the NIDRR-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Community Integration of Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury. The goals of the training are to: (1) increase the number of researchers in the field of rehabilitation, (2) enhance knowledge of rehabilitation research, (3) disseminate research findings within the professional consumer communities, and (4) train fellows to become part of an interdisciplinary research team. The RRTC is a model program of participatory action research that focuses on four core research areas: quality of life/outcome measurement, disability over the life span, models of community integration, and psychosocial challenges of persons with disabilities.

## Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects

Texas

### Interdisciplinary Rehabilitation Research Training Program

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University of Texas Medical Branch  
301 University Boulevard  
Galveston, TX 77555-1137  
kottenba@utmb.edu  
<http://www.sahs.utmb.edu/rehab/>

**Principal Investigator:** Kenneth J. Ottenbacher, PhD

**Public Contact:** Beth King 409/747-1637; Fax: 409/747-1638

**Project Number:** H133P040003

**Start Date:** July 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$145,686; FY 05 \$145,686

**Abstract:** This ARRT program provides postdoctoral research opportunities to qualified individuals interested in clinical and academic careers related to rehabilitation research. Three postdoctoral fellows must plan, conduct and disseminate research in one of the following areas: cognitive/neurological rehabilitation, applied physiology/biomechanics of rehabilitation, and geriatric rehabilitation. Each rehabilitation research fellow selects one of the three research areas and conducts clinical investigations for up to three years. Outcomes include published research studies, presentations at national scientific meetings, submission of grant proposals, completion of research related courses, training in techniques of dissemination, and the development of interdisciplinary research networks. In addition to participating in clinical research activities, each fellow completes a series of core courses and directed study related to interdisciplinary research and the ethics associated with scientific inquiry and the use of human subjects in rehabilitation research. All fellows participate in a practicum experience involving persons with disabilities and their families/caregivers organized through the Transitional Learning Center. The activities of each postdoctoral fellow are directed and monitored by a fellowship supervisor with a demonstrated ability to implement, conduct, and disseminate the results of research investigations contributing to the advancement of rehabilitation science.

## Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects

Texas

### Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training

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Baylor College of Medicine  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
One Baylor Plaza  
Houston, TX 77030  
drintala@bcm.tmc.edu  
<http://public.bcm.tmc.edu/pm&r/education/Fellowships/RehabResearch.html>

**Principal Investigator:** Diana H. Rintala, PhD 713/791-1414, ext. 5807

**Public Contact:** Jacquie Parish 713/797-5940; Fax: 713/797-5982

**Project Number:** H133P020003

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Theresa San Agustin, MD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$150,000; FY 03 \$150,000; FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This program trains postdoctoral fellows in the skills necessary to become independent investigators in rehabilitation. Research training in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is multidisciplinary in nature, and encompasses the spectrum from basic mechanism to societal integration. Through this program, fellows develop research expertise in spinal cord injury, stroke, Parkinson's disease, amputee rehabilitation, neuropsychological rehabilitation/cognitive neuropsychology, rehabilitation outcomes, and social policy. The coursework includes topics such as research methodology, statistical methods, ethical issues, special populations, and scientific writing. The Applied Rehabilitation Research Course complements the Clinical Scientist Training Program by emphasizing the unique characteristics of research in rehabilitation. Fellows also participate in other education activities such as the department's Research, Education, and Development Seminar and are expected to present and produce documentation for publication on their independent research and prepare applications for federal funding building on their project for career development. They also attend, and submit abstracts for presentation at, national professional meetings to begin to integrate into the greater rehabilitation research community.

**Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects**  
Virginia

**Advanced Research Training Program**

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Virginia Commonwealth University  
Department of Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Box 980542  
Richmond, VA 23298-0542  
jskreutz@vcu.edu  
<http://advanced.rehabilitationresearch.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Jeffrey Kreutzer, PhD 804/828-9055

**Public Contact:** Jennifer Marwitz 804/828-3704; Fax: 804/828-2378

**Project Number:** H133P040006

**Start Date:** October 01, 2004

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Ruth Brannon

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 04 \$150,000; FY 05 \$150,000

**Abstract:** This project is an advanced rehabilitation research training (ARRT) program for individuals with advanced degrees who are committed to a career in rehabilitation research with a focus on neurobehavioral recovery and intervention. Training and research activities address brain injury, aneurysms, brain tumors, and other neurological disorders. Individualized research training plans emphasizing scientific rigor guide fellows' choices of training activities. Outstanding mentors, didactic experiences, and collaborative and independent research activities provide the foundation for the VCU ARRT program. Mentors include internationally and nationally renowned, distinguished scientists from the fields of rehabilitation medicine, neuropsychology, psychiatry, neurosurgery, and vocational rehabilitation. Core courses on ethics, conduct in scientific research, and grant writing are complemented by grand rounds and graduate courses. All fellows must complete and submit a grant application during the second year of their fellowship.

## Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects

Wisconsin

# Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training for Physicians and Biomedical Engineers

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Marquette University  
Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Engineering Center  
735 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street; P.O. Box 1881  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
depps@mcw.edu  
<http://www.orec.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Gerald F. Harris, PhD 414/288-0698

**Public Contact:** Deborah Epps, Project Administrator 414/288-0696; Fax: 414/288-0713

**Project Number:** H133P020004

**Start Date:** July 01, 2002

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** William V. Schutz, PhD, MSW, MPH

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$84,566; FY 03 \$144,506; FY 04 \$148,634; FY 05 \$149,186

**Abstract:** This project develops expertise, enthusiasm, and productivity in rehabilitation research that results in an increase in the number of rehabilitation-trained physicians and biomedical engineers able to conduct independent transdisciplinary research on problems related to disability and rehabilitation. The program is specifically designed to give the postdoctoral trainees the skills needed to become productive career researchers. The training program utilizes a rehabilitation research team consisting of a focused cadre of mentors and two postdoctoral fellows (one postdoctoral physician and one postdoctoral biomedical engineer). The trainees are enrolled in the research training program for 18 months. A total of three physicians and three biomedical engineers participate in this training program over the five-year period.

NIDRR Contracts  
Virginia

**Technical Support for Assessment of Management and Ancillary  
Activities of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation  
Research**

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CESSI  
6858 Old Dominion Drive, Suite 250  
McLean, VA 22101  
snewman@cessi.net  
<http://www.cessi.net>

**Principal Investigator:** Shelia Newman  
**Public Contact:** 703/448-6155; Fax: 703/442-9015

**Project Number:** ED-00-CO-0079

**Start Date:** September 07, 2000

**Length:** 60 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Joseph A. DePhillips

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 00 \$695,717; FY 01 \$245,885

**Abstract:** This project performs a wide range of technical and support activities for NIDRR, including data collection and analysis, literature reviews, issue analysis and reports, program management evaluation, conference planning and support, and development of information and database systems. Task orders completed and in process have ranged from the design and implementation of a peer review database, analysis of a standing panel peer review model, analysis of intellectual property issues related to technology transfer, support for the development of NIDRR's Long-Range Plan, outreach and networking with disability experts, and numerous meetings and conferences. Two major tasks are the Design and Conduct of the Program Review Process and Technical Support for the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR). Program Review is designed to assess the level of grantee excellence in administration, scientific rigor, relevance and productivity, and capacity building. Each year CESSI staff arrange and conduct quarterly meetings of the ICDR and meetings of the Subcommittees on Disability Statistics, Medical Rehabilitation, and Technology. An Internet "gateway" for federally funded disability research is under development and staff prepares reports to Congress and other reports as needed.

## State Technology Assistance

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This program, funded under Title I of the the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, supports consumer-driven Grants to States. Currently there are 56 projects that provide statewide, comprehensive, technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities of all ages. The purpose of the program is to increase and improve access to assistive technology devices and services through public awareness and information, advocacy, outreach, technical assistance and training, and interagency coordination.

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Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Projects  
North Carolina

**Assistive Technology Act (AT Act) Technical Assistance Program (TA)-  
Data Collection Program**

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RTI International  
Center for Research in Education  
3040 Cornwallis Road; P.O. Box 12194  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194  
cat@rti.org  
<http://www.rti.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Christene A. Tashjian  
**Public Contact:** 919/541-6128; Fax: 919/541-5849

**Project Number:** H224B030001

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Roslyn Edson

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$427,891; FY 04 \$427,891; FY 05 \$427,891

**Abstract:** The primary purposes of this grant are to continue implementation and maintenance of the web-based data collection system for AT Act state grantees and to develop and implement a similar system for Protection and Advocacy (P&A) grantees. Specific project activities include: (1) maintaining and supporting the existing web-based data collection system for the AT Act state grantees; (2) developing an annual program performance reporting form for P&A grantees in collaboration with NIDRR and a work group of stakeholders; (3) developing, implementing, and maintaining a web-based data collection system for the P&As based on the new form; (4) training grantees in the use of the data collection instruments and systems; (5) writing analytical reports based on the data collected from the grantees and writing an annual report on grantees' performance and outcomes, including interpretations of findings; (6) identifying and evaluating successful strategies that can be linked to increased access to and provision of AT based on the data collected from the grantees, including analyses of use of AT by individuals with disabilities and national trends related to AT use by individuals with disabilities; (7) examining the extent to which the grantee data address the intended purposes of the data collection activities; and (8) disseminating the reports generated from grant activities to the primary stakeholders of the AT Act grant program and other relevant groups. This project is a collaboration of RTI, Neighborhood Legal Services, and InfoUse.

Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Projects  
Virginia

## Technical Assistance Project

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Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)  
1700 North Moore Street, Suite 1540  
Arlington, VA 22209  
resnata@resna.org  
<http://www.resna.org/taproject>

**Principal Investigator:** M. Nell Bailey

**Public Contact:** 703/524-6686, ext. 305 (V); 703/524-6639 (TTY); Fax: 703/524-6630

**Project Number:** H224B020001

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$525,000; FY 03 \$525,000; FY 04 \$525,000

**Abstract:** This project assists the 56 state Assistive Technology Act (AT Act) grantees in reducing barriers and increasing access to AT devices and services for consumers with disabilities of all ages through capacity building initiatives. The needs of the state AT Act grantees are continually assessed and plans are tailored to provide timely, responsive, and proactive technical assistance to meet those needs. Delivery strategies include onsite visits, training by peers (States Helping States) and expert consultants, national meetings focused on project implementation issues, publication development on grantees' impact, models of best practice and policy issues, online services, and other communication tools. The project maintains a content-rich, accessible web site that serves as the grantees' prime resource for information dissemination. Areas of the web site include a Policy Information Pipeline, links to other related resources, and a private area designated specifically for grantees to share and exchange information. A reference library on the web contains publications and documents that can be easily accessed and downloaded.

**Alternative Financing Programs**  
Georgia

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**Credit-Able, Georgia's Alternative Financing Program**

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Georgia Department of Labor  
Vocational Rehabilitation Program  
AT Unit Tools for Life  
1700 Century Circle, Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
info@gatfl.org  
http://www.gatfl.org

**Principal Investigator:** Joy Kniskern 404/638-0387

**Public Contact:** Rebecca Roper 800/497-8665 (V, in state only); 404/638-0384 (V); 404/638-0385 (TTY); Fax: 404/486-0218

**Project Number:** H224C030009

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$1,563,307; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** The Credit-Able Alternative Financing Program represents the efforts of state agencies and local organizations to make low-cost financing on assistive technology available to the citizens of Georgia. Since Georgia does not have a state credit union for residents, Tools for Life partnered with a number of groups committed to improving economic literacy and self-sufficiency through affordable financial services for citizens. These groups formed The GettingAhead Association (TGA) two years ago to address statewide needs for financial education and support among many different populations. Georgians with disabilities can benefit to a significant degree from financial counseling as an option to increase the likelihood of their success in fulfilling responsibilities as borrowers. Regardless of age, economic status, education, or geographic location Georgians with disabilities can join TGA for a \$5.00 membership fee, covered by this grant or by a sponsor, which then offers them opportunities to join one of several participating credit unions. MACO and Gwinnett Federal Credit Union both serve the entire state regardless of members' county of residence, and have online financial services. Tools for Life and its partners are committed to consumer choice and control of programs like Credit-Able. As the program matures, expanded opportunities occur in every area of program operations: from selection of assistive technology, to decisions about whether to pursue a loan, to leadership opportunities on the Credit-Able Advisory Group and Loan Guarantee Review Panel, and TGA board or program staff.

## Alternative Financing Programs

Iowa

### Iowa AFP and Telework Loan Program

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Iowa Finance Authority  
100 East Grand Avenue, Suite 250  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
sharon.murphy@ifa.state.ia.us  
<http://www.ifahome.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael Tramontina 515/242-4977

**Public Contact:** Sharon Murphy, Program Administrator 515/242-4990; Fax: 515/242-4957

**Project Number:** H224C030005

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$482,972; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** In an effort to assist individuals with disabilities in Iowa, the State, represented by Iowa Finance Authority, along with The Iowa Able Foundation and The Abilities Fund, administer two separate loan programs that provide loan guarantees and interest rate buy downs on commercial loans as well as offering non-guaranteed direct-to-consumer loans. The first loan program allows individuals with disabilities, their guardians, advocates, and representatives, to obtain home modifications and AT equipment and services to become more independent and productive. The second loan program gives individuals with disabilities access to the financial resources necessary to purchase computers, software, peripherals, and other equipment deemed necessary to become employed or self-employed through a home-based or telework setting. The AFP and Telework programs are administered in a manner that allows consumers to receive technical assistance throughout the application process, a timely and fair decision making process, and financial products that best meet the situation and need of the consumer.

