



DISABILITY RESOURCE DIGEST

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The Disability Resource Digest (DRD) is a special project of SMD Alliance. SMD Alliance is based in Manitoba, Canada and provides strategic vision and policy direction to four SMD corporations: SMD Clearinghouse; SMD Foundation; SMD Ventures; and SMD Services.

The vision shared among the corporations is of a "community that supports the independence, participation, and empowerment of persons of all abilities." Each SMD corporation pursues a complementary mandate in working toward this vision.

The DRD is prepared primarily as an informational resource for consumers, professionals and publics interested in remaining current in disability related issues. An archive of past editions of the DRD is maintained on SMD's web site (<http://www.smd.mb.ca>).

Published monthly (with a single summer edition for July and August), the DRD presents summaries of, and URL addresses for, notable disability-related content on the world-wide web (WWW). The DRD focuses on recently posted content but also includes coverage of other web pages of interest. The URL addresses cited in the DRD are current at the time of publication. But as those posting content on the web often revise URL addresses, the addresses in the DRD may not remain current.

The DRD is prepared for SMD Alliance by The Project Group (TPG) Consulting Cooperative Ltd., a Winnipeg-based consulting firm. Neither SMD nor TPG are responsible for the accuracy or reliability of the content cited in the DRD.

Readers interested in learning more about SMD Alliance are invited to visit: <http://www.smd.mb.ca> or to contact the agency by e-mail at info@smd.ca. Readers are also invited to send comments and suggestions regarding the DRD to this same e-mail address.

ACCESSIBILITY

Back seat driving - (*Disability Now*). "One of the latest vehicles to have been adapted to take wheelchair-using passengers is the Peugeot Independence - a converted version of the Peugeot Export 2.0 HDi. The vehicle has been accredited to the Motability scheme and will be appearing on the next new set of price lists. The Independence is a multi passenger vehicle (MPV) and can carry either one or two wheelchair passengers, depending on the adaptation chosen. There is a range of different ramp options. I tested the Independence 'EasyGlide', a model converted by Allied Vehicles. The ramp that goes into the van was very steep and I needed my demonstrator John Davis behind me to make sure I didn't tip over backwards. However, once inside the van, there was plenty of room to manoeuvre into the correct position to be secured with belts. My wheelchair was fixed at four points with basic straps and I had both a lap and shoulder belt. As well as me, there was enough space for another five passengers. As we set off for the test-drive, I felt very safe. I was, however, unable to see anything. This was fine while we travelled along the dual carriageway, but if we'd been driven around Norfolk's country lanes, I suspect it wouldn't have been long before I started to feel queasy."

http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/living/motoring/motoring_dec_2005.htm

Disability discrimination is still common in Canada - by Joe Henry (*The Brock Press*).

"Imagine this: You go to the movies and, while there, you see a person in a wheelchair. You've paid for your ticket and you have a right to not be disturbed. We know that if that person was to take a call on their cell phone or rattle a bag of chips, you might be annoyed because they're interfering with your enjoyment of this movie. But did you know, (or even stop to consider) that this person in a wheelchair like you, also has rights, and is being discriminated against right here and now? They may even be putting their life in danger just by being there in that theatre. The person in a wheelchair is usually expected to sit in one spot in the theatre, probably with other people in wheelchairs, as this is the 'accessible area' set aside for them. If the theatre has been accessed by a lift, what happens to this person in a chair if someone screams 'Fire!?' Who is coming to save that person before they're overcome with smoke? What is the emergency plan? Would those of us who are able-bodied accept it if we were told that you could only sit in a choice of one seat?"

(Note: you have to register to access this site.)

<http://www.brockpress.com/media/paper384/news/2005/11/08/Opinion/Disability.Discrimination.Is.Still.Common.In.Canada-1050142.shtml?norewrite&sourcedomain=www.brockpress.com>

Dogged discrimination - by Ian Gillespie (*The London Free Press*). "When Chris Fowler called a London restaurant last week and tried to make a lunch reservation for 15 people -- and seven service dogs -- Fowler was reminded that when it comes to serving the disabled, some people still don't get it. Fowler co-founded and directs National Service Dogs, a Cambridge-based group that trains service dogs for autistic children. Since 1996, the group has placed nearly 100 dogs with families across the country."

http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/Opinion/Columnists/Gillespie_Ian/2005/11/18/1311794.html

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ADVOCACY

30th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - (*Ed.gov*). "Lee is a young man with autism whose achievements belie his disability. An African-American graduate of a public high school, Lee was valedictorian of his class, went on to college, earned a degree and entered the world of work. Lee is one of many young people who have benefited from the landmark law we now know as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Congress enacted what was then the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142) on Nov. 29, 1975. The law was intended to support states and localities in protecting the rights of, meeting the individual needs of, and improving the results for infants, toddlers, children and youths with disabilities and their families."
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/idea-30th.pdf>

Caught in the 24/7 trap - (*Guardian*). "A woman last week was given a two-year suspended sentence for killing her Down's syndrome son. Could we do more for carers struggling to look after children or adults who are in danger of harming themselves or others?"
<http://society.guardian.co.uk/socialcare/story/0,7890,1636985,00.html>

Celebrating the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities - (*CCRW*). "Early December marks two very important dates for persons with disabilities- December 3 (CCRW will be celebrating this day on Friday, December 2) and December 10. On December 3, we celebrate International Day of Disabled Persons, and on December 10, we celebrate International Human Rights Day. Observed annually, these dates share a common theme, which is the right of all persons with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of social, economic, political, and cultural life. The International Day of Disabled Persons, which CCRW refers to as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, is observed annually on December 3. The purpose of this significant day is to promote awareness of disability issues and recognize the human rights of persons with disabilities. This day acknowledges the right of all persons with disabilities to fully participate and be included in social, economic, political, and cultural life. The World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons established the theme of this day, which was then adopted by the General Assembly in 1982."
http://www.ccrw.org/en/news/news_detail.asp?News_ID=66

The final question - (*Disability Now*). "The Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill (ADTI) Bill seeks to give terminally ill patients a choice about how and when they die. The latest draft of the bill, published on 9 November, allows for assisted dying but not voluntary euthanasia. This means doctors at the request of terminally ill patients could prescribe life-ending medication, but they would not be able to administer it. Patients would have to take the medication themselves."
http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/assisteddying/assdying_dec_001.htm

The Silenced Targets - "The justification for GM food is that it will end world hunger. But countries where hunger is prevalent are typically excluded from the debate. Furthermore, the question is never raised as to whether there should be a technological fix instead of a more appropriate societal solution. In the same way, a major justification for advancing human applications of gene technology is the prevention of suffering, disabilities, diseases

and gene 'defects', including Down's syndrome. Yet, people with Down's syndrome did not demand predictive tests to prevent the birth of people with Down's syndrome. But no one has asked for their opinion; they are treated as objects in justifying the use and development of gene technology. Is Down's syndrome a medical or societal problem requiring a medical or societal solution? Down's syndrome people see themselves as different, not as a disease."

