



**DISABILITY
RESOURCE
DIGEST**

Volume 5 Issue 2 February 2005

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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 five SMD corporations: SMD Clearinghouse; SMD Foundation; SMD Ventures; SMD AbiTech; 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 different but 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-services.com/>).

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 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-services.com/> or to contact the agency by e-mail at info@smd.mb.ca. Readers are also invited to send comments and suggestions regarding the DRD to this same e-mail address.

ACCESSIBILITY AND TECHNOLOGY

ACCESSIBILITY

Committee Begins Work to Improve Standard for Accessible K-12 Materials - "More than two dozen educators, publishers, disability advocates, parents, policymakers, and technologists gather today in Orlando, FL, for the inaugural meeting of the NIMAS Development Committee to further develop the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS). NIMAS is a technical specification for the production of digital versions of textbooks that can be more easily converted to a variety of accessible formats, including braille and text-to-speech."

<http://www.cast.org/about/index.cfm?i=3076&option=nimasmaterials>

CSUN 2004 Keynote Address - This year's keynote address was delivered by Dr. Vint Cerf the inventor of the internet. Beginning with the aphorism "to do the impossible, you first have to believe it isn't" he then goes to talk about the impact the internet has on assistive technology with a focus on internet enabled devices. His keynote is approximately 1 hour long.

<http://www.abletv.net/content/2004csun/csun2004keynote.smil> (close captioned, required Real Player)

<http://www.abletv.net/content/2004csun/powerpoint/KeynotePP.html> (power point slides)

Making The Web A Sight For Sore Eyes - by Howard Wen (*InternetWeek*). "Everybody has encountered a badly designed web page -- one with small fonts, conflicting color schemes, or a lousy layout. While these problems can be difficult for people with perfect eyesight, they're worse for the elderly and others with weakened vision. A survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation reveals less than a third of senior citizens, those over the age of 65, have ever gone online. Those numbers, however, could increase, if websites became friendlier to people with poor vision, the American Association of Retired Persons says. AARP notes that two-thirds of seniors have a disability that often includes weak eyesight."

<http://www.internetweek.com/allStories/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=57704096>

The University of Toronto Ontarians with Disabilities Act Accessibility Plan 2004-2005 -

"The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, (ODA) 2001, received Royal Assent in December 2001. The purpose of the Act is to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that preclude their full participation in society. The Act requires institutions within the broad public sector to review their policies, programs and services as they impact upon persons with disabilities, and to develop accessibility plans that are intended to address existing barriers and prevent new barriers from being established. Each Ontario University is required to develop annual accessibility plans as part of the annual planning process, and to file the 2004-2005 Accessibility Plan by September 30, 2004. This year's Plan presents a status report on each of the 45 individual initiatives that were specified in the 2003-2004 Plan to be conducted between September 1, 2003-August 31, 2004 and identifies 14 new and 23 continuing initiatives to be implemented between September 1, 2004-August 31, 2005. As

per last year, no new funding has been provided by the provincial government to implement initiatives."

<http://www.utoronto.ca/hrhome/oda/odaplan.htm>

TECHNOLOGY

Accessibility of Consumer Electronic Equipment - by Jim McCarthy (*Voice of the Nation*).

"Until the past couple of decades, blind people could operate virtually all electronic devices intended for the broad consumer market, even those of a highly specialized nature. In contrast, today's home electronic devices use multi-level menus, providing only visual feedback through which all tasks are performed. Rather than making access easier, new technology complicates and sometimes prohibits access for the blind. However, it does not have to be this way."

<http://www.voiceofthenationsblind.org/articles/78/accessibility-of-consumer-electronic-equipment>

Audio Odyssey: Can the Blind Ride the Wave? - by Mark Riccobono (*Voice of the Nation*). "If

you are anything like me, having music at your fingertips is part of life. Whether it is commuting to work, flying across the country to visit friends and family, or a few moments of down time at the end of the day, having some form of music readily available is a necessity. This often means packing a CD player and a number of CDs in the briefcase or backpack. Add to that the need for some reading materials, and now you probably have a tape recorder and talking book(s) next to the CDs. This has been true for me even though I am an avid Braille reader and often have a book in my Braille note-taking device as well. And, if you are like me, you are looking for ways to reduce the amount of "stuff" you are carrying around. For music lovers this means joining the wave of MP3 music."