Alternative Financing Programs  
Maryland

## The Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program: A Model of Success

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State of Maryland  
Department Disabilities; ATGLP  
2301 Argonne Drive, T17  
Baltimore, MD 21218-1696  
loans@mdtap.org  
<http://www.mdtap.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael Dalto, Project Executive Director

**Public Contact:** Jessica Volmer 410/554-9233; 800/832-4827; Fax: 410/554-9237

**Project Number:** H224C030015

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$1,270,981; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** The Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program (ATGLP) provides loan guarantees and interest buy-downs for AT loans when the end user is a Maryland resident with a disability. The project introduces partial principal buy-downs as a more cost-effective alternative to interest buy-downs. The project's partnerships institute innovations that make it a national model including: (1) multiple lenders providing a choice of options to borrowers and the program, and offering the program the leverage to negotiate better terms among all lenders; (2) exclusive purchase discounts to borrowers; and (3) increased income and resources for borrowers to help them afford AT. Benefits InfoSource and the Benefits Resource Center assist borrowers to use SSI and Social Security work incentives to retain higher cash benefits, while the Maryland Center for Community Development links borrowers with service providers to establish Individual Development Accounts to provide matching funds for their savings set aside for AT purchase. Alternative resources for AT evaluation and training are also offered through No Boundaries, the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, and Learning Independence through Computers.is:

**Alternative Financing Programs**  
Michigan

## **Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund**

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Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services  
Community Development Division  
780 West Lake Lansing Road, Suite 200  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
miatloanfund@aol.com  
<http://www.mi-atlf.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Norm DeLisle 517/333-2477

**Public Contact:** Kathryn Wyeth, Operations Director 517/333-2477, ext. 35; Fax: 517/333-2677

**Project Number:** H224C030022

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$635,490; FY 04 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** Individuals with disabilities in Michigan are the target group of the fund, the goal of which is that people with disabilities in Michigan are able to obtain, either through loans or through other means, AT equipment and services. Key objectives for this project are: (1) expand the number of local disability organizations serving as counseling and intake sites; (2) expand the outreach of the fund to underserved populations including minorities, people living in economically disadvantaged areas, and individuals living in rural communities; and (3) approve loans for 75 people with disabilities to enable them to purchase AT devices and services that will enable them to achieve increased independence. The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund is a project of the Michigan Department of Career Development-Rehabilitation Services, the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC), United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan, which administers the fund, several local disability organizations, and the Financial Health Credit Union of Lansing (FHCU). The loan fund is governed by MDRC's Board of Directors, most of whose members have disabilities and is administered by UCP Michigan. A loan committee composed of people with disabilities who use AT and two bankers approves loan guarantees.

**Alternative Financing Programs**  
New Mexico

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**New Mexico Alternative Financing Program (NMAFP)**

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New Mexico Department of Education  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)  
435 Saint Michaels Drive, Building D  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
awinnegar@state.nm.us  
<http://www.nmtap.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Andy Winnegar, Project Director 505/954-8521

**Public Contact:** Caroll Cadena 800/866-2253 (V/TTY); 800/659-4915 (TTY); 505/954-8533 (V/TTY); Fax: 505/954-8562

**Project Number:** H224C030012

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$1,270,981; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** The NMAFP program provides statewide outreach to increase awareness of the loan program including accessible electronic and printed information to assist users to seek, find, and obtain loans for assistive technology needs. The NMAFP provides a low interest and interest buy-down program that involves a loan guarantee to lower rates and allows higher risk loans. The state of the art accessibility methods regarding outreach, loan processing, and consumer support services are employed including the use of toll-free telephone consulting, and information navigation and accommodation assistance. NMAFP serves persons with disabilities throughout the state regardless of disability or age. Employees with disabilities may choose to have an employer seek loans through the NMAFP for job accommodation needs.

**Alternative Financing Programs**  
Northern Mariana Islands

**Trankilu: A Northern Mariana Islands Alternative Financing Program**

Council on Developmental Disabilities  
1312 Anatahan Drive,  
Capitol Hill P.O. Box 502565  
Saipan, MP 96950-2565  
straid@cnmiddcouncil.org  
<http://www.cnmiddcouncil.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Thomas J. Camacho, Project Director

**Public Contact:** Project Coordinator 670/664-7000; Fax: 670/664-7010

**Project Number:** H224C030031

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$508,392; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** Trankilu (tranquil), a CNMI Alternative Financing Mechanism Program, offers qualified individuals with disabilities affordable loans to purchase assistive technology, adapted vehicles, and/or home modifications. Within five years, the goal is to be operating a sustainable \$1,000,000 revolving loan fund and implementing additional programs such as interest buy-down and a loan guarantee. Trankilu provides assistance to CNMI citizens who wish to build their asset base, financial well being, and have access to low cost financial service.

**Alternative Financing Programs**  
Virgin Islands

## **Virgin Islands Alternative Financing Program**

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University of the Virgin Islands  
Virgin Islands Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
2 John Brewer's Bay  
St. Thomas, VI 00802  
wfrancis@uvi.edu; wevans@uvi.edu  
<http://www.uvi.edu/pub-relations/resource.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Yegin Habtes 340/693-1323

**Public Contact:** Wilbert Francis; Wanda Evans 340/693-1189 (Francis); 340/692-1919 (Evans); Fax: 340/693-1325

**Project Number:** H224C030004

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$635,490; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** The main mission of this program is to help the approximately 8,000 US Virgin Islands (USVI) residents with disabilities purchase AT devices and services that may be required for independence in the home, workplace, and community. The USVI has unique cultural, geographic, and economic barriers that make the acquisition of AT more difficult than in other parts of the United States. Over 85% of the total population is comprised of a traditionally underrepresented group that is spread over four islands. While nearly half are "native" islanders, many come from surrounding islands/countries and represent many diverse cultures. Residents of USVI are not beneficiaries of public programs that often provide AT (i.e., Medicaid). Financial resources for AT in programs such as independent living are also very limited. This program is implemented in partnership with community service organizations, local financial institutions, individuals with disabilities, their family members, guardians, advocates, and the Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

**Alternative Financing Programs**  
Virginia

**Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Project**

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Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)  
1700 North Moore Street, Suite 1540  
Arlington, VA 22209-1903  
<http://www.resna.org/AFTAP>

**Principal Investigator:** Nancy Meidenbauer

**Public Contact:** 703/524-6686. ext. 304 (V); 703/524-6639 (TTY); Fax: 703/524-6630

**Project Number:** H224C030002

**Start Date:** May 01, 2003

**Length:** 36 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$726,000; FY 04 \$726,000

**Abstract:** This project supports states in establishing and maintaining Alternative Financing Programs (AFP). The purpose of the project is to provide technical assistance (TA) to states in developing AFPs that reduce barriers to the availability of AT and create new sources of funding for AT services and devices for people with disabilities of all ages. Technical assistance and information dissemination and utilization activities have been designed in order to achieve the project's goals. These goals are: (1) to provide timely, responsive, and proactive TA using a comprehensive model for delivery of TA, and (2) to address the TA needs of the states currently receiving Title III funds and those states that are in the process of preparing applications for AFP. The delivery strategies include on-site visits by expert consultants; a national meeting focused on issues related to developing, implementing, and maintaining financial loan programs; targeted research publications; and electronic services. A particular focus of the project is to revise the web-based data collection instruments in use today to increase their usability and validity in collecting uniform data across state programs. The project works to streamline the data collection process and analyzes the data collected to highlight trends and determine the outcomes and impact of the loan programs.

**Alternative Financing Programs**  
Virginia

**Virginia Alternative Financing Program**

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Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services  
Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)  
8004 Franklin Farms Drive; P.O. Box K091  
Richmond, VA 23288  
loanfund@erols.com  
<http://www.vats.org>; <http://www.atlfa.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Kenneth Knorr 804/662-9995

**Public Contact:** Mike Scione 804/662-9993; Fax: 804/662-9478

**Project Number:** H224C030007

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$4,941,575; FY 04 \$0 (No-cost extension through 9/30/2005)

**Abstract:** This project assists individuals with disabilities and their families, and eligible businesses, to acquire adaptive technology devices and equipment, to purchase vehicles with modifications, and to obtain home modifications for accessibility. Funds are also utilized to demonstrate assistive technology and rehabilitation engineering, assessment services, and short-term equipment loans. Services are also available at three regional loan application centers. This project is a collaboration of the Virginia Assistive Technology System and the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority.

**Alternative Financing Programs**  
Washington

**Washington Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Project**

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Washington State Department of Community Trade & Economic Development  
3670 Stone Way North  
Seattle, WA 98103  
fpennell@watf.org  
<http://www.watf.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Nancy Hanna 360/725-2856

**Public Contact:** Frances Pennell 206/826-1038; Fax: 206/826-1138

**Project Number:** H224C030032

**Start Date:** October 01, 2003

**Length:** 12 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 03 \$635,490; FY 04 \$635,490

**Abstract:** This project provides low interest loans for Washington residents with disabilities for AT and home and vehicle accessibility modifications. These loans are provided through a direct lending program operated by The Washington Assistive Technology Foundation (WATF) and through contracts with other commercial lenders potentially including commercial banks, credit unions, and/or community development financial institutions. Potential borrowers are offered financial counseling and financial literacy education, information on AT selection, assistance with PASS plan preparation, and information about, and referral to, appropriate AT professionals and providers. These services are provided directly by WATF and/or through referral to other state and private entities.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Alabama

**Alabama Statewide Technology Access and Response Project (STAR)  
System for Alabamians with Disabilities**

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Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services  
2125 East South Boulevard; P.O. Box 20752  
Montgomery, AL 36120-0752  
tbridges@rehab.state.al.us  
<http://www.rehab.state.al.us/star>

**Principal Investigator:** Steve Shivers

**Public Contact:** Ted Bridges 800/782-7656 (V, in state only); 334/613-3480 (V); 334/613-3519 (TTY); Fax: 334/613-3485

**Project Number:** H224A30009

**Start Date:** October 01, 1993

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 93 \$520,670; FY 94 \$540,000; FY 95 \$580,000; FY 96 \$536,900; FY 97 \$574,900; FY 98 \$710,052; FY 99 \$730,000; FY 00 \$688,624; FY 01 \$516,468; FY 02 \$344,312

**Abstract:** This project addresses nine goals: (1) to establish an organizational structure that maximizes consumer participation; (2) to facilitate interagency collaboration in the development of policies and procedures concerning technology services; (3) to maximize consumer participation at all levels of project activities; (4) to establish a statewide consumer and family network; (5) to develop a statewide consumer-responsive information and referral system; (6) to develop a public awareness campaign to elevate the understanding of the benefits and use of technology for people with disabilities; (7) to develop and provide technology training activities for consumers, their families, professionals, employers, and the general public regarding technology-related issues; (8) to advance positive policy and funding changes that improve the procurement of and access to technology devices and services; and (9) to develop and implement a project evaluation system and conduct ongoing needs assessment.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Alaska

## Assistive Technologies of Alaska

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Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
1016 West Sixth, Suite 205  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
james\_beck@labor.state.ak.us  
<http://www.labor.state.ak.us/at/index.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Jim Beck

**Public Contact:** 800/478-4378 (V/TTY, in state only); 907/269-3569 (V/TTY); Fax: 907/269-3632

**Project Number:** H224A990001

**Start Date:** July 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$563,052; FY 91 \$565,205; FY 92 \$595,000; FY 93 \$748,000; FY 94 \$749,298; FY 95 \$749,298; FY 96 \$693,618; FY 97 \$731,618; FY 98 \$548,714; FY 99 \$368,000; FY 00 \$365,809; FY 01 \$365,809; FY 02 \$365,809; FY 03 \$365,809; FY 04 \$365,809

**Abstract:** Assistive Technologies of Alaska (ATA) is a systems change project funded under the authority of the Tech Act. ATA has worked to establish a statewide, consumer-responsive system to improve access to AT. The project has responded to the needs of Alaskans with disabilities by creating training tools and resource documents; establishing a guaranteed loan program; achieving passage of an AT consumer protection law; and setting up a statewide library system for access to technology. In the last two years, the project is transitioning services to other permanent programs.