<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/SilencedTargets.php>

The Time to Rise Will Come Again - by Frank Bowe (*Ragged Edge*). "A while back, I wrote a piece here on Ragged Edge Online about how the movement soon will get a big jolt from the aging of the 76-million strong Baby Boom generation. Reader response has been gratifying. Along with the customary 'thanks for writing this' notes came a small flood of e-mails with questions. Most were variations on a theme. 'Why aren't our people out in the streets protesting?' asked one, urging civil unrest. 'Where are the next-generation leaders?' inquired another, noting that many of the 'names' of the disability rights movement were gradually leaving the stage, via retirement or death. 'How do we recapture the magic of the 1977 sit ins?' queried a third, recalling the 10-city protest that I led to help make section 504 effective. These are reasonable questions. After all, some 70 percent of American adults with disabilities remain jobless, about the same as in the pre-ADA days."

<http://www.raggededgemagazine.com/departments/closerlook/000631.html>

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EMPLOYMENT

Disability & HR: Tips for Human Resource Professionals - (*ILR*). "This site contains articles, checklists, a glossary, and links to useful disability resources to help Human Resource (HR) professionals accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)."

http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/ped/hr_tips/home.cfm

ILR Participates in Disability Event in Bahrain - (*ILR*). "Manama, Bahrain was the location for the November 10-11, 2005 Global Applied Disability Research and Information Network on Employment and Training ([GLADNET](#)) annual general meeting entitled *Doing the Right Things Right: People with Disabilities in the Labor Market*. [Susanne Bruyère](#), ILR Associate Dean for Outreach, Director of [Employment and Disability Institute](#) (EDI) at ILR, and current chair of GLADNET, chaired the two-day event.

http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/news/111705_DisabilityEventBahrain.html

Why Hire People with Disabilities? - (*ILR*). "Human resource professionals are facing the tightest market in 40 years. Meanwhile, individuals with disabilities make up the largest minority in America--some 54 million. And two-thirds of this labor pool is untapped! . . . People with disabilities represent such an untapped labor pool. In the general U.S. population, 54 million people, or approximately one in every six individuals has a disability.

Yet though millions of people with disabilities work, two-thirds of this labor pool is still untapped."

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/ped/accessforall/index.htm?page=whyhire&CFID=2228980&CFTOKEN=79605755>

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ENVIRONMENT

Late Pregnancy Exposures to Disinfection By-products and Growth-Related Birth

Outcomes - by Alison F. Hinckley, Annette M. Bachand, and John S. Reif (*Environmental Health Perspectives*). "Toxicologic studies have demonstrated associations between growth-related birth outcomes and exposure to high concentrations of disinfection by-products (DBPs), including specific trihalomethane (THM) and haloacetic acid (HAA) chemical subspecies. Few prior investigations of DBPs have evaluated exposure during the third trimester of pregnancy, the time period of gestation when fetal growth may be most sensitive to environmental influences."

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2005/8282/abstract.html>

Physician-Scientists in Environmental Health - by David A. Schwartz (*Environmental Health*

Perspectives). "In general, the motivation that drives the quest for new knowledge in biomedical research is decidedly different for the physician-scientist. Although I spend most of my time in the research arena, the reason that I'm involved in research and the type of research that I do is largely inspired by my patients with unexplainable illnesses. The very question that patients and families frequently ask me--why one person (when challenged with an environmental agent) develops an illness while another person remains healthy--represents the focus of my research and has led me to the NIEHS."

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2005/113-12/director.html>

Resolution: The Need for Federally Mandated Developmental Neurotoxicity Testing to Protect Human Health: Central Nervous System Development - (LDAC).

"That the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC) urges all federal agencies responsible for the registration and safety of products; for occupational health and safety; and for the public health; to require neurodevelopmental test data as an integral part of toxicologic evaluations; and in setting standards to protect human health."

http://www.ldac-taac.ca/Environment/position_resolution-e.asp

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ETHICS

The Problem With an Almost-Perfect Genetic World - by Amy Harmon (*NY Times*).

"Mia Peterson is not a fan of tests. . . . Ms. Peterson, 31, the chief of self-advocacy for the National Down Syndrome Society, prefers public speaking and travel. And her test aversion extends to the latest one designed to detect Down in a fetus. 'I don't want to think like we're being judged against,' Ms. Peterson said. 'Not meeting their expectations.' Heralded in the Nov. 10 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, the new prenatal test provides earlier, more reliable results for all women than the current test, which is routinely offered to

only older women who are at higher risk. But for people with Down syndrome and the cluster of other conditions subject to prenatal screening, the new test comes with a certain chill. Because such tests often lead to abortions, people with conditions from mental disability to cystic fibrosis may find their numbers dwindling. As a result, some fear, their lives may become harder just as they are winning the fight for greater inclusion."

<http://www.mezomorf.com/health/news-12935.html>

Stem cell expert to quit official posts - S. Korean apologizes, admits ethics violation in getting human eggs - by Anthony Faiola and Joohee Cho (*The Washington Post*). "Hwang Woo Suk, one of the world's leading stem cell experts whose South Korean team cloned the first human embryo and created the first cloned dog, publicly apologized Thursday for ethical breaches and said he would resign from all his official posts. Under mounting pressure from the international scientific community, Hwang, 52, admitted that his team had used eggs extracted from two of his junior female scientists during research that led to the team's historic cloning of a human embryo in 2003. Such practices are considered unethical in international scientific circles."

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0511250108nov25,1,7098547.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed>

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GENERAL INTEREST

Disability is no obstacle in my life - by Julia Horton (*scotsman.com*). "Jeremy Balfour is used to being asked if he is a thalidomide victim. But it's a query that no longer makes him flinch. After all, he's had 38 years to get used to the fact that he has no left arm, and his right arm ends at the elbow, from which two elongated fingers protrude. The thalidomide question is also an obvious one for a baby born in the sixties when the pills were being dished out to expectant mothers suffering morning sickness. But Jeremy isn't a victim of that medical disaster - rather one which has never been explained. Doctors have never been able to discover the cause of his disability, which left his parents, who already had two healthy children, and medical staff, shocked when he was born."