<http://www.voiceofthenationsblind.org/articles/91/audio-odyssey-can-the-blind-ride-the-wave>

Blind Engineering Student 'Reads' Color as Sound - (*Newswise*). "A melody of staccato piano notes sings out from the speakers of Victor K. Wong's desktop computer. But it is not a melody made by Bach, or Liberace, or even Alicia Keys. It is the melody of color. Wong, a Cornell University graduate student from Hong Kong who lost his sight in a road accident at age seven, is helping to develop innovative software that translates color into sound. 'Color is something that does not exist in the world of a blind person,' explains Wong. 'I could see before, so I know what it is. But there is no way that I can think of to give an exact idea of color to someone who has never seen before.' He helped develop the software in Cornell's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) with undergraduate engineering student Ankur Moitra and research associate James Ferwerda from the Program of Computer Graphics."

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/509358/>

"ChatterText" News Release - "ChatterText Ltd announces the immediate availability of its 'ChatterText' on-line services for people with hearing or speech difficulties and the businesses and public sector providers that serve them. 'ChatterText' is a text based communication tool that enables people with hearing and speech difficulties to 'talk' to hearing people securely across the Internet. Many businesses and service providers are missing out on an extra 9 million customers because people who are deaf or without speech

do not have a method to communicate with them and vice versa. 'ChatterText' is the gateway to these people enabling providers to serve them independently."

http://www.deaftoday.com/v3/archives/2005/01/chattertext_new.html

Computers, Academic Success, And Students With Disabilities On Campus: An Update from the Adaptech Research Network - by Adaptech Research Network. "With the start of the new year, the Adaptech Research Network wanted to let NEADS members know what we have been up to and where we are going with our research. First, we will update you on our ongoing research into the use of computer technologies by Canadian college and university students with disabilities. Here, we will describe an exciting new study which we are starting this year. Second, we will describe a recently completed study where we moved our focus from computers and technology to academic success by college students with disabilities."

<http://www.neads.ca/en/about/newsletter/article.php?id=66>

Contest Announced by IDEAL Group - "IDEAL Group would like to establish and maintain a free comprehensive listing of mainstream technologies (technologies that are purchasable at consumer electronics, hardware, appliance or hobby retail stores) that are being used in creative ways to enhance the independence and quality-of-life of consumers who are blind, vision-impaired, deaf, hard-of-hearing, have mental retardation or a cognitive, speech or mobility disability."

<http://www.icdri.org/News/idealcontest.htm>

Email Access: From the Perspective of an Individual with Visual Impairment - by Sachin Dev Pavithran. "As an individual who is legally blind, I use a screen reader, JAWS (Job Action with Speech), to function on a computer. If you are new to this assistive technology, JAWS is a software application used by individuals who have a visual impairment so they may access a computer. Simply put, it converts text to speech. For example, JAWS can read a document that is opened in Microsoft Word and it provides synthesized voice output so they may hear the contents. It also helps individuals navigate around the document to get all needed information. In Internet Explorer, JAWS provides an option to the user to get a list of links that allows the user to get to the link they need without reading through the entire Web page. Since I am a power user of this technology I often receive questions about the best ways to deliver, or send, content so that others who use JAWS will benefit."

<http://www.webaim.org/techniques/articles/email>

Five Ideas to Watch - by Jess McCuan (*Inc.com*). The FrogPad is included as the fifth "Idea to Watch" by this business magazine. "Reinventing the PC Keyboard: So long, QWERTY! The FrogPad keyboard has just 20 keys and repositions the most commonly stroked letters so that you can type with only one hand. The device is tailor-made for designers, architects, and others who often handle a mouse or other instrument while typing. The board is also helpful to anyone with an injured or disabled hand. It is the size of an index card, weighs only 4.9 ounces, and links with Macs, PCs, and most mobile phones and PDAs. The price ranges from \$150 to \$225."