**State Technology Assistance Projects**  
American Samoa

**American Samoa Assistive Technology Service (ASATS) Project**

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Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Department of Human Resources  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
edperei@blueskynet.as

**Principal Investigator:** Pete P. Galea'i

**Public Contact:** Edmund Pereira, Project Director 011/684/699-1529 (V); 011/684/233-7874 (TTY);  
Fax: 011/684/699-1376

**Project Number:** H224A30014

**Start Date:** October 01, 1993

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 93 \$139,200; FY 94 \$150,000; FY 95 \$150,000; FY 96 \$150,000; FY 97 \$150,000; FY 98 \$210,000; FY 99 \$105,000; FY 00 \$150,000; FY 01 \$105,000; FY 02 \$105,000; FY 03 \$105,000; FY 04 \$105,000

**Abstract:** This project addresses four goals: (1) identification, training, and support of people with disabilities to provide direction and guidance to the American Samoa Assistive Technology Project; (2) development and implementation of a system for individual and program needs assessment for AT; (3) development and promotion, in collaboration and in partnership with existing agencies, of a consumer responsive, culturally appropriate assistive technology service-delivery system; and (4) development and implementation of a model multiagency information, education, and public awareness system.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Arizona

## Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP)

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Northern Arizona University  
Institute for Human Development  
4105 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 260  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
jill.sherman@nau.edu  
<http://www.nau.edu/ihd/aztap>

**Principal Investigator:** Jill S. Oberstein, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/477-9921 (V); 602/728-9534 (V); 602/728-9536 (TTY); Fax: 602/728-9535

**Project Number:** H224A40002

**Start Date:** October 01, 1994

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 94 \$507,916; FY 95 \$550,000; FY 96 \$509,130; FY 97 \$547,130; FY 98 \$675,531; FY 99 \$654,103; FY 00 \$654,103; FY 01 \$654,103; FY 02 \$490,000; FY 03 \$490,577; FY 04 \$490,577

**Abstract:** This program increases access to AT services and devices for people with disabilities and their families and facilitates the development of a coordinated, consumer-responsive AT service-delivery system. The program includes seven goals: (1) to establish a program infrastructure that is consumer responsive and promotes system change; (2) to increase consumer involvement; (3) to increase interagency collaboration and coordination; (4) to increase awareness of the needs for, and efficacy of, AT services and devices; (5) to increase the competencies and skills of providers and consumers of AT services and devices; (6) to improve program and fiscal resources; and (7) to develop and implement protection and advocacy services in support of the program. Priority activities include: information and referral, training and technical assistance, outreach to underrepresented populations, funding and policy analysis, advocacy, and research.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Arkansas

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**Arkansas Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN)**

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Arkansas Rehabilitation Services  
Department of Workforce Education  
2201 Brookwood Drive, Suite 117  
Little Rock, AR 72202  
bmvuletich@ars.state.ar.us  
<http://www.arkansas-ican.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Barry Buletich

**Public Contact:** 800/828-2799 (V/TTY, in state only); 501/666-8868 (V/TTY); Fax: 501/666-5319

**Project Number:** H224A90020

**Start Date:** October 01, 1989

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 89 \$503,811; FY 90 \$506,078; FY 91 \$551,078; FY 92 \$725,000; FY 93 \$773,929; FY 94 \$835,000; FY 95 \$835,000; FY 96 \$772,951; FY 97 \$579,713; FY 98 \$386,476; FY 99 \$386,476; FY 00 \$386,476; FY 01 \$386,476; FY 02 \$386,476; FY 03 \$386,476

**Abstract:** This project's activities and objectives include maintaining a clearinghouse for technology, expanding funding alternatives for technology, creating a consumer-responsive technology system through legal remedies, expanding outreach programs, increasing system capacity through education across professional and technical disciplines, and providing information and referral services.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
California

## California Assistive Technology System (CATS)

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California Department of Rehabilitation  
External Affairs/Independent Living Division  
2000 Evergreen; P.O. Box 944222  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2220  
bscwesi@dor.ca.gov; rharring@dor.ca.gov  
<http://www.atnet.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Benjamin Harville 916/263-8950

**Public Contact:** Olivia Wetherbee; Edwina Brock 916/263-9842(V); 916/263-8685 (TTY); Fax: 916/  
263-7467

**Project Number:** H224A30008

**Start Date:** October 01, 1993

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 93 \$550,000; FY 94 \$680,000; FY 95 \$900,000; FY 96 \$833,000; FY 97  
\$871,121; FY 98 \$1,337,103; FY 99 \$1,315,675; FY 00 \$1,315,675; FY 01 \$986,765; FY 02  
\$657,838

**Abstract:** This project is administered by a unit within the lead agency, Department of Rehabilitation. It is advised by an Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC), a majority of whose members are consumers. The unit administers a transportation and AT loan guarantee program. The unit contracts with other entities to provide advocacy services, outreach, and training for underserved and rural populations; establish AT centers in rural counties; and establish a nonprofit organization to conduct other project activities and continue the project when grant funding ends. The nonprofit unit (AT Network) operated by the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC) includes a toll-free AT information and referral service (800/390-2699 [V] and 800/900-0706 [TTY], in state only), a project web site, an AT news service, public awareness and marketing activities, interagency coordination, and coordination of system change activities.

**State Technology Assistance Projects**  
Colorado

**Colorado Assistive Technology Project (CATP)**

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University of Colorado Health Sciences Center  
Assistive Technology Partners  
1245 East Colfax Avenue, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80218  
cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu  
<http://www.uchsc.edu/atp>

**Principal Investigator:** Cathy Bodine, Project Director 303/315-1281

**Public Contact:** 800/255-3477 (in state only); 303/315-1280 (V); 303/837-8964 (TTY); Fax: 303/837-1208

**Project Number:** H224A40014

**Start Date:** October 01, 1989

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 89 \$540,140; FY 90 \$542,571; FY 91 \$577,571; FY 92 \$609,538; FY 93 \$690,407; FY 94 \$780,000; FY 95 \$780,000; FY 96 \$722,000; FY 97 \$541,529; FY 98 \$361,019; FY 99 \$361,019; FY 00 \$361,018; FY 01 \$361,019; FY 02 \$361,019; FY 03 \$361,019; FY 04 \$361,019

**Abstract:** This project's activities and objectives include a network of Technology Outreach Centers throughout the state and a central AT resource center. Project activities include information, referral, public awareness, training, technical assistance, and electronic networking linkages between local agencies and the state. Systems-change activities include a task force on policy review and analysis, ongoing advocacy education, and direct advocacy services through a contract with the state protection and advocacy system.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Connecticut

## Connecticut Assistive Technology Project

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Connecticut Department of Social Services  
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services  
25 Sigourney Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106  
DrJohnF@aol.com  
<http://www.techactproject.com>

**Principal Investigator:** John M. Ficarro

**Public Contact:** 800/537-2549 (in state only); 860/424-4881 (V); 860/424-4839 (TTY); Fax: 860/424-4850

**Project Number:** H224A20013

**Start Date:** October 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$525,000; FY 93 \$554,000; FY 94 \$580,000; FY 95 \$520,000; FY 96 \$500,000; FY 97 \$538,000; FY 98 \$651,365; FY 99 \$629,937; FY 00 \$472,453; FY 01 \$314,969; FY 02 \$314,969; FY 03 \$314,969; FY 04 \$314,969

**Abstract:** This program provides Connecticut residents with disabilities a single point of entry for advocacy, information and referral, peer counseling, and access to objective expert advice and consultation. This system is founded on the principles of ready access to available technology, informed choice, coordination, and maximum use of available resources and knowledge. The project's low-interest AT revolving loan fund serves as an alternative funding mechanism for individuals ineligible for existing funding streams. The project has developed a multi-service center based on a business model and includes equipment recycling, equipment loan, demonstration, computer lab and offers training and other services. Finally, the program is supported by an extensive training, education, and public awareness component, though these services have been reduced as a reality of reduced funding.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Delaware

## Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)

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Center for Applied Science and Engineering  
University of Delaware  
Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children  
1600 Rockland Road; P.O. Box 269  
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269  
dati@asel.udel.edu  
<http://www.dati.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Beth A. Mineo Mollica, PhD 302/651-6836

**Public Contact:** Carmen Taylor-Acevedo, Staff Assistant 800/870-DATI (V/TTY, in state only); 302/651-6790 (V); 302/651-6794 (TTY); Fax: 302/651-6793

**Project Number:** H224A10005

**Start Date:** September 01, 1991

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 91 \$501,562; FY 92 \$505,146; FY 93 \$550,616; FY 94 \$620,000; FY 95 \$620,000; FY 96 \$573,934; FY 97 \$611,928; FY 98 \$695,827; FY 99 \$521,870; FY 00 \$347,921; FY 01 \$347,914; FY 02 \$347,914; FY 03 \$347,914; FY 04 \$347,914

**Abstract:** The DATI project has established county resource centers in each of Delaware's three counties. These centers serve as information and equipment resource sites, offering short-term equipment loans, training and demonstration workshops, and regular informational mailings. DATI also offers a quarterly newsletter featuring articles on funding, equipment recycling, and general AT information. DATI assists consumers in locating funding for AT devices and services. Collaboration among existing state agencies and consumer groups has enhanced assistive technology promotion further throughout the state.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
District of Columbia

## University Legal Services AT Program for the District of Columbia

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University Legal Services  
220 I Street Northeast, Suite 130  
Washington, DC 20002  
atpdc@uls-dc.com  
<http://www.atpdc.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Alicia C. Johns 202/547-0198, ext. 134

**Public Contact:** Information Specialist 202/547-0198 (V); 202/547-2657 (TTY); Fax: 202/547-2662

**Project Number:** H224A30001

**Start Date:** October 01, 1993

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 93 \$500,000; FY 94 \$550,180; FY 95 \$565,000; FY 96 \$523,015; FY 97 \$557,503; FY 98 \$632,503; FY 99 \$616,143; FY 00 \$616,143; FY 01 \$462,107; FY 02 \$308,072; FY 03 \$308,072; FY 04 \$308,072

**Abstract:** This project's activities are designed to empower individuals with disabilities; to promote consumer involvement and advocacy; to provide information, referral, and training as they relate to accessing assistive technology services and devices; and to identify and improve access to funding resources. Activities focus on increasing access to AT devices and services for school age children, public awareness, and demonstrations targeting people who are underserved. The program collaborates with public and private entities, conducts advocacy training specifically for consumers with disabilities, and implements systems change activities that increase access to, provision of, and funding for AT devices and services on a permanent basis. This project operates a Resource Center, a reduced-interest AT financial loan program, and a short-term AT equipment lending program.o:

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Florida

**Florida Alliance for Assistive Service and Technology (FAAST), Inc.**

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FAAST, Inc.  
325 John Knox Road, Bldg. B  
Tallahassee, FL 32303-4151  
faast@faast.org  
<http://faast.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Jane E. Johnson

**Public Contact:** Lana Peterson, Director of Program Services 800/322-7881 (V/TTY, in state, information and referral only); 850/487-3278 (V/TTY); 850/487-2850 (TTY/Fax); Fax: 850/487-2805

**Project Number:** H224A000001

**Start Date:** July 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$550,000; FY 93 \$995,000 (includes carryover funding); FY 94 \$730,000; FY 95 \$700,000; FY 96 \$647,983; FY 97 \$685,983; FY 98 \$922,107; FY 99 \$902,700; FY 00 \$675,509; FY 01 \$450,340; FY 02 \$450,340; FY 03 \$450,340; FY 04 \$450,340

**Abstract:** FAAST, designed by and for consumers in Florida, provides comprehensive consumer outreach, awareness, and services. Its consumer-directed board is composed of 51-percent people with disabilities or family members of individuals with disabilities. Services are provided through four strategically located regional centers in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Tampa, and Miami. FAAST's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities by promoting access to, awareness of, and advocacy for AT. Through a seamless supportive network between Florida business and government, FAAST provides AT products and services that enable people with disabilities to participate fully in independent living, education, work, and recreation.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Georgia

## Georgia Tools for Life

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Georgia Department of Labor  
Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Assistive Technology Unit  
1700 Century Circle, Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
info@gatfl.org  
<http://www.gatfl.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Joy Kniskern

**Public Contact:** Rebecca Roper 800/497-8665 (V, in state only); 404/638-0384 (V); 404/638-0385 (TTY); Fax: 404/486-0218

**Project Number:** H224A10001

**Start Date:** September 01, 1991

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 91 \$519,474; FY 92 \$520,000; FY 93 \$585,000; FY 94 \$729,924; FY 95 \$729,924; FY 96 \$675,683; FY 97 \$713,683; FY 98 \$888,822; FY 99 \$666,617; FY 00 \$444,411; FY 01 \$444,411; FY 02 \$444,411; FY 03 \$444,411; FY 04 \$444,411

**Abstract:** The Georgia Tools for Life program includes training at all levels, public awareness, funding policy analysis, direct services, device lending libraries, and program evaluation. The hub of Tools for Life is operated out of the Georgia Division of Rehabilitation Services. Tools for Life is responsible for seven areas of coordination: (1) policy analysis and improved service delivery, (2) coordination with consumers, (3) coordination among public and private organizations, (4) training and technical assistance, (5) public awareness and an information and referral network, (6) advocacy, and (7) consumer-responsive program evaluation. Tools for Life also coordinates four Assistive Technology Resource Centers, the ReBoot Recycling Service, and is helping to create the GettingAhead Association for individuals who are improving their economic self-sufficiency. The association includes financial services such as economic literacy assistance.