<http://news.scotsman.com/features.cfm?id=2301772005>

Eagle and Turkey Awards - (*Disability Rights Advocates*). "Each November we salute those who have made significant contributions to the advancement of people with disabilities within society. The 8th annual Eagle awards are being presented to such deserving businesses and organizations who are leading the way in improving levels of access at work, and at home. The Turkey awards are given to entities or individuals who demonstrate enormous insensitivity to the needs of people with disabilities and therefore impede their progress in employment, education, health care, transportation, or social integration. The Eagle and Turkey awardees are nominated by the disability community each year."

<http://www.drlegal.org/news/awards.php>

Holiday Toy Guide Helps Shoppers Find the Best Gifts for Children with Disabilities - (*AFB*). "Finding the perfect gift for a child who has a disability can be challenging, which is why the American Foundation for the Blind™ (AFB) teamed up with the Toy Industry Foundation, Inc., and the Alliance for Technology Access to produce Let's Play: A Guide to

Toys for Children with Special Needs. The Guide helps parents, family, and friends select toys that will provide the most positive experience for children who are disabled—whether they enjoy stimulating games like Hasbro's Jenga or prefer something more cuddly like Little Taggie. Let's Play 2006 features toys reviewed by more than 100 children with a variety of special needs, including children with vision loss. The Guide offers descriptions of why certain toys are more appropriate and fun in addition to labels indicating who may find specific toys most enjoyable. All of the toys in Let's Play can be found in stores throughout the country."

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=&DocumentID=2983>

AblePlay Rating System Helps Consumers Make Better Toy Purchases for Children With Disabilities

- " A new authoritative resource is available to help ensure success for the millions of parents and others who have a simple wish -- to see a big smile on the face of the special child for whom they're purchasing that 'perfect' toy. 'It's quite a challenge to select the ideal toy for any child,' says Diana Nielander, director of National Lekotek Center, which recently debuted the AblePlay Rating System, a free online resource available at <http://www.ableplay.org> . However, 'the challenge is even greater when choosing a toy for a child with a disability,' says Nielander of Lekotek, a division of Anixter Center, a Chicago-based nonprofit. Lekotek provides direct services, support and information to children with special needs and their families in resource and play centers worldwide."

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/051110/nyfnsi05.html?.v=1>

Paralysed by a tick bite - by Shirley Henry (*BBC*). "For archery champion Mel Clarke it appeared to be a case of just holding her nerve to achieve her goal. When she arrived at the World Archery Championships in America in 2003, she was ranked second nationally at the sport and was one of the competition favourites. Yet soon after the tournament began, the 23-year-old from Taverham, Norfolk, was no longer involved in a battle to win a medal - she was fighting for her life."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/norfolk/4456018.stm>

Philanthropist / Entrepreneur Robert Klein Donates Half Million Dollars to Directly Aid Hurricane Survivors with Disabilities

- (*spinalcord.org*). "A gift of \$500,000 for the relief of people with spinal cord injuries and other disabilities who survived the ravages of Hurricane Katrina and other recent hurricanes, has been made to the National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA) by Robert Klein, CEO of Safeguard Properties, Inc. and his wife Ita. The gift is a personal donation from the Kleins. Safeguard Properties is the nation's largest privately held property preservation/mortgage field services company. The NSCIA is headquartered in Bethesda Maryland; and Safeguard Properties is based in Brooklyn Heights, Ohio."

<http://www.spinalcord.org/news.php?dep=1&page=0&list=652>

Vancouver's new mayor looking 'beyond disability' - by David F. Dawes

(*CanadianChristianity.com*). " 'I'm just an East End boy,' said Sam Sullivan, speaking to reporters the day after his election victory in Vancouver. 'There's nothing in our family trajectory that would have ever anticipated that I would be the mayor of the city.' According to the Vancouver Sun, the Non-Partisan Association candidate extolled the city's 'really remarkable citizenry,' declaring: 'The very fact that a quadriplegic could be elected as a

mayor says something pretty powerful about who we are as a people . . . You wouldn't see this in any other city in the world. It's remarkable. This is a city that can look beyond disability, and look for the ability'."

<http://www.canadianchristianity.com/cgi-bin/na.cgi?nationalupdates/051124sam>

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Government

CANADA

Enhanced disability tax credit - by Terry McBride. "Only 10 per cent of Canadians who identify themselves as disabled on the census ever claim the disability tax credit when they file their tax returns. The disability tax credit (DTC) is a non-refundable tax credit that is worth up to \$1,781 on your 2005 tax return (using Saskatchewan rates). 'Nonrefundable' means you can only save income tax if you pay tax. Thus, the DTC may appear to have no value to people who don't have enough income to pay income tax. However, while a disabled person's taxable income may be too low to save tax from claiming the DTC, it is often possible to transfer the DTC to a supporting person. That can allow a spouse or parent to save income tax."

http://www.canada.com/saskatoon/starphoenix/news/personal_finance/story.html?id=09c1190d-db92-43e6-ac9b-416e2548ee49

McGuinty Government Reshaping Services For Adults With A Developmental Disability - (CNW). "The McGuinty government is taking a bold new approach to providing specialized services across Ontario to help adults with a developmental disability thrive in the community, Ontario's Minister of Community and Social Services Sandra Pupatello announced today. 'Ontario is on the leading-edge of developmental services, but we need to make sure we stay there,' Pupatello said. 'We are modernizing the way we provide services to reach more people and take advantage of the newest and best research in the field.' The government is investing \$41.1 million in its plan to strengthen specialized care for adults with a developmental disability."

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/May2005/18/c0982.html>

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Health

Blind Faith And Choice - by Rhiannon Tudor Edwards (*Health Affairs*). "It was quite a military exercise to get us all—me, my husband, two children (aged nine and five), and my guide dog, Vikki—from Wales to Seattle, Washington, in the fall of 2004. I have retinitis pigmentosa, have been visually impaired since birth, and have been legally blind for the past ten years. Vikki, a black labrador retriever, is my first and only guide dog. I've learned a lot—sometimes inadvertently and often unexpectedly—from her, even about U.S. health care. As I sit and reflect on our time in the U.S., she snores gently at my feet. As background, I am a health economist from the United Kingdom who spent a year in the U.S. studying U.S. health care

thanks to a New York-based foundation that provides fellowships to mid-career scholars from British Commonwealth countries."