<http://www.inc.com/magazine/20041201/5ideas.html>

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

Health CIO is RFID-Enabled - "John Halamka, M.D., does not have a chip on his shoulder. He has a chip in his shoulder. Halamka, CIO at Boston's CareGroup Healthcare System, has become the first volunteer to test an implantable radio frequency identification chip for medical use. The VeriChip, from Delray Beach, Fla.-based Applied Digital, was approved in October by the Food and Drug Administration for medical use in humans. In December, it was classified as a Class II medical device with special controls."

<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/html/news/NewsStory.cfm?DID=12281>

Using Speech: Designing Biometric Devices - by Robin Springer (*Speech Tech Magazine*). "Universal design of biometric technologies will do for the biometric industry what the Universal Serial Bus (USB) has done for the computer industry," says William J. Lawson, PhD, biometric technologies advisor for the International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet, introducing the oft-overlooked aspect of accessibility into the implementation of biometrics."

http://www.speechtechmag.com/issues/9_6/usingspeech/11177-1.html

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ADVOCACY

International cooperation - but how? - by Michael Seifu (*Independent Living Institute*). "It has long been recognized that non-governmental organizations, which are not profit motivated, play quite a vital role in addressing socioeconomic objectives. In recent times this has gained a new momentum attributable largely to the unfolding international political reality that centers around participatory democracy. . . . As such it is only imperative that the not-so-much resources at the disposal of government and NGOs need to be invested so as to derive as much impact as possible. In this regard, one issue that has attracted spotlight on the part of NGOs is disability. This short note is, therefore, meant to identify certain basic observations which could be of help for NGOs involved in disability issues."

<http://www.independentliving.org/column/seifu200405.html>

World Bank, Partners Call for Global Cooperation to "Unlock" Opportunities for Millions of People with Disabilities - "As the world celebrated this year's UN 'International Day of Disabled Persons' on December 3rd, a two-day conference looked at ways to include the needs of people with disabilities in the fight against poverty. As part of the international efforts to fight poverty through more inclusive development policies, on December 2, 2004, in Washington DC, the World Bank and its partners called for strengthening global cooperation and partnerships to 'Unlock' opportunities for the more than 600 million people with disabilities worldwide, of whom 400 million live in developing countries."

<http://www.abilitymagazine.com/worldbank.html>

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GENERAL INTEREST

After the Waves - by Cal Montgomery (*Ragged Edge*). " On January 11, 2005, [Disabled Peoples' International](#) sent out a special bulletin to members of its email list, to update members on what is going on with disabled people in the aftermath of the December 26 earthquake in the Indian Ocean and the consequent tsunami that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Somalia, the Maldives, Malaysia, and other areas in the region. 'How are

people with disabilities faring in this crisis?' the DPI bulletin asked. 'While we have yet to find specific statistics about the effect of the tsunami disaster on the population of people with disabilities in the affected countries, a few stories are coming out in the news.' In Galle, Sri Lanka, for example, 41 of 102 residents of the Sambodhi Home ('a shelter for the physically disabled and mentally ill') survived; director Kumar Deshapriya, who uses a wheelchair, plans to rebuild."

<http://www.raggededgemagazine.com/focus/tsunami0105.html>

Resources relating to people with disabilities and the Tsunami in southeast Asia and

Africa - "Wherever you look these days, there are images and articles about the recent Tsunami disaster in southeast Asia. At DPI, it is our goal to collect and share information about the effect of the disaster on the lives of people with disabilities in the region. What follows is a list of articles, relief organizations, and resources on donating to charitable organizations. If you have news to report about people with disabilities in the Tsunami-affected region or know of other links that you think should be added to our list of Tsunami Relief Resources (in English, French, or Spanish), please send them by email to alissa@dpi.org."

http://www.dpi.org/en/resources/current_news/01-11-05_tsunami.htm

2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games - "Special Olympics will continue Olympic sports legacy, as Nagano, Japan - site of the 1998 Olympics and Paralympics - will host [2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games](#) 26 February through 5 March 2005. The first Special Olympics World Games held in Asia is expected to draw more than 2,000 athletes and 650 coaches from 80 countries around the world, as well as thousands of family members, volunteers, spectators and journalists from every continent."

