



Strategies for Teaming

- Develop a common research agenda, perhaps through an annual conference.
- Join forces to increase funding for research, learning from the work of other successful advocacy groups.
- Collaborate to train researchers in the policy arena.
- Partner on finding and developing “cultural brokers” who can liaise between these two groups.
- Work together to ensure the social validation of goals, procedures and results of research.

Disability Organizations and Researchers Partnering for Policy Impact

A fact sheet about disability research dissemination

We asked a small group of experts to discuss ways to increase the likelihood that research findings are used in policy development and generated the following recommendations. You can find the full report at www.healthwellness.org.

Different objectives

Disability advocacy organizations aim to:

- Advocate for direct improvement in the lives of people with disabilities
- Be highly accountable to their membership of consumers
- Defend the rights of people with specific disabilities

Researchers aim to:

- Increase knowledge about disabilities using rigorous scientific method
- Be accountable to funding agency, journal editors, their universities or institutions, the scientific community, legislators and the populations they are studying

Different timeframes

Disability advocacy organizations must respond to:

- Legislative and appropriation calendars
- Consumer’s direct inquiries
- Current events in the media

Researchers must respond to:

- Their funding agency during the full grant cycle
- The scientific community when journal articles are published

Areas with the most power for change

Working together to frame the issues

By working together, you can better prepare the messages that the public receives about disability issues, especially if particular research results don't clearly support an advocacy agenda.

Harnessing the power of the media

Do not underestimate the power of the media to influence the public, legislators and funding agencies. Working together to disseminate carefully crafted, accurate messages can help to increase funding, raise awareness and ultimately improve the health and wellness of people with disabilities.

Moderators

Gloria Krahn, MPH, PhD - Director of the Oregon Institute on Disability & Development/UCED at Oregon Health & Science University and of the Research Rehabilitation and Training Center on Health and Wellness.

George Jesien, PhD - Executive Director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) which represents national networks of university centers conducting research, training and service for and with people with disabilities and their families.

Participants

Stephen Corbin, DDS, MPH - Senior Vice President of Constituent Services and Support and Dean of Special Olympics University at their headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Deborah Cotter, MA - Policy Analyst at the National Council on Independent Living advocating for full participation of people with disabilities in society.

Kay Ferrell, PhD - Dr. Ferrell develops and manages the American Foundation for the Blind's policy research agenda and is the Executive Director of the National Center on Low-Incidence Disabilities at the University of Northern Colorado.

David Gray, PhD - Associate Professor of Neurology and Occupational Therapy at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri.

Andrew Houtenville, PhD - Senior Research Associate at Cornell University's Program on Employment and Disability and the Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability and Demographic Statistics.

Corinne Kirchner, PhD - Dr. Kirchner, a sociologist, teaches Disability Policy at Columbia University, in the Sociomedical Sciences Department. She concentrates on concepts, measures and policy uses of socio-demographic statistics on disability.

James Rimmer, PhD - Dr Rimmer is the director of two federally funded centers, the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability, and the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Recreational Technologies and Exercise Physiology Benefiting People with Disabilities.

Glen White, PhD - Director of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas and the Research and Training Center on Measurement and Interdependence in Community Living.

RRTC: Health & Wellness

707 SW Gaines Street

Portland, OR 97239

(voice) 503-494-3534

7-1-1 Relay Service

(fax) 503-494-6868

rrtc@ohsu.edu

We're on the web!

www.healthwellness.org

This publication is
available in
alternate formats.

Last updated 12/18/2008