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/24/6/1624>

Excerpt from "Pain Free 1-2-3: A Proven Program for Eliminating Chronic Pain Now!" - by

Jacob Teitelbaum, M.D (*ImmuneSupport.com*). "The following excerpt is from Chapter 2, 'Giving Your Body What it Needs to Heal Your Pain' By Jacob Teitelbaum, M.D. This chapter explains how to optimize nutritional support, get adequate sleep, and address hormonal deficiencies. Pain often will not go away until each area of the body's need is adequately handled. For example, it may surprise you to know that nutritional and hormonal deficiencies and/or fungal infections (usually secondary to antibiotic use) can aggravate neuropathic or back pain. Because of this, it is a good idea for you to read this entire chapter, as I outline a simplified approach for making sure that all of the key principles for treating your pain are addressed. It is important not to forget that some simple general principles and lifestyle issues are critical to the treatment of chronic pain. For example, exercise daily for at least twenty minutes if you're able. Swimming, walking, and yoga are good choices."

<http://www.immunesupport.com/library/showarticle.cfm?id=6832>

FDA calls for stronger warnings on asthma drugs - (*Reuters*). "U.S. regulators on Friday asked the makers of three popular asthma medications to add new warnings to their labels stating that the drugs could increase the chances of severe asthma episodes that could result in death. The warnings involve long-acting bronchodilator medicines Advair and Serevent, made by GlaxoSmithKline, and Foradil from Novartis AG. Patients use them daily to relax bronchial muscles and prevent asthma attacks. In a public health warning issued on its Web site, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said drugs in the class known as long-acting beta 2-adrenergic agonists (LABAs) should only be used after other medicines fail to control asthma."

http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2005-11-19T171759Z_01_KNE962236_RTRUKOC_0_US-FDA-WARNINGS-ASTHMA.xml

Healthcare Improvement (IHI) National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care -

"The Health Quality Council invites you to attend the annual broadcast of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care. For the fourth consecutive year, the Health Quality Council brings this world-renowned forum to your doorstep."

<http://www.hqc.sk.ca/portal.jsp?7nVJSQYo95jwE6QiGDF8ezBlzBf0QfLQkUwK4QBZaJsZWf+IW6K3/YzOVcA+lmY4>

Health Insurance In Mexico: Achieving Universal Coverage Through Structural Reform -

by Felicia Marie Knaul and Julio Frenk (*Health Affairs*). "Fairness in finance is an intrinsic and challenging goal of health systems. Mexico recently devised a structural reform that responds to this challenge. Through a new system of social protection in health that will offer public insurance to all citizens, the reform is expected to reduce catastrophic and out-of-pocket spending while promoting efficiency, more equitable resource distribution, and better-quality care. This paper analyzes the reform, focusing on financial features, expected benefits, and future challenges. It also highlights aspects of relevance for other countries

that are striving to formulate and implement health policies to promote universal social protection and fair financing."

(Note: Accessing a full copy of this article requires subscription.)

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/abstract/24/6/1467>

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LEGAL

High Court Rules Against Parents in Maryland Special Education Case - by Fred Barbash and Lori Aratani (*AAPD*). "The Supreme Court, using a Montgomery County, Md., case to resolve a long-running, hotly contested national dispute, ruled today that the nation's school systems are not legally obliged to prove the adequacy of individualized educational programs set up for disabled children. Rather, the court said, it is up to individual parents, when dissatisfied, to demonstrate a program's inadequacy. The 6-2 decision, which settled a split in the federal courts, was a major blow to parents' advocacy organizations, which argued that most families are not financially able to bear the burden of persuasion when going up against a board of education or a school superintendent. School officials across the country similarly contended that their resources would be drained by having to meet each challenge with a showing of adequacy."

http://www.aapd.com/News/education/Md_speced.htm

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MEDICAL

Alzheimer's Could Be Diabetes-like Illness, Study Suggests - Brain insulin levels fall as the disease progresses - by Steven Reinberg (*HealthDay News*). "Could Alzheimer's be a form of diabetes? That's the tantalizing suggestion from a new study that finds insulin production in the brain declines as Alzheimer's disease advances. 'Insulin disappears early and dramatically in Alzheimer's disease,' senior researcher Suzanne M. de la Monte, a neuropathologist at Rhode Island Hospital and a professor of pathology at Brown University Medical School, said in a prepared statement."

<http://www.healthday.com/view.cfm?id=529284>

First Vioxx federal trial to focus on length of use - "In April of 2001, Richard "Dicky" Irvin was among millions of people who found relief from nagging pain in Vioxx, then a popular painkiller often praised as a wonder drug that worked when others failed. But back pain relief was fleeting for the 53-year-old manager of a wholesale seafood distributor of St. Augustine, Fla. In May that year he went to work and told his boss he didn't feel well. A little later his co-workers found him dead at his desk. Whether Merck & Co.'s once-lucrative drug led to his death lies at the center of the third Vioxx-related case in the nation to face a jury, and the first to do so in federal court."

http://chealth.canoe.ca/channel_health_news_details.asp?channel_id=41&relation_id=1826&news_channel_id=41&news_id=16403

Surgical procedure brings hope to asthmatics - (*CTV.ca*). "New research is bolstering the idea that asthma -- a disease long treated with inhaled medications -- could actually be treated in an operating room. For the most part, asthmatics around the world use inhalers to

keep their airways from becoming inflamed, or from tightening up. But two doctors from Hamilton Ont., who have been testing a therapy called bronchial thermoplasty for five years, say their updated research shows the surgical treatment is safe, with few side effects."