<http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Compete/World+Games/2005+World+Winter+Games.htm>

Special Olympics mourns the death of Rosemary Kennedy, inspiration to the movement -

"On the evening of Friday, 7 January 2005, Rosemary Kennedy died at the age of 86. Kennedy, the sister of Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver and one of nine children born to Joseph P. and Rose Kennedy, lived at St. Coletta, a center for people with intellectual disabilities in Jefferson, Wisconsin, USA; she died at Fort Atkinson Memorial Health Hospital in Jefferson. Inspired by Rosemary, all the members of the Kennedy, Shriver, Lawford and Smith families have devoted enormous energy to enhancing the hopes and dreams of people with intellectual disabilities. In 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded Special Olympics, a global movement devoted to developing the sports skills of people with intellectual disabilities and to showcasing those skills to the world."

http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Press_Room/Global_news/Rosemary+Kennedy.htm

Braille Bug Calendar of Literacy Events Goes Online - "In honor of Louis Braille's birthday, today the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) launched an online [calendar of literacy events](#) on the Braille Bug® web site. Braille Bug Book Spots will help educators and parents find creative ways to teach children about braille and about celebrating reading all year long. Log on to find listings for literacy events, special days to observe, author birthdays, literacy links, and more."

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=&DocumentID=2672>

The Braille Monitor (January 2005) - Published monthly, this edition includes recipes, a number of stories, essays as well as articles such as "An Overview of Accessible Technology: Where Are We Now, and What Does the Future Hold?" by Danika Taylor, "For the Blind, a Welcoming Web" by Sarah Lacey and "Social Security Disability Insurance: Important Facts for Blind Vendors and Other Self-Employed Blind Individuals" Revised by James McCarthy.

<http://www.nfb.org/bm/bm05/bm0501/bm0501tc.htm>

<http://www.nfb.org/bralmons.htm> (Braille Monitor Archive)

Disability stats revealing - by Helen Henderson. "Next time you hear people say Canadians don't want to foot the bill for making this country accessible, tell them to think again. When you hear politicians sweep the needs of people with disabilities to the bottom of the heap or cut back funds for kids with special needs, tell them there's a good chance it will cost them at the polls. And give them the numbers to prove it."

http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1105570210967&call_pageid=970599119419

Disability Web site marks two years - "U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao hailed Wednesday as the second anniversary of www.DisabilityInfo.gov, a Web site with one-stop access to governmental disability information. 'DisabilityInfo.gov provides Americans with disabilities a direct connection to information and resources they need to become full participants in the 21st century work force,' Chao said. 'Part of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative, this user-friendly site provides a single online portal for information related to education, employment, health, housing and other valuable topics to people with disabilities.' Since its Oct. 16, 2002, launch, the site has averaged almost 5,800 visitors per day with the most popular topics accessed including education, employment, health, housing, income, technology and transportation."

<http://www.herald-dispatch.com/2005/January/06/LNlist10.htm>

Eclectic lineup slated for Super Bowl pregame - "The performance slate for the Super Bowl pregame festivities will bridge the generation gap, with Gretchen Wilson tapped to perform with the Charlie Daniels Band and Black Eyed Peas collaborating with Earth, Wind & Fire on Feb. 6 inside ALLTEL Stadium in Jacksonville, Fla. Alicia Keys will perform 'America the Beautiful,' popularized by the late Ray Charles, who grew up in the Jacksonville area. Keys will be joined by 150 students from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, which Charles attended as a child. The students will accompany Keys with singing and perform the lyrics in sign language."

http://www.deaftoday.com/v3/archives/2005/01/eclectic_lineup.html

Hands fly at Deaflympics opening ceremony - "Melbourne's Deaflympics began last night with a simple ceremony at Olympic Park that highlighted the enthusiasm of those who will be involved in nearly two weeks of tough competition. Although the 12-day event has largely escaped the consciousness of the Melbourne public, the scale of the Deaflympics was apparent last night as more than 3500 athletes and officials filed into the stadium at the start of the opening ceremony."