**State Technology Assistance Projects**  
Guam

**Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT)**

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AVP/CEDDARS/GSAT  
University of Guam, UOG Station  
Mangilao, GU 96923  
gsat@ite.net  
<http://uog2.uog.edu/uap/gsat.html>

**Principal Investigator:** Heidi E. Farra-San Nicolas, PhD 671/735-2482 (V)

**Public Contact:** Michael Terlaje 671/735-2490, ext. 3 (V); 671/735-2491 (TTY); Fax: 671/734-8378

**Project Number:** H224A40003

**Start Date:** October 01, 1994

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 94 \$150,000; FY 95 \$150,000; FY 96 \$150,000; FY 97 \$150,000; FY 98 \$150,000; FY 99 \$150,000; FY 00 \$105,000; FY 01 \$105,000; FY 02 \$105,000; FY 03 \$105,000; FY 04 \$105,000

**Abstract:** This project has established a consumer-responsive, comprehensive, territory-wide program of technology-related assistance for people with disabilities to assist in overcoming Guam's unique challenges, including limited local funding, lack of trained personnel, few markets and market incentives, limited information, and limited eligibility for specific federal funding. Additionally, the provision of AT devices and services in the Pacific Basin presents many unique challenges. Small island systems, such as Guam, have limited budgets, and a harsh tropical-island environment (salt water, high humidity, and rough terrain) that creates difficulties for equipment repair and maintenance. The remote geographic location makes procurement, adjustments, and custom modifications to assistive technology equipment extremely difficult and costly. The project emphasizes and supports systems change and advocacy activities that serve to build capacity within existing programs and with people with disabilities of all ages. GSAT is administered locally by Guam University's Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (CEDDERS).

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Hawaii

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**Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC)**

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ATRC  
414 Kuwili Street, Suite 104  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
atrc@atrc.org  
<http://www.atrc.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong, Executive Director 808/532-7110

**Public Contact:** 800/645-3007 (V/TTY, in state only); 808/532-7110 (V/TTY); Fax: 808/532-7120

**Project Number:** H224A10023

**Start Date:** October 01, 1991

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 91 \$530,926; FY 92 \$530,926; FY 93 \$530,926; FY 94 \$660,895; FY 95 \$678,000; FY 96 \$627,618; FY 97 \$665,618; FY 98 \$754,956; FY 99 \$566,217; FY 00 \$377,478; FY 01 \$377,478; FY 02 \$377,478; FY 03 \$377,478; FY 04 \$377,478

**Abstract:** Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC) provides information and training on AT devices, services, and funding resources for the residents of Hawaii and also works nationally as part of the Association of Tech Act Projects. The organization conducts presentations and demonstrations in the community to increase AT awareness and promote self-advocacy among people with disabilities. ATRC offers classes on basic software and AT software in the state-of-the-art Technology Center. Open lab time is available for personal computer use. ATRC operates six equipment loan banks throughout Hawaii for individuals to try out AT devices. For eligible individuals wanting to purchase AT devices, ATRC offers financial loans. The agency collaborates with educators, independent living specialists, employment counselors, medical professionals, and others to ensure individuals have access to the technology they want and need. An advisory council to the organization provides input from the prospective of consumers and service providers, and the organization collaborates with state agency officials through its Policy Coordinating Committee, members of which are appointed by the Governor.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Idaho

## Idaho Assistive Technology Project

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University of Idaho  
129 West Third Street  
Moscow, ID 83843-4401  
rseiler@uidaho.edu  
<http://www.educ.uidaho.edu/idatech>

**Principal Investigator:** Ron Seiler, Project Director

**Public Contact:** Susan House, Information Specialist 800/432-8324 (V/TTY); 208/885-3559 (V/TTY); Fax: 208/885-3628

**Project Number:** H224A20017

**Start Date:** September 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$529,436; FY 93 \$676,680 (includes carryover funding); FY 94 \$620,000; FY 95 \$634,246; FY 96 \$587,115; FY 97 \$625,115; FY 98 \$719,907; FY 99 \$698,479; FY 00 \$539,000; FY 01 \$349,240; FY 02 \$349,240; FY 03 \$349,240; FY 04 \$349,240

**Abstract:** The Idaho Assistive Technology Project is managed by the Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho. The project engages in systems change activities, training, materials development, information dissemination, and advocacy activities directed at increasing the availability of assistive devices and services to Idahoans who have disabilities. A customer board directs the overall activities of the project and engages in a process of barrier identification and elimination. Major project components include training for consumers and service providers about AT, funding and loan programs for AT, advocacy, direct service provision through two regional resource centers, and systems change that addresses policy, practice, and legislation.

## State Technology Assistance Projects

Illinois

### Illinois Assistive Technology Project (IATP)

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IATP

1 West Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 100

Springfield, IL 62701

iatp@iltech.org

<http://www.iltech.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Wilhelmina Gunther

**Public Contact:** Sherry Edwards 800/852-5110 (V/TTY, in state only); 217/522-7985 (V/TTY); 217/522-9966 (TTY); Fax: 217/522-8067

**Project Number:** H224A90038

**Start Date:** October 01, 1989

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 89 \$515,300; FY 90 \$517,619; FY 91 \$617,619; FY 92 \$620,000; FY 93 \$750,000; FY 94 \$923,271; FY 95 \$923,271; FY 96 \$833,121; FY 97 \$640,997; FY 98 \$427,332; FY 99 \$647,332; FY 00 \$427,332; FY 01 \$427,332; FY 02 \$427,332; FY 03 \$427,332; FY 04 \$427,332

**Abstract:** This project's activities and objectives include information and referral services highlighting available technology and services, comprehensive advocacy training for people with disabilities and their families, and opportunities to explore AT options in the demonstration center. The project has statewide consumer involvement. Consumers have input into all facets of the project's operation, from establishing goals and objectives to implementing the activities.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Indiana

**ATTAIN (Assistive Technology Through Action in Indiana,  
Incorporated)**

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ATTAIN  
32 East Washington Street, Suite 1400  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
attain@attaininc.org  
<http://www.attaininc.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Gary Hand, Executive Director

**Public Contact:** Mary Duffan 317/486-8808 (V); 317/486-8809 (TTY); 800/528-8246 (in-state only);  
Fax: 317/486-8809

**Project Number:** H224A00027

**Start Date:** July 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$521,480; FY 91 \$541,277; FY 92 \$565,277; FY 93 \$660,288; FY 94 \$726,892; FY 95 \$726,892; FY 96 \$672,877; FY 97 \$710,877; FY 98 \$533,158; FY 99 \$355,439; FY 00 \$355,439; FY 01 \$355,439; FY 02 \$355,439; FY 03 \$355,439; FY 04 \$355,439

**Abstract:** The mission of Attain is to create solutions that enable people with functional limitations to continue to live, learn, work, and play in the community of their choice. Attain provides direct service programs and promotes systems change in the public and private sectors to promote the availability and use of assistive technologies. Direct service programs include assistive technology evaluations and treatments, information and referral services equipment exchange network, alternative loan program, group and individual training, equipment loan program, and advocacy. Attain service individuals of all ages and disabilities.

## State Technology Assistance Projects

Iowa

### Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)

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Iowa University Center for Excellence in Disabilities  
Center for Disabilities and Development  
100 Hawkins Drive, Room S295  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1011  
infotech@uiowa.edu  
<http://www.uiowa.edu/infotech>

**Principal Investigator:** Jane Gay, 319/356-4463

**Public Contact:** 800/331-3027 (V/TTY); 877/686-0032 (TTY); Fax: 319/356-8284

**Project Number:** H224A00028

**Start Date:** April 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$557,322; FY 91 \$594,287; FY 92 \$595,289; FY 93 \$700,314; FY 94 \$735,000; FY 95 \$735,000; FY 96 \$680,382; FY 97 \$718,382; FY 98 \$538,787; FY 99 \$359,191; FY 00 \$359,191; FY 01 \$359,191; FY 02 \$359,191; FY 03 \$359,191; FY 04 \$359,191

**Abstract:** This project conducts awareness and training programs and collaborates with other systems-change efforts. The goals and objectives of the Iowa Program are developed and implemented through an extensive process that involves consumers, advocacy organizations, private and public service providers, regional and state agencies, third-party payers, and entities not traditionally associated with AT services. The information and referral portion of the Iowa program, Iowa COMPASS, provides information on new and used adaptive equipment, funding information, and a newsletter/ The Iowa Program is working closely with the state's Olmstead Project and CMS funded projects to improve funding and access to assistive technology devices and services. The Iowa Program is also working on several projects with the state's department of education to improve access to devices and services through Part C and B, and in post-secondary settings. The Iowa Program is also working with the state Secretary to State on the implementation of the state HAVA plan activities. The Iowa Program works with existing agencies and services to increase their capacity to provide assistive technology services across the state.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Kansas

## Assistive Technology for Kansans Project

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University of Kansas  
Life Span Institute  
2601 Gabriel Avenue; P.O. Box 738  
Parsons, KS 67357  
ssack@ku.edu  
<http://atk.ku.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Charles R. Spellman, EdD; Sara H. Sack, PhD

**Public Contact:** 800/526-3648 (800/KAN DO IT, in state only); 620/421-8367 (V/TTY); Fax: 316/421-0954 (Fax/TTY)

**Project Number:** H224A30013

**Start Date:** October 01, 1993

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 93 \$515,000; FY 94 \$529,999; FY 95 \$550,000; FY 96 \$513,758; FY 97 \$551,758; FY 98 \$665,404; FY 99 \$643,976; FY 00 \$643,876; FY 01 \$483,077; FY 02 \$362,216; FY 03 \$362,216; FY 04 \$362,216

**Other Funding:** FY 93 \$89,029 (Kansas Rehabilitation Services); FY 95 \$395,000 (KRS); FY 96 \$780,000 (KRS); FY 01 \$61,906 (KRS); FY 02 \$375,000 (KRS); FY 03 \$35,000 (Kansas Department of Health & Environment)

**Abstract:** Through consumer involvement and leadership by the Kansas University Program at Parsons, this project engages in activities that are designed to result in laws, regulations, policies, practices, or organizational structures that promote consumer-responsive programs that increase access to assistive technology devices and services. Through subcontracts with organizations across the state, the project operates five Regional Assistive Technology Access Sites, provides a toll-free number that connects callers directly to the appropriate Regional Access Site, manages an Interagency Equipment Loan System, and leads a policy analysis and legislative alert effort.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Kentucky

## Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network

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Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network  
KATS Network Coordinating Center  
8412 Westport Road  
Louisville, KY 40242  
katsnet@iglou.com  
<http://www.katsnet.org>

**Principal Investigator:** J. Chase Forrester, JD, Project Director

**Public Contact:** Ronji Dearborn 800/327-5287 (V/TTY, in state only); 502/327-0022 (V/TTY); 502/327-9855 (TTY); Fax: 502/327-9974

**Project Number:** H224A90002

**Start Date:** October 01, 1989

**Length:** 180 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 89 \$535,102; FY 90 \$537,510; FY 91 \$577,102; FY 92 \$680,000; FY 93 \$710,108; FY 94 \$800,000; FY 95 \$800,000; FY 96 \$740,552; FY 97 \$555,414; FY 98 \$370,276; FY 99 \$370,276; FY 00 \$370,276; FY 01 \$370,276; FY 02 \$370,276; FY 03 \$370,276; FY 04 \$370,276

**Other Funding:** FY 03 \$37,167 (SE-DBTAC)

**Abstract:** This project is a statewide network of organizations and individuals connecting to create a consumer-driven, collaborative system to make assistive technology information, devices, and services easily obtainable for people of any age or disability. In addition to its primary role in the development and coordination of activities among state agencies and organizations that facilitate access to, provision of, and funding for AT devices and services, the Coordinating Center staff conducts information and referral services and disseminates information. Associated organizations provide training activities, assessments and evaluations, consultations on appropriate technologies, technical assistance, operate an equipment recycling and lending program and implement a low interest loan program. Consumers represent a majority of the advisory board membership.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Louisiana

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**Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)**

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LATAN  
P.O. Box 14115  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4115  
cpourciau@latan.org  
<http://www.latan.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Julie M. Nesbit

**Public Contact:** Clara Pourciau 800/270-6185 (V/TTY); 225/925-9500 (V/TTY); Fax: 225/925-9560

**Project Number:** H224A10028

**Start Date:** September 01, 1991

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 91 \$502,566; FY 92 \$505,398; FY 93 \$555,398; FY 94 \$631,095; FY 95 \$660,000; FY 96 \$610,955; FY 97 \$648,955; FY 98 \$791,475; FY 99 \$593,606; FY 00 \$395,738; FY 01 \$395,738; FY 02 \$395,738; FY 03 \$395,738; FY 04 \$395,738