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/print/CTVNews/20051119/asthma_treatment_051119/20051119/?hub=Health&subhub=PrintStory

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MEDIA ARTS

39 Pounds of Love - (*Ability Magazine*). "Ami Ankilewitz lives in Israel with his mother, works as a 3D animator (thanks to a assistive technology) and is a devoted lover of blues music and Harley Davidson motorcycles. At the age of one, Ami was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy by his doctor in the United States. He was not predicted to live past the age of six. Today, over 30 years later, weighing in at 39 pounds and immobile from the neck down, he wants to find that doctor. Made over a period of three years, the film documents the realization of Ami's dreams - from his room in Tel Aviv, Israel, he defies his current doctor's orders and sets out on a coast-to-coast road trip across the United States. This decision becomes the catalyst for an extraordinary series of events. Ami is a charismatic individual with an abundance of humor, adventure and passion, and his journey is unforgettable."

http://www.abilitymagazine.com/39_Pounds_of_Love.html

<http://www.39poundsoflove.com/>

The Best Disability Films - A Very Short List - by Susan M. LoTempio (*Ragged Edge*). "I'm all for "Murderball" - not the game but the movie. It's gritty, it's fast and it's a fascinating look at the quad jock lifestyle. Now that the documentary is out on DVD, hopefully a lot more people will see it. (Even though it got a lot of buzz when it was released in July, its box office was disappointing.) Watching Mark Zupan and his teammates was a hoot. Seeing them interviewed on TV and in magazine spreads was another hoot. Those guys were enjoying - perhaps even creating - a cripp cult status never seen before - even if it lasted about 15 minutes. Perhaps they'll get a few more minutes of fame with the release of the DVD. I gave 'Murderball' four stars when I reviewed it for my newspaper because it's that good. Still, I'm disappointed that this film, which gave disability issues so much focus, was solely about the jock world."

<http://www.raggededgemagazine.com/departments/reflections/000643.html>

Beyond Boundaries - (*Disability Now*). "BBC 2 has been broadcasting the adventures of 11 disabled people, who trekked across the Nicaraguan jungle for 28 days earlier this year. Three of them tell Priya Kotecha how the gruelling expedition challenged both themselves and their views of other disabilities and they reveal how their journeys end."

http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/people/profiles/prof_nov_2005.htm

'Finally, I'm going to stick the knife in' - by Emma John (*The Guardian*). "It all started as a joke. People would ask Mat Fraser what he was working on and he would reply: 'I'm writing a musical. Thalidomide!! A Musical.' Even the thought made people laugh. And the idea

tickled the 43-year-old actor, who has spent much of his life in rock and reggae bands, so he wrote it."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/features/story/0,,1636104,00.html>

Thalidomide musical opens deaf and disability arts festival - "A musical based on the Thalidomide controversy will open this year's deaf and disability arts festival in Liverpool. The show takes an uncompromising - and humorous - look at the drug, charting its use from the 1950s to the present day. Written and composed by Mat Fraser, and starring Kate Winslet's sister, Anna, it arrives in Liverpool mid-way through a nationwide tour. It's just one of the events taking place as part of DaDaFest, which is co-ordinated by North West Disability Arts Forum (NWDFAF), and funded by the Liverpool Culture Company, Arts Council England and the Granada Foundation."

<http://www.24dash.com/content/news/viewNews.php?navID=7&newsID=1506>

Krazy Kripples: South Park & Disability - by Jeff Shannon (*New Mobility*). "Earlier this year a poll was conducted on OUCH!, a Web site devoted to disability-related content in BBC programming (www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/). Users were invited to cast their votes for "The Greatest Disabled TV Character," and for regular viewers of South Park, the results offered a pleasant surprise: By a considerable margin, the winner was TIMMY! Now, it's astonishing enough that the BBC has the foresight to offer such a Web site, and fascinating to discover that British television offers a variety of disabled characters, most of them unfamiliar to all but the most devoted American anglophiles. But what's equally interesting from the OUCH! poll is that the all-American Timmy was even more popular among disabled than nondisabled voters, and there were telling differences in the total-vote breakdown."

http://newmobility.com/review_article.cfm?id=1075&action=browse

The Rise of Shoshannah Stern: A New Generation of Deaf Actors and Actresses - by John Critser. "Lately in the past thirty years or so we have witnessed the coming out of deaf actresses and actors that surfaced in Hollywood. Some of the names were Bernard Bragg, Jeff Bravin, Anthony Natale, Terrylyne, Michelle Banks, Lou Ferrigno, Linda Bove, Deanne Bray, Christy Smith, C. J. Jones, and most notably, Marlee Matlin; they all acted superbly before the cameras- Now, Shoshannah Stern is becoming more visible as the up and coming actress, suited to the college crowd and it is naturally intriguing for us Deaf TV viewers to see a deaf actress playing a part in a show whose title "Weeds" is taboo in some circles of society."

<http://www.deafnation.com/t/dninsider.aspx?articleid=119&zoneid=10>

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POLICY/RESEARCH

Landmark report shines spotlight on unmet needs of Canadians who are blind or living with vision loss - (*CNIB*). "According to a hard-hitting new report released today, scores of highly educated and qualified blind and visually impaired Canadians are living in poverty because they cannot find work. The report also shows that although the number of seniors living with permanent vision loss is skyrocketing, access to transportation and low vision aids is limited. Alarmingly, it confirms that many of the barriers faced 30 years ago still exist today. The first large-scale national quantitative study to determine the needs of people who are blind or living with vision loss, An Unequal Playing Field: Report on the Needs of People

Who are Blind or Visually Impaired Living in Canada presents unprecedented feedback from visually impaired adults; parents of blind children; ophthalmologists and optometrists; rehabilitation agency service providers; and teachers of students with visual impairments. The report was supported by a contribution from the Office for Disability Issues, Social Development Canada and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)."
<http://www.cnib.ca/eng/media-centre/stories/needs-report/needs-report.htm>

Newsletter of the Society for Disability Studies (November 2005 Volume 1, Number 1) - "

Welcome to the first edition of the Society for Disability Studies Newsletter. During a meeting early this fall, the board voted unanimously to begin publishing a regular electronic newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is two-fold: First, the board wants to increase communication with the membership, making it easier for individual members to learn about board activities and decisions, thereby increasing transparency. Second, the board hopes to create an informal and immediate source of news, resources, and culture to supplement the work of DSQ."
<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/sds/generalinfo.html#7>

Parenting with a Disability Resources and Services Survey - "Through the Looking Glass and its National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities is conducting this survey to locate possible resources and services for parents with disabilities or deafness and their children. We are surveying individuals as well as both disability-agencies and parenting/family-agencies. Potential resources will be contacted and interviewed for more detailed information. Through the Looking Glass will compile and then publish a searchable database of resources on our website."
<http://lookingglass.org/resourcesurvey/>

Research will put a Canadian face on Learning Disabilities - (LDAC). "Pauline Mantha, Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada, announced today the appointment of 13 Steering Committee members to the research project Putting a Canadian Face on Learning Disabilities (PACFOLD). PACFOLD is a three-phase project. With its focus on obtaining, quantifying and disseminating knowledge, it will place Canada at the forefront of understanding who has learning disabilities (LD), what their challenges are and which coping mechanisms they use successfully to overcome those challenges."
<http://www.ldac-taac.ca/News/releases/2005-03-11-LetterheadSteeringCmttee-e.doc>