http://www.deaftoday.com/v3/archives/2005/01/hands_fly_at_de.html

Hilary Duff turns from tunes to toys to help visually impaired children - "Christie Raffaele always felt guilty taking toys away from blind and visually impaired children when she left their homes. Now, thanks to a \$50,000 gift from pop star and actress Hilary Duff, Raffaele can leave the toys with their parents, providing much-needed tools for their child's development. Prior to the gift, Raffaele - a CNIB Early Intervention Specialist who travels to the homes of visually impaired children - was forced to work with limited resources and supplies. She could show parents toys that helped their children learn, but then had to take them with her when traveling to the next house."

<http://www.cnib.ca/eng/media-centre/stories/hillary-duff.htm>

Large legacy - "Sir Peter Large, a veteran of the disabled people's movement, died peacefully on 23 January 2005. He was the most recent recipient of RADAR's lifetime achievement award. In January he spoke to Sarah Hobson about Motability, the erosion of the DRC and called for a new generation of disabled activists."

http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/people/profiles/prof_feb_2005.htm

Travel with a Purpose to Tokio, Japan - "Mobility International USA (MIUSA) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to empower people with disabilities around the world through international exchange. Since 1981, MIUSA has coordinated international leadership exchange delegations of people with and without disabilities from more than 80 countries. MIUSA is excited to offer a 16-day exchange program to Tokyo, Japan in summer 2005 with a focus on leadership through international volunteerism and cultural exchange."

<http://www.spinalcord.org/news.php?dep=1&page=0&list=280>

Whistleblower says government bungled AIDS study - "Federal officials involved in a U.S.-funded study in Uganda endangered the lives of hundreds of patients testing an AIDS drug because of careless and negligent research practices, a government whistleblower said Tuesday."

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2005-01-04-nih-aids_x.htm

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Government

CANADA

Ontario to give \$600,000 boost to children's mental health programs - by Julie O'Neill (*The Ottawa Citizen*). "The Ontario government is injecting an extra \$600,000 into community-based mental health programs for children and youth in the Ottawa region this year and again next year. Among the institutions that will receive extra funds are the Youth Service Bureau, which helps adolescents, and Crossroads Children's Centre, which provides mental health programs for pre-school children and their families; the Children's Hospital of Eastern

Ontario for psychiatric services in rural areas; and St. Mary's Home, for a program helping young mothers and their children."

<http://www.canada.com/ottawa/ottawacitizen/news/city/story.html?id=60872aca-e056-49f6-bffe-7ce08ed1e8a8>

The Journey Continues: The Second Report to Canadians on Implementing An Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector - "In many ways, this report is an important milestone. First and foremost, it fulfills the two sectors' commitment to report on progress in implementing An Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector. As the first formal accounting since the Accord was signed in December 2001, it also provides a benchmark for measuring future progress as the two sectors put in place the products, processes and spirit of good will that the Accord envisioned."
http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/relationship/journey_continues/index.cfm

Multilateral Framework for Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities: Saskatchewan Baseline Report 2004-2005 - "In March 2004 Saskatchewan entered into the Canada-Saskatchewan Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities — a two-year agreement with the Government of Canada. Under this agreement the federal government agreed to cost share up to 50% of the cost of programs and services, meeting the objective of the agreement, up to a maximum of \$9.953M per year. Four Departments deliver programs and services that are cost shared under the agreement and meet one or more of the objectives of the agreement."
<http://www.dcre.gov.sk.ca/publications/pdfs/MFLMareport2005.pdf>

Service Model Strengthened For Community Living BC - "B.C. has taken another step toward improving services to British Columbians with developmental disabilities, by developing a new service delivery approach that will be introduced by Community Living BC, Stan Hagen, Minister of Children and Family Development, has announced. The new authority has also finalized the organizational structure required to support this approach, and has begun implementing this structure by posting six executive positions. . . . The improved service model enhances Community Living BC's accountability for delivering quality services, with executives responsible for facilitating and monitoring the effectiveness and quality of service delivery in the field. It also preserves CLBC's vision to provide inclusive, flexible and person-centred service provincewide."
http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2005MCF0001-000048.htm