**Other Funding:** FY 03 \$1,500,000 (Title III, AT Act)

**Abstract:** Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network's (LATAN) mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve a higher quality of life and greater independence through increased access to assistive technology as part of their daily lives. Major program initiatives include: (1) empowering consumers to make informed choices regarding universal design (UD) and assistive technology (AT); (2) providing skills training to providers in UD and AT; (2) a loan program that provides consumers with alternative purchasing options; (3) a computer recycling program; (4) a peer support network for assistive technology users, providers, and vendors; and (5) interagency collaboration for advocacy and policy work, especially in the area of long-term supports and services for individuals of all ages with disabilities and functional limitations due to aging. Demonstrations and presentations provide an opportunity for LATAN to reach rural and inner-city areas, where a majority of ethnic minorities and elderly reside. LATAN provides information about AT that will enable an individual to live at home, work, learn and recreate, and about the services needed to acquire and use these devices. Members of the project staff provide training that empowers individuals to self-advocate successfully for the aids they need. LATAN also advocates for increased access to assistive technology through public and private agencies and entities. Training is provided to increase the skills of case managers, personal assistants, rehabilitation counselors, educators, therapists, and other providers and support personnel to recognize the benefits and uses of, and the need for, various types of AT devices and services. A consumer-majority board directs LATAN.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Maine

**Maine Consumer Information and Technology Training Exchange  
(Maine CITE)**

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Maine CITE Coordinating Center  
46 University Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330  
kpowers@maine.edu  
<http://www.maine cite.org>

**Principal Investigator:** David Noble Stockford 207/624-6650 (V); 207/624-6800 (TTY)  
**Public Contact:** Kathleen Powers, Project Director 207/621-3195 (V); 207/621-3482 (TTY); Fax:  
207/621-3193

**Project Number:** H224A90047

**Start Date:** October 01, 1989

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 89 \$541,876; FY 90 \$544,315; FY 91 \$594,315; FY 92 \$650,000; FY 93 \$750,000; FY 94 \$845,000; FY 95 \$845,000; FY 96 \$782,000; FY 97 \$586,656; FY 98 \$391,104; FY 99 \$391,104; FY 00 \$391,104; FY 01 \$391,104; FY 02 \$391,104; FY 03 \$391,104; FY 04 \$391,104

**Abstract:** This project collaborates with various Maine organizations, including centers for independent living, parent training agencies, and nonprofit community programs, to build a statewide network of information and resources on AT. Project goals are: to promote broader understanding of the benefits and wider availability of AT; to educate people with disabilities, their families, professionals, and general public in purchasing and using AT; to promote self-advocacy among people with disabilities to shape public policy that promotes assistive technology and universal design; and to assist public and private institutions, organizations, and associations in providing the knowledge, skills, and competencies related to AT and universal design to their constituents.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Maryland

## Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP)

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Department of Disabilities  
2301 Argonne Drive, Room T17  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
mdtap@mdtap.org  
<http://www.mdtap.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Michael Dalto, Project Executive Director

**Public Contact:** Jessica Volmer 800/832-4827 (800/TECH TAP, V/TTY); 410/554-9230 (V/TTY);  
Fax: 410/554-9237

**Project Number:** H224A90019

**Start Date:** October 01, 1989

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 89 \$500,000; FY 90 \$502,250; FY 91 \$502,250; FY 92 \$671,029; FY 93 \$770,000; FY 94 \$825,000; FY 95 \$825,000; FY 96 \$763,694; FY 97 \$572,771; FY 98 \$381,000; FY 99 \$381,847; FY 00 \$381,847; FY 01 \$381,847; FY 02 \$381,847; FY 03 \$381,847; FY 04 \$381,847

**Abstract:** The Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP) is a part of the Department of Disabilities serving individuals of all ages and disabilities. Activities of this program include conducting a public awareness campaign with a toll-free phone number, maintaining lending libraries of information and AT devices, and equipment demonstration centers. The program administers a loan guarantee project, that makes possible low-interest loans for AT to individuals with disabilities. The program grants funds to private organizations to provide regional coverage of the state in relation to AT issues.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Massachusetts

## Massachusetts Assistive Technology Partnership

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Children's Hospital  
1295 Boylston Street, Suite 310  
Boston, MA 02215  
matp@matp.org  
<http://www.matp.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Marylyn Howe, Project Director 617/355-7167 (TTY)

**Public Contact:** Patricia Hill 800/848-8867 (V/TTY, in state only); 617/355-7153 (V); 617/355-7301 (TTY); Fax: 617/355-6345

**Project Number:** H224A00036

**Start Date:** July 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$563,998; FY 91 \$593,993; FY 92 \$624,062; FY 93 \$725,764; FY 94 \$811,962; FY 95 \$811,962; FY 96 \$751,592; FY 97 \$789,592; FY 98 \$592,194; FY 99 \$592,194; FY 00 \$394,796; FY 01 \$394,796; FY 02 \$394,796; FY 03 \$394,796; FY 04 \$394,796

**Abstract:** The Massachusetts Assistive Technology Partnership (MATP) is a consumer-responsive, cross-disability, multicultural, statewide project that conducts activities to increase access to AT for people with disabilities. Activities include public awareness, information services, training and technical assistance, funding and policy analysis, advocacy, and related work to improve services and promote involvement of people with disabilities in AT. Through regional Peer Assistive Technology Programs, The MATP provides information and referral, peer networking, training, and individual and systems advocacy. The MATP works closely with people with disabilities, family members, providers, and state agencies to identify needs and pursue change in the AT service-delivery system. The project publishes an AT newsletter, pursues remedies of funding and policy barriers, provides training on a range of AT available and resources for obtaining assistive technology, pursues improvement of equipment standards, promotes increased availability of services, promotes increased involvement of people with disabilities in AT services and policy making, and coordinates with related projects in Massachusetts, regionally, and nationally.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Michigan

## Michigan's Assistive Technology Project

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Michigan Disability Rights Coalition  
780 West Lake Lansing Road, Suite 200  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
<http://www.copower.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Harold Wasner 517/373-3390

**Public Contact:** Kathryn Wyeth 800/760-4600 (V/TTY, in state only); 517/333-2477 (V/TTY); Fax: 517/333-2677

**Project Number:** H224A50009

**Start Date:** September 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$550,000; FY 93 \$885,881 (includes carryover funding); FY 94 \$610,000; FY 95 \$850,000; FY 96 \$786,837; FY 97 \$824,837; FY 98 \$1,033,953; FY 99 \$1,012,525; FY 00 \$759,394; FY 01 \$506,263; FY 02 \$506,263; FY 03 \$506,263; FY 04 \$506,263

**Abstract:** Michigan's AT Project focuses on building the capacity of community-based, local organizations to advocate for the use of AT as a tool for inclusion in all aspects of life. Currently, Michigan's AT Project has projects around the state that are creating genuine systems change on a local basis. The AT Project also supports a web-based system of AT resources and communication networks.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Minnesota

**Minnesota System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR) Program**

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State of Minnesota Department of Administration  
309 Administration Building; 50 Sherburne Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
star.program@state.mn.us  
<http://www.admin.state.mn.us/assistivetechology>

**Principal Investigator:** Charles Rassbach 651/297-1554

**Public Contact:** 800/657-3862 (V, in state only); 800/657-3895 (TTY, in state only); 651/296-7516 (V); 651/296-9478 (TTY); Fax: 651/282-6671

**Project Number:** H224A90041

**Start Date:** October 01, 1989

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 89 \$500,000; FY 90 \$502,250; FY 91 \$567,250; FY 92 \$700,000; FY 93 \$750,000; FY 94 \$820,000; FY 95 \$820,000; FY 96 \$759,066; FY 97 \$694,268; FY 98 \$569,300; FY 99 \$379,500; FY 00 \$379,500; FY 01 \$379,533; FY 02 \$379,533; FY 03 \$379,533; FY 04 \$379,533

**Abstract:** This project: (1) provides a toll-free information service for residents of Minnesota; (2) distributes brochures and other literature; (3) hosts workshops and forums; (4) provides opportunities for consumer involvement; and (5) assists individuals seeking funding. STAR advocates for policy, practice, and legislative change regarding access to AT; contracts for mobile outreach projects and legal advocacy services; and provides grants on a regional basis.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Mississippi

**Mississippi Project START (Success Through Assistive/Rehabilitative  
Technology)**

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Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services  
P.O. Box 1698  
Jackson, MS 39215-1000  
contactus@msprojectstart.org  
<http://www.msprojectstart.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Stephen Power, Project Director

**Public Contact:** Eugenie Bradshaw 800/852-8328 (V/TTY, in state only); 601/987-4872 (V/TTY);  
Fax: 601/364-2349

**Project Number:** H224A00032

**Start Date:** May 01, 1990

**Length:** 168 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$521,285; FY 91 \$530,000; FY 92 \$554,000; FY 93 \$594,714; FY 94 \$619,430; FY 95 \$619,430; FY 96 \$573,400; FY 97 \$611,400; FY 98 \$458,550; FY 99 \$305,700; FY 00 \$305,700; FY 01 \$305,700; FY 02 \$305,700; FY 03 \$305,700; FY 04 \$305,700

**Abstract:** Project START is a multifaceted, collaborative effort. The primary components include: (1) an advisory council that allows for consumer input and the involvement of other relevant agencies, organizations, and groups; (2) an information clearinghouse that provides people with disabilities, their families, service providers, and other interested parties with information regarding available AT devices and services; (3) a training program that ensures that service provider personnel, people with disabilities, and other relevant parties are familiar with the utility and potential of AT devices; (4) a model service-delivery system that acts as a referral source and concurrent technical resource to existing AT providers, and provides AT services to people with disabilities ineligible for existing programs; and (5) an equipment loan program that makes assistive devices available to people with disabilities for trial periods, for use while their personal equipment is being repaired or replaced, and to service providers for training and demonstration purposes.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Missouri

## Missouri Assistive Technology Project

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Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations  
Governor's Council on Disability  
4731 South Cochise, Suite 114  
Independence, MO 64055-6975  
matpmo@swbell.net  
<http://www.dolir.state.mo.us/matp>

**Principal Investigator:** Diane Golden, PhD, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/647-8557 (V, in state only); 800/647-8558 (TTY, in state only); 816/373-5193 (V); 816/373-9315 (TTY); Fax: 816/373-9314

**Project Number:** H224A30015

**Start Date:** September 01, 1991

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 91 \$524,488; FY 92 \$526,988; FY 93 \$550,801; FY 94 \$667,121; FY 95 \$675,000; FY 96 \$689,639; FY 97 \$727,639; FY 98 \$878,221; FY 99 \$658,666; FY 00 \$439,111; FY 01 \$439,111; FY 02 \$439,111; FY 03 \$439,111

**Abstract:** The primary components of this project include: (1) a statewide advisory council established to provide input from consumers and relevant state agencies; (2) legislative and policy initiatives including an equipment loan program, an equipment distribution program that provides both adaptive telephone equipment and adaptive computer equipment, a no-interest or low-interest loan program to purchase AT, a funding program to provide AT to children to age 21, health care coverage for mandatory infant hearing screenings and initial amplification devices, Medicaid coverage of augmentative communication devices for adults, an AT lemon law, sales tax exemptions on AT, managed care reform, and accessible state IT; (3) an information and referral service; (4) individual advocacy services; and (5) a statewide AT conference.

## State Technology Assistance Projects

Montana

### MonTECH

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University of Montana  
The Rural Institute  
634 Eddy Avenue  
Missoula, MT 59812  
montech@selway.umt.edu  
<http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>

**Principal Investigator:** Gail McGregor, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/732-0323 (V/TTY); 406/243-5676 (V/TTY); Fax: 406/243-4730

**Project Number:** H224A10002

**Start Date:** September 30, 1991

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 91 \$550,553; FY 92 \$550,553; FY 93 \$590,553; FY 94 \$675,258; FY 95 \$673,058; FY 96 \$624,080; FY 97 \$663,080; FY 98 \$752,408; FY 99 \$564,306; FY 00 \$376,204; FY 01 \$376,204; FY 02 \$376,204; FY 03 \$376,204; FY 04 \$376,204

**Abstract:** This project develops a comprehensive statewide system of technology-related assistance to ensure that all Montanans with disabilities have equitable access to the AT devices and services they need. Emphasis is on eliminating barriers to obtaining AT, enacting policy change, improving awareness, strengthening consumer and provider networks, and increasing access to funding. The Montana Consortium for Assistive Technology (MCAT) serves as the program advisory board and offers opportunities for consumer participation. Activities currently underway include: (1) a comprehensive equipment demonstration and evaluation center offering hands-on experience with devices to both consumers and service providers; (2) an AT loan/lease clearinghouse; (3) an information and assistance service that includes maintenance of a comprehensive database of Montana service programs; (4) focused outreach activities with the state's largest minority group, Native Americans; and (5) a web site. Other activities include a low-interest financial loan program for consumers who do not qualify for other funding sources, and specialized training programs to increase the skills of professionals providing AT services.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Nebraska

## Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership

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Nebraska Department of Education  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
5143 South 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite C  
Lincoln, NE 68516-2204  
atp@atp.state.ne.us  
<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ATP/>

**Principal Investigator:** Mark Schultz, Project Director 402/471-0734

**Public Contact:** Nancy Noha 888/806-6287 (V/TTY, in state only); 402/471-0734 (V/TTY); 402/471-0735 (V/TTY); Fax: 402/471-6052

**Project Number:** H224A90040

**Start Date:** October 01, 1989

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 89 \$523,000; FY 90 \$525,352; FY 91 \$570,352; FY 92 \$730,000; FY 93 \$766,984; FY 94 \$820,000; FY 95 \$820,000; FY 96 \$759,066; FY 97 \$569,300; FY 98 \$379,533; FY 99 \$379,533; FY 00 \$379,533; FY 01 \$379,533; FY 02 \$379,533; FY 03 \$379,533; FY 04 \$379,533

**Abstract:** The Partnership provides statewide AT and home modification services for Nebraskans of all ages and disabilities. The Partnership is a collaboration of private, nonprofit, and governmental organizations and agencies working together to create a seamless, comprehensive, statewide AT program. Collaborators include Nebraska's Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Developmental Disabilities, Economic Development, and Vocational Rehabilitation. The collaboration has resulted in funding for services to help meet the diverse needs of consumers regarding education, employment, housing, and independent living. These services include assessment, evaluation, fabrication, repair, maintenance, and training. Cost savings have also resulted due to equipment recycling, identification of appropriate equipment, and cost sharing between partnering agencies. In addition, the Partnership helps to support demonstration centers, utilizes a peer support network, and sponsors special events, including technology expos. Training materials have been developed for educators (three hour instructional unit and special education technical manual), health care professionals, and insurance reviewers.

