ICF update December 2011

Since the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health was launched ten years ago physical therapists have embraced it; first as a conceptual model in which they could see their practice and more recently by using the classifications in data collections. Nowhere was this more apparent than at WPT2011.

ICF at WPT2011

At its 2003 General Meeting WCPT endorsed the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and at each of its congresses since has included ICF workshops, keynote addresses, platform presentations and networking sessions in the programme. In June 2011 the world of physical therapy met in Amsterdam for the 16th WCPT congress, and again the ICF was well represented in the programme.

Included were:

1. A focused symposium entitled Concept to practice: Moving physical therapy forward using the ICF. Alan Jette from the United States of America was joined by Soraya Maart (South Africa), Reuben Escorpizo (Switzerland) and Jiro Okochi (Japan). Following an introduction to the ICF examples of its use to identify environmental barriers to participation among people with disability, in vocational rehabilitation and to develop an assessment instrument for use in geriatrics recent efforts and concrete applications of the ICF in physical therapy practice and research were discussed.

2. A networking session to facilitate connections between physical therapists with an interest in the recent ICF activities at WHO and ICF use in physical therapy. This session attracted around 30 people who discussed the use of ICF, predominantly in physical therapist education and research, but also in electronic health records. There was a robust discussion about the benefit of linking clinical terminology and classifications in this regard.

The WCPT network for ICF continues to grow with the number of members now at 160. The countries represented are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, USA, Venezuela, and Zambia; so there are people from all WCPT regions engaging with the classification and many have offered to support others by joining the WCPT database of experts http://www.wcpt.org/experts .

3. A one day education session entitled Principles to practice: ICF tools from the World Health Organization. The session was organised by Janice Miller from Canada and included Catherine Sykes (UK) and Jennifer Jelsma (South Africa) all of whom have worked in the WHO Network of Collaborating Centres for the Family of International Classifications for many years. They were joined by Brona McDowell and Claire Kerr (UK) who have used the classification in their research with children with Cerebral Palsy. The session showcased the ICF checklist and WHO-DAS, the ICF eLearning tool and the ICF update platform as well as illustrating ICF use in a range of applications.
Scientific presentations, both platform and posters:

- Arnadottir S., Gunnarsdottir E.D., Stenlund H., Lundin-Olsson L. Participation frequency and perceived participation restrictions at older age: applying the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) framework
- Benedetto M., Bailes A., Bookser-Feister C., Edwards P., Chiarello L. Using the international classification system (ICF) to decide intensity of care for children with lifetime health conditions
- Bindawas S. Integrating evidence-based practice and ICF model in a geriatric physical therapy course
- Cooney M., Galvin R., Stokes E., Connolly E. Validation of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) core set for breast cancer from the patients' perspective.
- Cooney M., Galvin R., Stokes E., Connolly E. The health cost of survivorship following treatment for breast cancer from the patients' perspective using the ICF as a reference
- Delaune M.F. Incorporating the ICF into the physical therapy profession in America
- Glaessel A., Kirchberger I., Linseisen E., Kollerits B., Cieza A. Validation of the extended ICF core set for stroke: a comparison between physical and occupational therapists’ perspective
- Hwang A.-W., Liao H.-F., Weng L.-J., Lu L. Hypothetical models based on ICF-CY in infants and toddlers with motor delay- with mobility (d4) as the motor outcomes
- Innocenti D., Zuffo S., Ferrari B., Braggion C Using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in cystic fibrosis: a pilot study
- Koehler B., Kirchberger I., Glaessel A., Kool J., Cieza A., Stucki G. Validation of the International Classification Of Functioning, Disability And Health (ICF) comprehensive core set for osteoporosis: the perspective of physiotherapists
- Lygren H., Strand L.I., Anderson B., Magnussen L. Do ICF core sets for low back pain include patients' self reported activity limitations due to back problems?
- Martins E.F., de Sousa P.H.C., Barbosa P.H.F.A., de Menezes L.T., Costa A.S. Brazilian experience to describe disability and functional profiles provided by combined use of ICD and ICF in stroke at home-care
- Nicola K., Watter P. Moving clinical practice forward in children with primary language disorder using the International Classification of Function, Disability And Health framework
• Silva A., Alvareihão J., Martins A.I., Queirós A.I., Amaro A., Rocha N.P. Environmental factors: a systematic review of instruments and content analysis using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
• Sykes C. Capturing functional status information using the ICF: building the evidence for physical therapy practice
• Tantilipikorn P., Watter P., Prasertsukdee S. Using the International Classification of Functioning, Health and Disability to move physiotherapy practice in cerebral palsy forwards in Thailand
• Watter P., Nicola K., Holzberger K., Mackay F., Patel K., Robertson G. How a primary language disorder is associated with participation in children: the ICF framework moving physiotherapy practice forwards

All abstracts and some presentations can be accessed at: http://www.wcpt.org/posters_and_ppts

The range of topics covered in these sessions illustrates the widespread acceptance of the ICF as a valuable tool for physical therapists to describe the outcomes of their practice.