The Stonewall Transition Conference - (AFB). "June 16th and 17th 2005 brought together over a hundred hard working, enthusiastic people all on a similar mission. The quest? To learn more about the particular issues faced by blind, visually impaired or deaf-blind students and youth in transition throughout the various stages of life. Just what are those issues and what can you as a professional or parent do to help your student or child embrace these challenges? We welcome you to enjoy and learn from the collection of materials we've accumulated from this one-of-a-kind conference (the next best thing to having been there!) You are invited to read the PowerPoint presentations used in each

informative session and graciously provided by the experts who presented; and then, if you like, you may e-mail them with your comments and questions."
<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=28&TopicID=263>

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A new podcast that focuses on helping teachers, parents, administrators, and students use technology in the classroom with students with disabilities. - (*I-NewsWire*). "A new podcast has been launched focusing on using technology with students with disabilities. Building Educational Success Through Technology or the BEST Podcast is a collaborative effort between the Special Educational Assistive Technology(www.seat.ilstu.org), McLean County Unit District Number 5 (www.unit5.org) and Infinitec (www.coalitionconnection.org). This innovative collaboration aims to provide teachers, parents, administrators and students with ideas and resources for successful ways to use technology in the classroom to help students with disabilities. It features product reviews, success stories of technology use in the classroom with students with disabilities, current events, news, and developments related to assistive technology, and a 'call for help' feature to connect teachers, parents and students together to help solve common everyday problems with technology."
<http://i-newsWire.com/pr50509.html>

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REHABILITATION

CMS Issues New Rules, Codes on Power Mobility Devices - (*Rehab Management*). "The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released a draft local coverage determination (LCD) for power mobility devices, as well as 63 new codes and testing requirements under the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS). The LCD, titled 'Conditions for Payment of Power Mobility Devices, including Power Wheelchairs and Power-Operated Vehicles,' was released to help clarify an interim final rule, which was scheduled to go into effect on October 25. The LCD includes policies on coverage, prescribing, coding, payment, and claims documentation. . . . The new codes and testing requirements are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2006."
<http://www.rehabpub.com/departments/112005/2.asp>

TD Bank Financial Group Scholarship in Rehabilitation-Related Research for Graduate Students with Disabilities - (*CPA*). "The Toronto Rehabilitation Institute announces the TD Bank Financial Group Scholarship in Rehabilitation-Related Research for Graduate Students with Disabilities. At Toronto Rehab, our goal is to advance rehabilitation and enhance quality of life by pushing the frontiers of rehabilitation science. As a fully affiliated teaching and research hospital of the University of Toronto, we advance rehabilitation knowledge and practice through research. Research is an investment in the future. Scholarships are also an investment in the future. As researchers, we embrace the concept of consumer participation; we believe that people with disabilities should be active participants in planning and conducting research. Thus, with the generous support of TD

Bank Financial Group, Toronto Rehab has established this award to further the active involvement of people with disabilities in rehabilitation-related research."

<http://www.canparaplegic.org/national/level2.tpl?var1=story&var2=20051115134405>

When evaluating patients for pediatric-dependent mobility devices, the child's lifestyle must be taken into account - (*Rehab Management*). "Normal development of a child relies greatly on the type of mobility they use to interact with family members and peers, whether it is crawling, walking, or propulsion of a mobility device. Mobility, no matter what the form, impacts the socialization and education of children by allowing them to interact with individuals of similar ages. Without the ability to move around easily, a child may become isolated and/or distanced from their peers. Introduction of mobility aids to a physically challenged child at an early age appears to facilitate psychological, emotional, physical, and cognitive development."

<http://www.rehabpub.com/features/112005/3.asp>

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SELF HELP

The Anxiety Disorders Association of America (ADAA) - "The Anxiety Disorders Association of America (ADAA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the prevention, treatment and cure of anxiety disorders and to improve the lives of all people who suffer from them."

<http://www.adaa.org/aboutadaa/Mission.asp>

Disability Alliance - "Disability Alliance (DA), publishers of the Disability Rights Handbook, is regarded as the leading authority on social security benefits for disabled people. You can use this site to find regularly updated information about benefits, tax credits and community care as well as disability related campaigns and parliamentary news. You can also find out more about our training services."

<http://www.disabilityalliance.org/index.htm>

Life with TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) - "As you know, life after a TBI is very different than before. I also know; I sustained one in a car accident in 1979. Since then, I have worked extremely hard to make my life better, and more productive. . . . The purpose of this web site is to reach survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury and those individuals who are interested in knowing about the impact on an individual's life following one, and to provide a guide on living one's life after such an injury."

<http://www.tbilife.com/>

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TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology to Enable Cyber Gamers - "At the Grand Final of World Cyber Games 2005, Samsung Electronics, a leader in the digital technology era, and The Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD), a registered voluntary welfare organization, unveiled plans of a joint collaboration to provide people with physical disabilities an opportunity to experience the joy of gaming through customised assistive technology devices. Special adviser to the

collaboration is Rapture Gaming, organizers of World Cyber Games 2005 Singapore National Final. 'Technology is a great leveller. In cyber gaming, through modifications made to the keyboards and consoles, disabled people and non-disabled people alike can participate and interact as equals. At SPD, we constantly advocate universal designs for an inclusive society, and we are happy to have partners like Samsung in making this possible,' said Dr Ow Chee Chung, Executive Director, SPD."

<http://www.hardwarezone.com/news/view.php?id=3144&cid=5>

The AssistiveWare Newsletter - "This is a newsletter for users, written, edited and designed by users of the AssistiveWare software. With this newsletter we want to explore the frontiers of assistive technology, provide a platform to share experiences, and also to inspire people of all abilities (as the Americans so nicely phrase it) to use the opportunities offered by Mac OS X to the fullest. Assistive technology can be so much more than a closed-box solution for a specific task. There is a whole world of possibilities out there and no reason why, say a switch user, should not use Apple's iChat or edit videos with iMovie just like 'the rest of us'. You will not find sales pitches in this newsletter nor the latest info about our products. Instead, you will find inspiring articles about computer access, time and effort saving hardware and software, and how people with disabilities use their Macs in school, for work, to create art, or just for fun."