## State Technology Assistance Projects

Nevada

### Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative

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Dept. of Human Resources  
Office of Disability Services  
3656 Research Way suite 32  
Carson City, NV 89706  
Kpreston@DHR.State.NV.US  
[http://hr.state.nv.us/directors/disabilitysvcs/dhr\\_ods.htm](http://hr.state.nv.us/directors/disabilitysvcs/dhr_ods.htm)

**Principal Investigator:** Todd Butterworth

**Public Contact:** Kelleen Preston 888/337-3839 (V, in state only); 775/687-4452 (V); 775/687-3388 (TTY); Fax: 775/687-3292

**Project Number:** H224A00037

**Start Date:** July 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$560,884; FY 91 \$580,047; FY 92 \$594,368; FY 93 \$624,588; FY 94 \$675,046; FY 95 \$675,046; FY 96 \$624,883; FY 97 \$662,883; FY 98 \$497,162; FY 99 \$331,442; FY 00 \$331,442; FY 01 \$331,442; FY 02 \$331,442; FY 04 \$331,442

**Abstract:** The Nevada Project is accomplishing 15 major goals in systems change that have been established in response to identified needs in consultation with the state's consumer-directed executive board. Additionally, the project trains 400 consumers in the use of technology; a minimum of 1,800 consumers in self-advocacy skills; 550 families in applying technology to the needs of a family member with a disability; and a minimum of 5,730 cross-disciplinary university undergraduates in the fields of medicine, health, education, rehabilitation, gerontology, engineering, speech pathology and audiology, and counseling in AT and cultural awareness. The project provides information and referral and other awareness services to a minimum of 10,000 consumers over the life of the project and evaluates the impact of those services through follow-up and satisfaction surveys.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
New Hampshire

## New Hampshire Technology Partnership Project

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University of New Hampshire Technology Partnership  
Institute on Disability/UCE  
The Concord Center  
Ten Ferry Street #14  
Concord, NH 03301-5019  
sonke.dornblut@unh.edu  
[http://iod.unh.edu/projects/technology\\_policy.html](http://iod.unh.edu/projects/technology_policy.html)

**Principal Investigator:** Jan Nisbet, PhD; Terese Wilkomm, PhD 603/862-4320 (V/TTY)

**Public Contact:** Sonke Dornblut 800-238-2048 (V/TTY, in state only); 603/224-0630 (V/TTY); Fax:  
603/228-3270

**Project Number:** H224A10015

**Start Date:** September 01, 1991

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 91 \$506,307; FY 92 \$505,008; FY 93 \$550,008; FY 94 \$635,000; FY 95 \$635,000; FY 96 \$587,813; FY 97 \$625,813; FY 98 \$717,815; FY 99 \$538,361; FY 00 \$358,908; FY 01 \$358,908; FY 02 \$358,908; FY 03 \$358,908; FY 04 \$358,908

**Abstract:** The goal of this project is to increase access to assistive technology through the creation and support of consumer-driven systems for the provision of state-of-the-art assistive technology products and services for citizens with disabilities in the state of New Hampshire. The project's lead agency is the Institute on Disability, a University Center of Excellence at the University of New Hampshire. Additional subcontracts have been awarded to ATECH Services and Granite State Independent Living.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
New Jersey

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**New Jersey Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC)**

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New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc.  
210 South Broad Street, Third Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
advocate@njpanda.org  
<http://www.njpanda.org/atac>

**Principal Investigator:** Ellen Catanese, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/342-5832 (V, in state only); 609/633-7106 (TTY); 609/292-9742 (NJ P&A Intake Unit); Fax: 609/777-0187

**Project Number:** H224A20007

**Start Date:** September 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$548,050; FY 93 \$670,528 (includes carryover funding); FY 94 \$548,050; FY 95 \$550,000; FY 96 \$509,130; FY 97 \$547,130; FY 98 \$710,380; FY 99 \$688,800; FY 00 \$516,714; FY 01 \$344,476; FY 02 \$344,476; FY 03 \$344,476; FY 04 \$344,476

**Abstract:** ATAC is a consumer-driven program whose mission is to increase awareness of and improve access to AT for all people with disabilities in the state. The project provides information and referral through its 800 telephone number and web site regarding all aspects of AT. ATAC also provides advocacy services, both legal and nonlegal, addressing both individual and systems issues. In addition, project staff members provide training and technical assistance, as well as outreach regarding the benefits of and funding for AT devices and services. ATAC disseminates brochures, funding guides, and informational bulletins.

## State Technology Assistance Projects

New Mexico

### New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)

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New Mexico State Department of Education  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
435 Saint Michaels Drive, Building D  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
awinnegar@state.nm.us  
<http://www.nmtap.com>

**Principal Investigator:** Andy Winnegar, Project Director 505/954-8521

**Public Contact:** Caroll Cadena 800/866-2253 (V/TTY); 800/659-4915 (TTY); 505/954-8533 (V/TTY); Fax: 505/954-8562

**Project Number:** H224A00017

**Start Date:** April 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$500,500; FY 91 \$515,500; FY 92 \$525,000; FY 93 \$660,710; FY 94 \$750,000; FY 95 \$750,000; FY 96 \$694,000; FY 97 \$732,268; FY 98 \$549,201; FY 99 \$366,134; FY 00 \$366,134; FY 01 \$366,134; FY 02 \$366,134; FY 03 \$366,134

**Abstract:** NMTAP examines and works to eliminate barriers to obtaining assistive technology in New Mexico. The project has established a statewide program for coordinating AT services; the program is designed to assist people with disabilities to locate, secure, and maintain AT that can increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of people with disabilities. This program is a resource both for people requiring assistive technology and those that manufacture and provide AT devices or services. The program focuses on permanently eliminating barriers in three major areas: access to, availability of, and funding for AT with programs that include low cost financial loans and AT short-term loans to individuals with disabilities..

**State Technology Assistance Projects**  
New York

**New York State Technology-Related Assistance of Individuals with  
Disabilities (TRAID) Project**

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New York State Office of Advocate for Persons with Disabilities  
One Empire State Plaza, Suite 1001  
Albany, NY 12223-1150  
traid@oapwd.org  
<http://www.oapwd.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Lisa Rosano-Kaczkowski, Project Manager

**Public Contact:** 800/522-4369 (V/TTY/Spanish, in state only); 518/474-2825 (V); 518/473-4231 (TTY); Fax: 518/473-6005

**Project Number:** H224A00041

**Start Date:** October 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$500,000; FY 91 \$600,000; FY 92 \$615,000; FY 93 \$820,961; FY 94 \$950,000; FY 95 \$950,000; FY 96 \$879,406; FY 97 \$917,406; FY 98 \$688,054; FY 99 \$458,703; FY 00 \$458,703; FY 01 \$458,703; FY 02 \$458,703; FY 03 \$458,703; FY 04 \$458,703

**Abstract:** The Technology-Related Assistance of Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) Project has been established to improve access to AT through consumer-responsive interventions to effect systemic change on a policy, regulatory, and legislative level. Project staff members chair and facilitate the workings of the NYS Interagency Partnership on Assistive Technology, a group designed to collaborate with a consumer-majority advisory board to identify systemic barriers to AT devices and services and collaborate on strategies to address the barriers. In collaboration with the NYS Department of Health, Early Intervention Program, the TRAID Project administers 12 Regional TRAID Centers (RTCs) that operate device demonstration and loan services, coordinate local information and referral, and support individualized self-advocacy. Through a subcontract with Cornell University's Disability Business Technical Assistance Center, the RTC's also disseminate materials on accessible information technology. The TRAID Project also provides information and referral regarding assistive technology, provides training and public awareness, and administers the TRAID-IN Equipment Exchange service.

## State Technology Assistance Projects

North Carolina

### North Carolina Assistive Technology Project

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North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

1110 Navaho Drive, Suite 101

Raleigh, NC 27609-7322

rhiatt@ncatp.org

<http://www.ncatp.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Ricki Hiatt, Project Director 919/850-2787 (V/TTY)

**Public Contact:** 919/850-2787 (V/TTY); Fax: 919/850-2792

**Project Number:** H224A00010

**Start Date:** July 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$566,425; FY 91 \$595,441; FY 92 \$625,843; FY 93 \$730,152; FY 94 \$820,000; FY 95 \$820,000; FY 96 \$759,066; FY 97 \$797,066; FY 98 \$597,800; FY 99 \$398,533; FY 00 \$398,533; FY 01 \$398,533; FY 02 \$398,533; FY 03 \$398,533; FY 04 \$398,533

**Abstract:** This project provides information and referral services, individualized consultant services, technical assistance, and training seminars and materials. It supports eight (8) assistive technology centers that provide evaluations, feature matching, device demonstration, trial of devices and short-term equipment loan. The project's central office in Raleigh coordinates systems change and advocacy, policy, and funding issues statewide. The North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services provides the project with internal management systems, agency resources, and fiscal management.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
North Dakota

**North Dakota Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)**

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North Dakota Department of Human Services  
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
3509 Interstate Blvd  
Fargo, ND 58103  
jlee@polarcomm.com  
<http://www.ndipat.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Judith A. Lee, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/265-4728 (V/TTY); 701/239-7247 (V/TTY); Fax: 701/239-7229

**Project Number:** H224A30003

**Start Date:** October 01, 1993

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 93 \$500,000; FY 94 \$540,000; FY 95 \$540,000; FY 96 \$509,130; FY 97 \$547,130; FY 98 \$633,103; FY 99 \$611,000; FY 00 \$611,000; FY 01 \$458,756; FY 02 \$305,500; FY 03 \$305,500; FY 04 \$305,500

**Abstract:** The Interagency Program for Assistive Technology is dedicated to supporting the AT needs of all people with disabilities in North Dakota, including those individuals experiencing the effects of aging. The vision of this project is increased access to AT devices and services for the citizens of North Dakota. This goal is realized through: (1) interagency coordination that develops and promotes policies that improve access to AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities of all ages; (2) a public awareness program designed to provide information to targeted individuals relating to the availability and benefits of AT devices and services; (3) technical assistance and training that provides support to public and private entities to increase consumer access to appropriate assessments, training, equipment, and funding for AT; and (4) outreach activities to all regions of this rural and sparsely populated state, including a focus on Native Americans and older individuals living below the poverty level, the two population groups identified as underrepresented in North Dakota.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Northern Mariana Islands

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Assistive  
Technology Project: System of Technology-Related Assistance for  
Individuals with Disabilities (STRAID)**

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CNMI Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Capitol Hill  
P.O. Box 502565  
Saipan, MP 96950-2565  
clamkin@cnmiddcouncil.org; straid@cnmiddcouncil.org  
<http://www.cnmiddcouncil.org/atstraid/atflash.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Thomas J. Camacho, Project Director

**Public Contact:** Project Coordinator 670/664-7000 (V); Fax: 670/664-7010

**Project Number:** H224A40007

**Start Date:** October 01, 1994

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 94 \$150,000; FY 95 \$150,000; FY 96 \$150,000; FY 97 \$150,000; FY 98 \$150,000; FY 99 \$105,000; FY 00 \$105,000; FY 01 \$105,000; FY 02 \$105,000; FY 03 \$105,000; FY 04 \$105,000

**Abstract:** This project provides technology-related assistance for people with disabilities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project focuses on the development of a locally based system for the technology-related needs of children, youth, and adults with disabilities. The primary objective of this project is to enhance opportunities for people with disabilities in the Commonwealth to become independent, productive, integrated, and fully included in the community. Through increased emphasis on coordination with agencies or organizations that provide or pay for the provision of AT devices or services, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is building and activating a system that responds to the needs of people with disabilities to: (1) have greater control over their lives; (2) participate in, and contribute more fully to, activities in their home, school, work environment, and community; (3) interact to a greater extent with individuals who do not have disabilities; and (4) benefit from opportunities that are taken for granted by individuals who do not have disabilities.