There is a clear desire to know more about coding with ICF and analysis of data collected with the ICF. From the organisers point of view it is welcome to see a much greater appreciation of why the ICF is a useful conceptual framework, but importantly a powerful tool to collect data to inform practice, research, management and policy.

A new network for ICF

Dr Bains of Malaysia has initiated an ICF Network to support physical therapists in the Asia Western Pacific Region to gain expertise in documenting functional status using the ICF. Interested members of WCPT member organisations in the region met briefly at WPT2011.

Dr Bains can be contacted on bainsphysio@yahoo.com
Symposium—Think before you measure

Presentations from a symposium organised by the University of Sydney called “Think before you measure” (June 29 – 30 2011) are available at: http://sydney.edu.au/health_sciences/health_systems_global_populations/think_before_you_measure/speakers. The symposium brought together international and Australian speakers to talk about current challenges and developments in health, functioning and disability measurement; for example: care and funding models for rehabilitation, eligibility for services, and new developments in the World Health Organization family of international classifications.

Special Edition of Disability and Rehabilitation

A special edition of Disability and Rehabilitation is available online at: http://informahealthcare.com

Titles of the papers are as follows:

- Introduction to Special Section: Advancing the Field of Vocational Rehabilitation with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)
- ICF Core Set for vocational rehabilitation: results of an international consensus conference.
- A Conceptual Definition of Vocational Rehabilitation Based on the ICF: Building a Shared Global Model
- A Systematic Review of Functioning in Vocational Rehabilitation Using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
- An International Expert Survey on Functioning in Vocational Rehabilitation Using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
- Identification of Relevant ICF Categories in Vocational Rehabilitation: A Cross Sectional Study Evaluating the Clinical Perspective
- Vocational Rehabilitation From the Client’s Perspective Using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as a Reference

News from the World Health Organization annual meeting on the family of international classifications.

The annual meeting of the WHO network for the family of international classifications (WHO-FIC) was held in Cape Town between 29 October and 4 November. WCPT was represented by Catherine Sykes and physical therapists from South Africa, Rwanda, Canada and Korea also attended.
Updates of the ICF

The ICF update platform is now operational. Following registration on the platform you can view and comment on proposals that are on the platform or submit new ones. A user guide is available on the website to guide you through the process. The update platform website is at: https://extranet.who.int/icfrevision/

Posters

1. Development of Extended Sets of Disability Measures for Surveys
2. ICF-based project/programme in a paediatric neurorehabilitation hospital: appraisal of 3 years of implementation
3. Understanding ageing and determinants of health and disability in ageing to guide public health policies: the COURAGE in EUROPE Project
4. Efforts of Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), India towards Development of Trained Manpower for Family of International Classifications (ICD-10 & ICF)
5. Preliminary Mapping of ICF-CY Body Structures to SNOMED-CT
6. ICF in framing the National Action Plan for People with Disabilities in Kosovo
7. Decline of Functioning in Elderly Persons two months after the Great Earthquake in Northeast Japan
8. Social and Family Contribution of Persons with Severe Disabilities
9. 2nd ICF Symposium “Towards Practical Use of ICF” – Education and Implementation of ICF as Common Language
10. Project Health 2020 Integration and Distribution of Health Information in Chiba
11. Measuring Disability using the ICF The case of conflict areas
12. Content comparison of oral health related quality of life measures based on the ICF
13. ICF for the analysis of persons with chronic spinal cord injury
14. The use of ICF to describe the needs profile of student in primary and lower secondary schools
15. ICF training in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina
16. ICF implementation in regional policies: the case of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Italy
17. ICF implementation in targeted employment of persons with disabilities: the Italian work in progress
18. Using the ICF to describe elderly persons’ needs in a process-based social care EHR
19. ICF related activities of Brazilian Collaborating Center
20. Integrating functioning in the ICD-11 Revision A method for populating functioning properties (FP) into the icAT
21. Developing the service plan for PWDs A use case of ICF in policy planning
22. Functioning of people living with HIV in Rwanda
Health information systems learn to speak ICF: Toward electronic ICF-based individual records

Development of an ICF based instrument for the evaluation of candidates to public transportation fare exemption

ICF in Physical Therapy in Korea

Improving Casemix Systems by adding Functioning Information

Counting Disability - WHO/World Bank World Report on Disability

Why Is ICF Annex 4 So Important?

Newsletter

The WHO Collaborating Centre in the Netherlands newsletter is available online at http://www.rivm.nl/who-fic/. Contents include reports on the family of classifications work from around the world.

New ways of communicating

The ICF forum on the WCPT website has 27 topics and 51 posts. The number of hits since the forum was initiated is 46768. The most popular topics were:

- Disability and rehabilitation use of ICF
- ICF for children and youth
- ICF as a research tool and
- Interest in a clinical version of ICF for physiotherapists

So in many ways the forum has been a successful means of communicating, however these days there are many more options and I would like to canvas opinion on whether we should change the means of communicating. Social media offers new opportunities for the exchange of information across an international network. I shall send out a short survey requesting feedback, the results of which will inform the way we continue to network.

If you have information on ICF related activities please contact me on csykes@wcpt.org or post them on the ICF forum at http://www.wcpt.org/smfforum. Sharing information is a great way of developing expertise across the profession.