



# *A Disability Subgroup within the C2 Education Coordinating Group*

**Joann Starks**

Tuesday 19 May • 13:15 - 14:45 • Parallel session 2

National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR)

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The National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR) was originally established in 1995.

The current scope of work that began in January 2006 focuses on the funding agency's concern for increasing the effective use of disability and rehabilitation research results in shaping new technologies, improving service delivery, and expanding decision-making options for people with disabilities and their families.

- One of the NCDDR'S goals is to work with C2 to establish support for systematic reviews in the area of disability and rehabilitation research.

# **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)**

**and the**

**U.S. Department of Education**

# OSERS

## *Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services*

- OAS - Office of the Assistant Secretary
- **NIDRR - National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research**
- OSEP - Office of Special Education Programs
- RSA - Rehabilitation Services Administration

## NIDRR

- The mission of NIDRR is to generate new knowledge and promote its effective use to improve the abilities of people with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community, and also to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities.

## NIDRR's Grantees

- A network of around 350 projects throughout the U.S., both individual research projects and centers of excellence established at universities or providers of rehabilitation and related services.
- Research is focused in the areas of:
  - Employment
  - Health and Function
  - Participation and Community Living

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We encourage potential applicants, when identifying standards and procedures for systematic review of evidence, to examine the work of such organizations as:

- The Campbell Collaboration  
**[www.campbellcollaboration.org](http://www.campbellcollaboration.org)**
- The Cochrane Collaboration  
**[www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)**
- The What Works Clearinghouse  
**[ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc](http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc)**

## Goal 3: Advance Knowledge Translation

Promote the effective use of science-based knowledge, technologies, and applications to inform disability and rehabilitation policy, improve practice, and enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities.

- **Objective 3a:** Promote external review of the quality of NIDRR-funded research and related activities through participation in independent scientific collaborations and registries (e.g., Campbell, Cochrane).

*NIDRR's Long-Range Plan 2005-09*

NCDDR staff worked with the Education Coordinating Group to establish the groundwork for a Disability Subgroup.

The field of disability, as used here, is broad and encompasses research in areas such as employment, community integration, rehabilitation engineering, independent living, and quality of life.

A letter was developed and submitted to the Steering Group, which approved establishing several subgroups, including Disability, Special Education, and Literacy/Language.

A formal relationship was initiated at the Campbell Colloquium in Vancouver in May 2008.

## Co-Chairs

John Westbrook, Director of the NCDDR  
[john.westbrook@sedl.org](mailto:john.westbrook@sedl.org)

Ralf Schlosser, Northeastern University  
[r.schlosser@neu.edu](mailto:r.schlosser@neu.edu)

## Objectives of the Disability Subgroup

- Undertake and maintain a series of high-quality and timely systematic reviews of interventions aimed at improving the quality of life and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

==> These reviews focus attention on substantive disability topics through the summary and analysis of the best available, high-quality research evidence provided through randomized and non-randomized quasi-experimental designs.

## Objectives (continued):

- Establish and maintain a network of individuals with disability expertise or experience who are interested in developing and/or contributing to disability-related systematic reviews.

## **Objectives** (continued):

- Encourage involvement of consumers with disabilities, their family members, and other disability-oriented stakeholders in all steps of the systematic review development process, including the development and dissemination of appropriate user-friendly interpretations of review results.

## Objectives (continued):

- Provide training and capacity building opportunities for interested systematic review authors in the production of C2 reviews in the disability area.

## Benefits of the Disability Subgroup

- Expertise in the disability area can be organized and brought to bear to better assist individuals identifying review questions and undertaking systematic reviews.
- Information pertinent to the disability area should be easier to locate and access.

## **Benefits** (continued):

- Researchers can see more options and formats for the use of their rigorous disability-related research findings.
- Systematic reviews in the disability area developed in compliance with C2 guidelines will be shared via the C2 Library and made available to an international audience.

## Benefits (continued):

- Disability-related topics will likely assume a higher profile in C2 training and information sharing events such as the annual colloquium.

## Progress of the Disability Subgroup

- A number of researchers have contacted the co-chairs to inquire about how to participate with the Subgroup.
  - Three new titles have been approved.
  - The first title submission from China, currently under review, is a disability topic.
  - Three protocols are under consideration, that are associated with funding from NIDRR.
- ==> One review currently nearing completion was the resulting of online training provided in 2007-2008 by the NCDDR and C2 instructors.

The addition of the Disability Subgroup within C2 is a wonderful opportunity to focus on developing an evidence base to support practice, facilitate future research planning, and provide a new resource for relevant, evidence-based information for consumers with disabilities and other stakeholders.

## Thank you!

Please join the NCDDR and interested disability and rehabilitation researchers in developing the Disability Subgroup, in order to expand the impact of research results.

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[www.ncddr.org](http://www.ncddr.org)



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