**State Technology Assistance Projects**  
Ohio

**Assistive Technology of Ohio (AT OHIO)**

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Ohio State University Research Foundation  
J.L. Camera Center  
2050 Kenny Road, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43221  
atohio@osu.edu  
<http://www.atohio.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Sheldon R. Simon, MD

**Public Contact:** Douglas Hunt, Executive Director 800/784-3425 (V/TTY, in state only); 614/292-2426 (V/TTY); 614/292-3162 (TTY); Fax: 614/292-5866

**Project Number:** H224A40001

**Start Date:** August 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$522,100; FY 93 \$522,000; FY 94 \$770,113; FY 95 \$600,000; FY 96 \$555,414; FY 97 \$593,414; FY 98 \$815,688; FY 99 \$794,260; FY 00 \$595,695; FY 01 \$397,130; FY 02 \$397,130; FY 03 \$397,130; FY 04 \$397,130

**Abstract:** This project administers, and advocates for, programs that promote increased availability and affordability of assistive technology for Ohioans with disabilities. Staff members work to accomplish an increased level of education among people with disabilities and the professionals that provide services to them regarding the role that technology can play in the lives of people with disabilities. The project educates the public at large about how technology can be the bridge to independence for people with disabilities in the areas of employment, education, and everyday living. A project goal is to improve the services provided to people with disabilities by state, locals and county governments, service agencies, and public libraries. This project is a resource for people with disabilities to learn about assistive technology and how it can help them overcome barriers in their lives. Project initiatives include adaptive toy lending libraries for families of children with disabilities, low interest loans for technology to people with disabilities, and a computer refurbishing and recycling program.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Oklahoma

## Oklahoma ABLE Tech

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Oklahoma State University  
Seretean Wellness Center  
1514 West Hall of Fame  
Stillwater, OK 74078-2026  
mljwell@okstate.edu  
<http://okabletech.okstate.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Mac McCrory, Project Director

**Public Contact:** Linda Jaco, Project Manager 800/257-1705 (V/TTY); 405/744-9864 (V); Fax: 405/744-2487

**Project Number:** H224A50007

**Start Date:** July 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$530,000; FY 93 \$668,524 (includes carryover funding); FY 94 \$530,000; FY 95 \$575,000; FY 96 \$532,272; FY 97 \$570,272; FY 98 \$695,237; FY 99 \$673,809; FY 00 \$505,357; FY 01 \$336,905; FY 02 \$336,905; FY 03 \$336,905; FY 04 \$336,905

**Other Funding:** FY 92 \$149,944 \$85,000 (Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services); \$64,944 (US Department of Agriculture); FY 00 \$33,000 (Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education-NIOSH); FY 01 \$100,000 (Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services); FY 00 \$33,000 (Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education-NIOSH); FY 01 \$100,000 (Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services)

**Abstract:** The purpose of Oklahoma ABLE Tech is to increase access to assistive technology for people of all ages and all disabilities through a variety of consumer-responsive systems change activities. ABLE Tech provides the core services of information and referral, AT training and technical assistance, AT loan program and device reutilization program and AT advocacy, and works to improve laws and policies providing access to assistive technology. Additionally, Oklahoma ABLE Tech provides specific programs to assist persons with disabilities in acquiring AT. Two such programs that provide low interest loans to purchase needed assistive technology are the Alternative Financing Program and the Access to Telework Fund Program.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Oregon

## Oregon Technology Access for Life Needs (TALN)

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Oregon Disabilities Commission  
c/o Access Technologies, Inc.  
3070 Lancaster Drive Northeast  
Salem, OR 97305-1396  
info@accesstechnology.org  
<http://www.taln.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Laurie Brooks, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/677-7512 (V/TTY, ); 503/361-1201 (V/TTY); ; Fax: 503/370-4530

**Project Number:** H224A50002

**Start Date:** April 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$540,000; FY 91 \$555,000; FY 92 \$575,000; FY 93 \$620,000; FY 94 \$670,000; FY 95 \$670,000; FY 96 \$620,212; FY 97 \$658,212; FY 98 \$493,659; FY 99 \$329,106; FY 00 \$329,106; FY 01 \$329,106; FY 02 \$329,106; FY 04 \$329,106

**Abstract:** This project uses existing resources including community colleges, medical, rehabilitation, educational, and recreational and adaptive sports programs, the state library system, federally funded technology projects currently in existence in Oregon, and state agencies to expand the availability of AT in Oregon. Projects include an exhibit to increase public awareness, a toll-free number for information and referral, training programs, equipment loan banks and demonstration labs, and a database on used equipment.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Pennsylvania

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**Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)**

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Temple University  
Institute on Disabilities/UCDD  
1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue, 423 Ritter Annex  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
piat@temple.edu  
<http://disabilities.temple.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Diane Nelson Bryen, PhD; Amy S. Goldman 215/204-1356

**Public Contact:** Amy S. Goldman 800/204-7428 (V) in state only; 215/204-5966 (V); 215/204-1356 (V/TTY); Fax: 215/204-9371

**Project Number:** H224A20006

**Start Date:** September 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$550,000; FY 93 \$602,623; FY 94 \$730,000; FY 95 \$850,000; FY 96 \$786,837; FY 97 \$824,837; FY 98 \$1,049,575; FY 99 \$1,028,147; FY 00 \$771,110; FY 01 \$514,074; FY 02 \$514,074; FY 03 \$514,074; FY 04 \$514,074

**Abstract:** This project focuses on the creation of a consumer responsive system, supported by combined public and private resources, through which Pennsylvanians with disabilities (including older Pennsylvanians) have access to the AT services and supports they need to contribute to and participate fully in their communities. Major functional areas include public awareness, information and referral, individual advocacy and systems change, and training. PIAT has established a network of regional Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs). ATRCs are also a key to Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library, a state funded program based on the pilot short-term equipment loan program developed by PIAT.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Puerto Rico

## Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Program

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University of Puerto Rico  
Jardin Botanico Sur 1187 Calle Flamboyán  
San Juan, PR 00926-1117  
pratp@pratp.upr.edu  
<http://www.pratp.upr.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Maria I. Miranda

**Public Contact:** 800/633-6035 (V/TTY, from the U.S.); 800/981-6033 (V/TTY, from Puerto Rico);  
787/764-6035 (V); 787/764-6042 (V); 787/767-8642 (TTY); Fax: 787/754-8034

**Project Number:** H224A70001

**Start Date:** October 01, 1993

**Length:** 124 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeveso:

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 93 \$500,000; FY 94 \$545,000; FY 95 \$555,000; FY 96 \$513,758; FY 97 \$551,758; FY 98 \$692,202; FY 99 \$670,774; FY 00 \$670,774; FY 01 \$503,081; FY 02 \$335,387; FY 04 \$335,387

**Abstract:** This project establishes a comprehensive, island-wide system of AT services to maximize and enhance existing resources in Puerto Rico. This system is timely and consumer-responsive to the needs of people with disabilities. The project's main focus is to influence the system through collaborative efforts with public and private agencies to guarantee equal opportunity and access to AT by people with disabilities in Puerto Rico. The Assistive Technology Program is administered by the University of Puerto Rico, Office of the President, FILIUS Institute, Assistive Technology Institute.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Rhode Island

## **Rhode Island Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)**

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Rhode Island Department of Human Services  
Office of Rehabilitation Services  
40 Fountain Street  
Providence, RI 02903-1898  
reginac@ors.ri.gov  
<http://www.atap.ri.gov>

**Principal Investigator:** Raymond A. Carroll, Administrator

**Public Contact:** Regina Connor, Project Director 401/421-7005, ext. 390 (V); 401/421-7016 (TTY);  
Fax: 401/222-3574

**Project Number:** H224A30012

**Start Date:** October 01, 1993

**Length:** 132 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 93 \$500,000; FY 94 \$500,000; FY 95 \$500,000; FY 96 \$500,000; FY 97 \$538,000; FY 98 \$624,467; FY 99 \$603,039; FY 00 \$603,039; FY 01 \$452,279; FY 02 \$301,520; FY 03 \$301,520; FY 04 \$301,520

**Abstract:** The Rhode Island Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP) is a statewide partnership of organizations, each with a targeted focus, working together with a consumer council (Rhode Island Council on Assistive Technology) to remove barriers and increase access to AT for individuals with disabilities of all ages.

**State Technology Assistance Projects**  
South Carolina

**South Carolina Assistive Technology Program (SCATP)**

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University of South Carolina School of Medicine  
Center for Disability Resources  
Columbia, SC 29208  
jjendron@usit.net; evelyne@cdd.sc.edu  
<http://www.sc.edu/scatp>

**Principal Investigator:** Richard Ferrante 803/935-5231 (V)

**Public Contact:** Evelyn Evans, Project Director 803/935-5340 (V/TTY); Fax: 803/935-5342

**Project Number:** H224A60001

**Start Date:** October 01, 1991

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 91 \$541,767; FY 92 \$541,767; FY 93 \$595,767; FY 94 \$720,000; FY 95 \$720,000; FY 96 \$667,000; FY 97 \$704,497; FY 98 \$829,535; FY 99 \$622,151; FY 00 \$414,768; FY 01 \$414,768; FY 02 \$414,768; FY 03 \$414,768; FY 04 \$414,768

**Abstract:** This project is the catalyst for uniting AT services statewide into an easily accessible system responsive to the needs of all South Carolinians with disabilities. SCATP collaborates with consumers, educators, state agencies, policy-makers, and private entities to overcome barriers that prevent people from getting the devices and services they need for full and productive lives. SCATP promotes increased access to assistive and information technology through various activities, including: 1) technical assistance and training for statewide service providers, physicians, therapists, teachers, university and technical college students, agency administrators, consumers, their families and caregivers; 2) information referral and public awareness through web page resources and publications and a list serve networking consumers, service providers, private entities and agency administrators; 3) technical assistance and coordination with public agencies and policy makers technical for policy development to ensure that government electronic and information technology is more accessible to all South Carolinians, including those with disabilities; 4) a statewide equipment loan and demonstration center equipment loan program making AT available to people with disabilities and service providers for trial periods and hands-trial; 5) an annual statewide AT Expo and Conference; 6) technical assistance and training to school districts as they develop more comprehensive AT programs and assessment capacity.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
South Dakota

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**South Dakota Assistive Technology Project (DakotaLink)**

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DakotaLink  
1925 Plaza Boulevard  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
rrosenboom@bhssc.tie.net  
<http://dakotalink.tie.net>

**Principal Investigator:** Grady Kickul 605/773-3195 (V)

**Public Contact:** Ron Rosenboom 800/224-5336 (V/TTY, in state only); 605/347-4467 (V/TTY);  
Fax: 605/347-5223

**Project Number:** H224A20019

**Start Date:** July 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$520,000; FY 93 \$520,000; FY 94 \$620,000; FY 95 \$650,000; FY 96 \$601,699; FY 97 \$601,699; FY 98 \$728,100; FY 99 \$700,000; FY 00 \$525,000; FY 01 \$353,336; FY 02 \$353,336; FY 03 \$353,336; FY 04 \$353,336

**Abstract:** To achieve systems change, DakotaLink works with consumers, state and private agencies, and organizations providing services to, or advocating for, people with disabilities to identify and eliminate barriers to individuals receiving AT devices or services in a timely manner. The project uses demonstration centers, outreach coordinators, rehabilitation technicians, and training programs as a catalyst to: (1) reach the most underserved areas; (2) provide advocacy training for people with disabilities and their representatives; and (3) provide information support to all individuals regarding access to, provision of, and funding for assistive technology devices and services. DakotaLink continues to use a Native American Outreach Coordinator to reach specifically that underserved population.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Tennessee

## Tennessee Technology Access Project (TTAP)

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TTAP

Tennessee Department of Human Services  
Department of Rehabilitation Services  
Citizen's Plaza, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor; 400 Deadrick Street  
Nashville, TN 37248  
tn.ttap@state.tn.us  
[http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/ttap\\_index.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/ttap_index.htm)

**Principal Investigator:** Kevin R. Wright, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/732-5059; 615/532-3122 (V/TTY); Fax: 615/532-4685

**Project Number:** H224A010002

**Start Date:** July 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$550,000; FY 91 \$553,675; FY 92 \$553,675; FY 93 \$640,800; FY 94 \$665,000; FY 95 \$665,000; FY 96 \$615,584; FY 97 \$653,584; FY 01 \$326,792; FY 02 \$326,792; FY 03 \$326,792; FY 04 \$326,792

**Abstract:** This project's mission is to maintain a statewide program of technology-related assistance that is timely, comprehensive, and consumer-driven to ensure that all Tennesseans with disabilities have the information, services, and devices they need to make choices about where and how they spend their time as independently as possible. TTAP and its five regional assistive technology centers, located in Jackson, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis, and Nashville, work daily toward that mission by providing public awareness, evaluation, minority outreach, and advocacy services to individuals, families, businesses, and government.