<http://www.assistiveware.com/newsletter.php>

Bee-Bot turtle draws the crowds - by Sally McKeown (*The Guardian*). "The ICT village at last month's Special Needs London Show in Islington provided a valuable opportunity for special educational needs coordinators and other teachers to meet software developers face to face. This year, the usually schools-based event included other sectors. Cambridge Training and Development (CTAD) showed games, training materials, and activities developed with Portland college, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. The use of voice-overs, symbols and photographs make the Portland Partnership project a slick and interesting product. It offers to provide a virtual learning environment for adults working at pre-entry level who cannot access information from print. The final product will have adapted email and messageboards and access to webcam. The aim of the project is to improve independence, life skills and employability of adults with severe learning disabilities."

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/elearning/story/0,,1642285,00.html>

EP Global Communications, Inc. to Initiate Joint Publishing Information With Assistive Technology News - (*PRNewswire-FirstCall*). "EP Global Communications, Inc. (OTC Bulletin Board: EPGL) and Publisher of Exceptional Parent Magazine announced today that Exceptional Parent Magazine will publish a year long series of articles written by award-winning writer John Williams dealing with The Future of Assistive Technology as it relates to people with disabilities and special health care needs. Williams will co-author many of the articles with his business partner Howard McClintic, executive director of Concurrent Technologies Corporation Foundation (<http://www.ctcfoundation.org>). Williams is the author of the recently published book *Assistive Technologies: Expanding a Universe of Opportunities for People with Disabilities*. A sample of the book can be seen by visiting <http://www.atn-ctcf.org>."

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/11-17-2005/0004218492&EDATE=>

Freedom Scientific Adds FaceToFace to Suite of Deaf-Blind Solutions - " Freedom Scientific announced today the release of FaceToFace, a portable communications solution for the deaf-blind. Deaf-blind users of the PAC Mate BX and QX accessible Pocket PC now have the ability to engage immediately in a conversation with a friend, colleague, or even a new acquaintance, without the need for a specially trained interpreter."
http://www.freedomsci.com/fs_news/PressRoom/en/2005/nr_FaceToFace-11-15-2005.asp

Microsoft Promotes Cross-Platform Accessibility Tech - by Darryl K. Taft (*eWeek*). "Microsoft Corp. is in the process of transitioning from its old accessibility model to a new model supported in Windows Vista. Microsoft is moving from its MSAA (Microsoft Active Accessibility) model to a new cross-platform accessibility model called User Interface Automation, which will be supported in Windows XP and Windows Vista, said Rob Sinclair, director of Microsoft's Accessible Technology Group. One of the chief architects of UI Automation, Sinclair is leading the efforts to promote the advantages of moving the industry toward adopting one accessibility standard."
<http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1892089,00.asp>

My Bionic Quest for Boléro - He's been haunted by Ravel's masterpiece since he lost his hearing. A deaf man's pursuit of the perfect audio upgrade. - By Michael Chorost (*Wired*). "With one listen, I was hooked. I was a 15-year-old suburban New Jersey nerd, racked with teenage lust but too timid to ask for a date. When I came across Boléro among the LPs in my parents' record collection, I put it on the turntable. It hit me like a neural thunderstorm, titanic and glorious, each cycle building to a climax and waiting but a beat before launching into the next. I had no idea back then of Boléro's reputation as one of the most famous orchestral recordings in the world. When it was first performed at the Paris Opera in 1928, the 15-minute composition stunned the audience."
<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/13.11/bolero.html>

Portable Accommodations For Individuals With Literacy Challenges Available From Premier Assistive Technology - "Assistive Technology announces Key to Access - accessibility software for individuals with print-related disabilities on a portable MP3 player. Little bigger than a car key, Key to Access opens the world of computer information using a common sense approach to Assistive Technology - Key to Access contains a portable collection of tools designed to make computers accessible without having to load any software. Individuals carry the tools they need conveniently concealed on a custom MP3 device that they can take anywhere - school, home, library or work."
http://newsroom.eworldwire.com/view_release.php?id=13112

Quillsoft launches WordQ 2, the next generation word prediction software for education and learning disabilities - (*AT Journal*). "Quillsoft Ltd., manufacturer and distributor of educational software, today announced WordQ 2, the next generation word prediction software for education and learning disabilities. "WordQ 2 simply makes writing easier" says Dr. Fraser Shein, President and CEO of Quillsoft Ltd., based in Toronto, Ontario. Research and development of this product is ongoing by an internationally recognized research team at Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre in Toronto, ON, Canada. WordQ is a writing tool which provides literacy support within any Windows based application. It allows individuals to work independently, moving beyond the simple mechanics of writing. This promotes

confidence, self-esteem and inclusion. WordQ helps with reading and writing by suggesting words you might want to use when you are writing and by reading them aloud so that you can confirm your choice. It also reads your sentences back to you so that you can edit your work and it can read any other written text aloud in the same way, so that you can match the auditory with the visual cues. WordQ learns your vocabulary as you use words."

<http://www.atnet.org/journal/101003.htm>

Smart card to open up computing - Geoff Adams-Spink (*BBC*). "Intelligent cards that enable visually impaired people to customise computers and ATMs automatically have been unveiled at a conference in Birmingham. The Special Needs Application Program Interface, or Snapi, puts a user's preferences on a smart card. The cards can be used in cash dispensers, ticket machines and public access computers. Once a Snapi card is removed, the machine automatically returns to its default settings. The technology was developed by the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) in collaboration with Suffolk County Council and two companies based in the West Midlands."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/4436828.stm>

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CONFERENCES

 **Conferences listed for the first time in DRD)**

CANADIAN

7th National Conference on Shared Mental Health Care - May 11-13, 2006 | Calgary, Alberta. "Our conference focus is on case studies and learning from our success as we plan for the future. This is a hands on conference and you will bring home practical tools and learnings that you can use in your daily work. Conference Highlight: The Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Initiative will be sharing results from two years of research on the current state of CMHC and presenting a series of interactive toolkits for providers, educators, consumers, family/caregivers and policy makers. CCMHI will also be unveiling an action plan to implement CMHC principles outlined in the Collaborative Mental Health Charter."

http://www.shared-care.ca/calgary_conf.shtml

2006 Canadian Disability Studies Association - 3rd Annual Conference - May 27-28, 2006 | Toronto, Ontario. "The conference theme is: 'The City: A Festival of Knowledge'. Submissions are invited on the conference theme, as well as on other topics covering all aspects of disability. This can include community activism, arts, culture as well as studies from all academic disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Individual abstracts as well as proposals for panel sessions, workshops and performances are welcome."

<http://www.disabilitystudies.ca/ccdsnews.htm#cdsaconfinfo2006>

10th International Child Neurology Congress - June 11-16, 2006 | Montreal, Quebec. "On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 10th World Congress of the International Child Neurology Association, I would like to invite all those with a professional interest in pediatric neurological disorders to attend the Congress in June 2006 here in Montreal. Close to 1000

health professionals are expected to attend this premier international gathering in pediatric neuroscience."

<http://www.icnc2006.com/>

9th World Down Syndrome Congress - August 22-26, 2006 | Vancouver, British Columbia.

"Welcome to the home page of the 9th World Down Syndrome Congress, being held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, from August 22 - 26, 2006. At present, you will find details in regards to the City of Vancouver. Further information will be available shortly. Please visit the site often for updates and additional information."

<http://www.venuewest.com/2006/wdsc/>

Festival of International Conferences on Disability, Aging & Technology - June 16-19, 2007 | Toronto, Ontario. "Welcome to the site of the Festival of International Conferences on Disability, Aging and Technology. FICDAT will include four important conferences running concurrently as well as many joint events."

<http://www.ficdat.ca/en/festival.php>

TRANSED 2007 - 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons - June 18-21, 2007 | Montreal, Quebec. "Canada is proud to host the 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED), to be held June 18-21, 2007, at the Palais des Congrès in Montréal under the theme 'Benchmarking, Evaluation and Vision for the Future'. The conference will review advances in research, evoke international break throughs and explore perspectives for technological innovations in order to respond to the mobility challenges of an aging population and of persons with disabilities, as part of an inclusive society."

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<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Transted2007/home.htm>

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U.S.

2006 Conference of the Assistive Technology Industry Association - January 18-21, 2006 |

Orlando, Florida. "ATIA's Conference provides a forum for education and communication to professional practitioners serving those with disabilities (teachers, occupational therapists, rehabilitation counselors, physicians, psychologists, etc.), with the overarching goal of providing enhanced benefits and opportunities to people with disabilities."

http://www.atia.org/conf_2006_call_for_presentations.html

The International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence - February 1-4, 2006 |

St. Petersburg, Florida. "The International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence will bring together researchers, practitioners, business leaders and people involved in aging policy to focus on these issues."

- Assistive Devices:
- Housing, Home
- Injury Prevention:
- Smart Homes:
- Telehealth:

<http://icadi.phhp.ufl.edu/2006/>

43rd Annual International Conference of the Learning Disabilities Association of America

- March 1-4, 2006 | Jacksonville, Florida. " The LDA 43rd Annual International Conference will now be held in Jacksonville Florida. All events and sessions will be held at the [Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel](#). We invite you to join us for another outstanding four days of the best research and findings in learning disabilities, including specific workshops on Medical issues, Mental Health, Technology, Teacher Preparation, Early Childhood, and much, much more. Preliminary conference program books, detailing the entire conference will be available in late September."


<http://www.lidaamerica.us/conference/index.asp>

Pac Rim Conference 2006 - March 13-15, 2006 | Honolulu, Hawaii. "With its beginnings dating back to 1985, the Pacific Rim Conference has evolved into one of the top rated international educational offerings for and from persons with disabilities, family members, researchers, service providers, policymakers and nationally recognized professionals in the various disciplines in the diverse field of disabilities. The 2006 Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities is tentatively scheduled for March 13, 14 & 15 2006. All other information regarding the 2006 conference is tentative, and may be subject to change."

<http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/>

21st Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference - March 20-25, 2006 | Los Angeles, California. " The Center has advanced to the stage of conducting the longest-running and largest annual university sponsored conference on technology and persons with disabilities. This annual conference serves as a major training venue for professionals around the world involved in the field of disability and technology.

<http://www.csun.edu/cod/conf/2006/genconfinfo06.htm>

 **Power Up 2006 Conference and Expo** - April 10-11, 2006 | Columbia, Missouri. "Power Up 2006 Conference and Expo is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 10 and 11, 2006. Power Up Conference and Expo has a mission of strengthening the capacity of people with disabilities, educators, independent living staff, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, physical therapists, information technology technicians, librarians and media specialists, and service providers. Power Up features a variety of sessions which provide up-to-date information on disability related policy, assistive technology services and devices, independent living issues, educational policy and practices, and information technology accessibility to enhance and promote independence of people with disabilities."

<http://www.at.mo.gov/Powerup2006/powerup.shtm>

Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, & Disability. 6th Annual Conference - April 17-18, 2006 | Columbus, Ohio. "As a modern land grant university an important part of Ohio State University's mission is outreach and engagement, serving the community through a variety of activities. During the tenth anniversary year of the Americans With Disabilities Act the Multiple Perspectives On Access, Inclusion And Disability conference was created to help fulfill this mission."

<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/default.htm>

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OVERSEAS

2006 International Conference on Disability, Virtual Reality and Associated Technologies

- September 18-20, 2006 | Musikhuset, Denmark." Welcome to the International Conference Series on Disability, Virtual Reality and Associated Technologies website. Here you will find all the information for the upcoming ICDVRAT 2006 conference, 18-20 September 2006, plus archive information from previous ICDVRAT conferences, including full conference proceedings of all past conferences."

<http://www.icdvrat.reading.ac.uk/>

International Forum on Disability Management - October 8-10, 2006 | Brisbane, Australia.

"The Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine (CONROD) at The University of Queensland and Griffith University have been invited to host the 3rd International Forum on Disability Management in Brisbane from 8 to 10 October, 2006. The forum will build on initiatives and progress following the first forum 'Work Retention Strategies in a Global Society' held in Vancouver 2002 and the second forum 'Disability Management works' held in Maastricht in 2004. The forum will be in the format of Plenary Sessions and Workshops."

<http://www.ifdm.com.au/index.html>



ARATA 2006 National Conference - Connecting People & Community Through Technology

- October 17-20, 2006 | Perth, Australia. "On behalf of the conference organising committee, it is my pleasure to invite you to Fremantle, Perth for the ARATA 2006 National Conference 'Connecting People and Community Through Technology', to be held from Tuesday 17th until Friday 20th October, 2006. The 2006 conference aims to enable participants to understand how the application of technology can allow inclusion of all people into everyday activities, home, school, work and leisure by:

- Increasing awareness of the potential of technology
- Presenting new developments and research
- Sharing information and exchanging ideas
- Providing resources, product information and a trade

<http://www.e-bility.com/arata/conf.php>

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Management works' held in Maastricht in 2004. The forum will be in the format of Plenary Sessions and Workshops."
<http://www.ifdm.com.au/index.html>

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