## State Technology Assistance Projects

Texas

### Texas Technology Access Project

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University of Texas at Austin  
Texas Center for Disability Studies  
4030 West Braker Lane; Building 2, Suite 220  
Austin, TX 78759  
john.moore@mail.utexas.edu  
<http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu>

**Principal Investigator:** Susanne Elrod, Project Director

**Public Contact:** John Moore 800/828-7839 (V/TTY, in state only); 512/232-0750 (V); 512/232-0762 (TTY); Fax: 512/232-0761

**Project Number:** H224A20012

**Start Date:** August 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$550,000; FY 93 \$550,000; FY 94 \$550,000; FY 95 \$850,000; FY 96 \$786,837; FY 97 \$824,837; FY 98 \$1,167,518; FY 99 \$1,146,080; FY 00 \$859,566; FY 01 \$573,044; FY 02 \$573,044; FY 03 \$573,044; FY 04 \$573,044

**Abstract:** This project promotes increased access to assistive and telecommunication technology through technical assistance and training, information and public awareness activities, and coordination with public agencies and policy makers.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
U.S. Virgin Islands

**U.S. Virgin Islands Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with  
Disabilities (TRAID)**

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University of the Virgin Islands  
Virgin Islands Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
2 John Brewer's Bay  
St. Thomas, USVI 00801-0990  
sgrant@uvi.edu; wevans@uvi.edu  
<http://www.uvi.edu/pub-relations/resource.htm>

**Principal Investigator:** Yegin Habtes 340/693-1323

**Public Contact:** Charlene Grant; Wanda Evans 340/693-1188 (Grant); 340/692-1919 (Evans); Fax:  
340/693-1325

**Project Number:** H224A50005

**Start Date:** October 01, 1995

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 95 \$150,000; FY 96 \$150,000; FY 97 \$150,000; FY 98 \$150,000; FY 99  
\$105,000; FY 00 \$105,000; FY 01 \$105,000; FY 02 \$105,000; FY 03 \$105,000; FY 04 \$105,000

**Other Funding:** FY 95 \$6,400

**Abstract:** The Virgin Islands project disseminates necessary information on assistive technologies for people with disabilities and provides a venue for device demonstration through the establishment of two resource centers, on the islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. The project is also initiating an AT loan library.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Utah

## Utah Assistive Technology Program (UATP)

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Utah State University  
Center for Persons with Disabilities  
6855 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322-6855  
uatp@cc.usu.edu  
<http://www.uatpat.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Martin E. Blair, Program Director 435/797-3886

**Public Contact:** Lois Summers 435/797-3824 (V); Fax: 435/797-2355

**Project Number:** H224A90051

**Start Date:** November 01, 1989

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 89 \$505,445; FY 90 \$507,720; FY 91 \$559,720; FY 92 \$696,224; FY 93 \$788,526; FY 94 \$800,000; FY 95 \$800,000; FY 96 \$740,560; FY 97 \$555,414; FY 98 \$370,276; FY 99 \$370,276; FY 00 \$370,276; FY 01 \$370,276; FY 02 \$370,276; FY 03 \$370,276; FY 04 \$370,276

**Abstract:** The Utah Assistive Technology Program (UATP) provides expertise, resources, and a structure to enhance and expand AT services provided by private and public agencies in Utah. This occurs through professional training, device demonstration, policy monitoring and development, interagency coordination, information dissemination, the identification and removal of barriers with consumer groups, and expanding state resources. Primary components of UATP include: (1) the Utah Center for Assistive Technology, a statewide service hub; (2) Assistive Technology Access Centers located in rural centers for independent living; (3) outreach to underrepresented populations with specific emphasis on those of Hispanic and Native American descent; (4) the Utah Assistive Technology Foundation providing zero-interest loans to consumers; (5) the Assistive Technology Council, made up of state service agency representatives (usually the directors) and consumers that take appropriate action to remove barriers; and (6) consumer technical services and training provided by the Assistive Technology Development and Fabrication Laboratory at Utah State University. UATP is currently directing initiatives to: (a) expand the Utah Relay System and telephone equipment distribution system; (b) ensure accessible elections (both physical and procedural access); (c) improve access of One Stop Centers (both facility and program access); and, (d) develop and provide ongoing, competency-based training to service providers and families in the early intervention and adult services systems.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Vermont

## Vermont Assistive Technology Project

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Vermont Department of Aging and Disabilities  
103 South Main Street, Weeks Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2305  
betsyr@dad.state.vt.us  
<http://www.dad.state.vt.us/atp>

**Principal Investigator:** Julie Tucker, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/750-6355 (V/TTY, in state only); 802/241-2620 (V/TTY); Fax: 802/241-2174

**Project Number:** H224A00023

**Start Date:** July 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$553,048; FY 91 \$560,577; FY 92 \$581,417; FY 93 \$705,000; FY 94 \$700,000; FY 95 \$700,000; FY 96 \$647,983; FY 97 \$685,983; FY 98 \$514,487; FY 99 \$342,991; FY 00 \$342,992; FY 01 \$342,992; FY 02 \$342,992; FY 03 \$342,992; FY 04 \$85,000

**Other Funding:** FY 03 \$92,000 (Medicaid Infrastructure Grant)

**Abstract:** The Vermont Assistive Technology Project has regional centers for demonstration, trial, and technical support for all types of assistive technology, including computer and augmentative communication equipment, as well as information and referral. The project affects change in policies and procedures of public and private agencies by providing AT expertise on boards and committees such as the Developmental Services Communication Task Force, ADA Coalition, Telephone Equipment Distribution Program, etc. The Project advocates for visitable homes by educating consumers about Vermont's housing accessibility laws, which the Project was instrumental in passing. The Project supports an annual AT institute for educators and presents many workshops in settings such as the Traumatic Brain Injury Conference to raise awareness and institute AT knowledge and expertise into existing public and private agencies. The Project also supports an AT Equipment Revolving Loan Fund Program through a community credit union.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Virginia

## Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)

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Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)  
8004 Franklin Farms Drive; P.O. Box K-300  
Richmond, VA 23288-0300  
knorrk@drs.state.va.us  
<http://www.vats.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Kenneth Knorr, Project Director

**Public Contact:** 800/552-5019 (V/TTY); 804/662-9990 (V/TTY); Fax: 804/662-9478

**Project Number:** H224A00009

**Start Date:** June 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$550,000; FY 91 \$562,500; FY 92 \$578,883; FY 93 \$685,331; FY 94 \$663,467; FY 95 \$745,000; FY 96 \$689,639; FY 97 \$727,639; FY 98 \$545,729; FY 99 \$363,820; FY 00 \$363,820; FY 01 \$363,820; FY 02 \$363,820; FY 03 \$363,820; FY 04 \$363,820

**Abstract:** The Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) provides coordination at two levels: state policy, through the mechanism of interagency agreements and project management; and at the local and regional level, through three AT regional sites. Activities include information and referral services, technical assistance, training materials and seminars, and policy development. The project has produced a textbook, *Assistive Technology: A Resource for School, Work, and Community* (Brookes Publishing) and a *National Study of Loan Financing Programs*. This project participates in the Mid Atlantic DBTACs Accessible Information Technology in Education program.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Washington

**Washington Assistive Technology Alliance (WATA)**

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University of Washington  
Center for Technology and Disability Studies (CTDS)  
Box 357920  
Seattle, WA 98195-7920  
uwat@u.washington.edu  
<http://wata.org>

**Principal Investigator:** Kurt Johnson, PhD 206/685-4181

**Public Contact:** Debbie Cook, Project Director 800/841-8345 (V/TTY, in state only); 206/685-4181 (V); 206/616-1396 (TTY); Fax: 206/543-4779

**Project Number:** H224A020001

**Start Date:** October 01, 2002

**NIDRR Officer:** Shelley Reeves

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 02 \$308,072; FY 03 \$359,105; FY 04 \$359,106

**Abstract:** WATA promotes the use of assistive technology devices and services, and accessible information technology for people with disabilities, their families, caregivers, employers, teachers, and health care and social service providers in Washington State. Activities for this project include information, consultation, and training related to selection of technology devices, services, and funding; legal advice and advocacy; policy development; legislative action; technical consultation and training; publications; and online resources. WATA includes the University of Washington Center for Technology and Disability Studies, The Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment, and the AT Resource Center at Easter Seal Society in Spokane.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
West Virginia

## West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS)

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West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities  
Airport Research and Office Park  
955 Hartman Run Road  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
jcstewart@hsc.wvu.edu  
TBA

**Principal Investigator:** Janice A. Holland 304/766-4694 (V)

**Public Contact:** Jack Stewart, Project Manager 800/841-8436 (V/TTY, in state only); 304/293-4692 (V/TTY); Fax: 304/293-7294

**Project Number:** H224A20011

**Start Date:** July 01, 1992

**NIDRR Officer:** Carol Cohen

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 92 \$530,000; FY 93 \$530,000; FY 94 \$620,000; FY 95 \$620,000; FY 96 \$573,928; FY 97 \$611,928; FY 98 \$716,068; FY 99 \$716,068; FY 00 \$520,980; FY 01 \$347,320; FY 02 \$347,320; FY 03 \$347,320; FY 04 \$347,320

**Abstract:** The WVATS project seeks to improve the availability of AT by improving existing AT services, facilitating coordination of AT service-delivery programs, identifying and remediating gaps in services, and promoting, developing, and/or delivering new services. These systemic changes are carried out in response to and consonant with consumer advice, direction, and consent. The West Virginia project has a board composed primarily of consumers and their families. State organizations and agencies provide guidance, structure, and input. WVATS uses a "core" system directed by a board, overseen by the Division of Rehabilitation Services, and managed on a day-to-day basis by the Center for Excellence in Disability at West Virginia University. WVATS supports program staff, an information and referral system with a toll-free number, two resource centers, a statewide awareness campaign, training programs, and seven regional technology-related assistance teams.

## State Technology Assistance Projects

Wisconsin

### WisTech

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Wisconsin Assistive Technology Program  
Division of Supportive Living  
1 West Wilson Street, Room 450; P.O. Box 7851  
Madison, WI 53707-7851  
lauxhm@dhfs.state.wi.us  
<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/>

**Principal Investigator:** Holly Laux O'Higgins, Project Director and Contract Administrator 608/266-8950

**Public Contact:** 608/266-8905 (V/TTY) (after 2/27/2004); 608/267-9880 (TTY); Fax: 608/267-3203

**Project Number:** H224A00013

**Start Date:** May 01, 1990

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 90 \$572,871; FY 91 \$575,000; FY 92 \$590,313; FY 93 \$685,488; FY 94 \$730,000; FY 95 \$730,000; FY 96 \$675,754; FY 97 \$713,754; FY 98 \$535,315; FY 99 \$356,877; FY 00 \$356,877; FY 01 \$356,877; FY 02 \$356,877; FY 03 \$356,877; FY 04 \$356,877

**Abstract:** WisTech provides direct consumer services by contracting with eight Wisconsin Centers for Independent Living, the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy (a Protection and Advocacy agency), and AgrAbility. Consumer-direct services include AT assessments, maintenance of equipment loan closets, assistance with locating funding for AT, among other services. WisTech incorporates consumer control and involvement by working with the WisTech Advisory Board, comprised of at least 51 percent consumers or parents, and service providers.

State Technology Assistance Projects  
Wyoming

## Wyoming's New Options in Technology (WYNOT)

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University of Wyoming  
Wyoming INstitute for Disabilities  
University of Wyoming 1000 E. University Avenue  
Laramie, WY 82071  
wynot.uw@uwyo.edu  
<http://wind.uwyo.edu/wynot>

**Principal Investigator:** Keith Miller, PhD 307/766-2761 (V)

**Public Contact:** 800/861-4312 (V/TTY, in state only); 307/766-2761(V), 307/766-2720(TTY); Fax:  
307/766-2763

**Project Number:** H224A60002

**Start Date:** October 01, 1993

**Length:** 144 months

**NIDRR Officer:** Richard Johnson, EdD

**NIDRR Funding:** FY 94 \$500,000; FY 95 \$500,000; FY 96 \$500,000; FY 97 \$500,000; FY 98 \$620,502; FY 99 \$599,074; FY 00 \$599,074; FY 01 \$449,306; FY 02 \$336,979; FY 03 \$299,537; FY 04 \$299,537

**Abstract:** The mission of WYNOT is to build statewide capacity for universal access to assistive technology for all of Wyoming and to establish a self-sustaining system that will continue to meet the state's need for assistive technology after Federal funding for WYNOT has ended. In pursuing this mission, WYNOT provides training and technical assistance to statewide and community-based organizations to enhance their capacity to meet the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities. WYNOT also provides technical assistance and training for consumers. The project operates a demonstration center, loan bank and information and referral service.