UNITED STATES

Advisory Committee holds first meeting of 2005 - "The Department of Health and Human Services [Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee](#) (CFSAC) met January 10, 2005, in Washington, D.C., to hear presentations and testimony on issues affecting children and adolescents with CFIDS, as well as to receive agency reports and updates on past recommendations. This was the committee's first session of the fiscal year and its sixth meeting overall."
http://www.cfids.org/cfidslink/CFSAC_Jan05.asp

Proposal to Issue Revised ADA Design Standards - "The Department of Justice has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to begin the process of revising the Department's ADA regulations to adopt design standards that are consistent with the revised ADA Accessibility Guidelines published by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (also known as the Access Board) on July 23, 2004. The ADA requires the Department to publish regulations that include accessibility standards that are consistent with the Access Board's guidelines. Until the Department's rulemaking is complete, the revised ADA Guidelines are effective only as guidance to the Department (and to the Department of Transportation). The revised guidelines have no legal effect on the public."

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/proposal.htm>

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Health

Anxiety May Worsen Disability in Older Women - (*Reuters Health*). "Symptoms of anxiety may speed the progression of certain physical disabilities in older women, new research suggests. The study of 1,000 women with physical limitations such as trouble walking or performing other daily routines found that those who reported at least two anxiety symptoms at the outset were at greater risk of their disability worsening over the next 3 years."

http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2005-01-14T182152Z_01_B37862_RTRIDST_0_HEALTH-ANXIETY-WOMEN-DC.XML

Children With ADHD Benefit From Time Outdoors Enjoying Nature - "Kids with attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) should spend some quality after-school hours and weekend time outdoors enjoying nature, say researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The payoff for this 'treatment' of children, 5 to 18 years old, who participated in a nationwide study, was a significant reduction of symptoms. The study appears in the September issue of the American Journal of Public Health."

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/08/040830082535.htm>

The Cochrane Library 2005, Issue 1 - "The Cochrane Library is a unique source of reliable and up-to-date information on the effects of interventions in health care. Published on a quarterly basis, The Cochrane Library is designed to provide information and evidence to support decisions taken in health care and to inform those receiving care. The Cochrane Library consists of a regularly updated collection of evidence-based medicine databases."

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/mrwhome/106568753/HOME>

Health Care Renewal in Canada : Accelerating Change - Over the next year, the Health Council of Canada will produce a series of public reports to highlight innovative practices in primary health care, home care, pharmaceuticals management, reducing wait times and health human resource planning. "This first report covers activity across Canada launched or being planned from the 2003 Accord. Priority areas are the health of Canadians, primary health care, drugs, home care, health human resources, and infrastructure to support renewal. The Council believes a significant start towards renewal has been made. We recognize these are early days and progress takes time. However, we believe that the pace

of renewal must be accelerated and that there are significant obstacles in the way." This document is available in pdf and is image heavy and thus is slow to load.

http://hcc-ccs.com/report/Annual_Report/Accelerating_Change_HCC_2005.pdf

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LEGAL

California Judge May Halt ADA Lawsuits - "A California judge has ordered paraplegic Jarek Molski to ask permission before he files any more ADA lawsuits. U.S. District Court Judge Edward Rafeedie's Dec. 10 order does not address whether the businesses sued comply with the 14-year-old civil rights law, but instead primarily focuses on the number of lawsuits filed."

http://www.newmobility.com/review_article.cfm?id=961&action=browse

Lawmakers Consider Rare Procedural Move To Force Stem Cell Vote - "House lawmakers are considering a rare parliamentary move to force a vote on a bill expanding federal stem cell research policy, according to a congressional source. Stem-cell supporters may resort to filing a discharge petition because they say Republican leadership has refused to allow the bill to be brought up in committee despite wide bipartisan support."

<http://www.stemcellfunding.org/fastaction/news.asp?id=1244>

Vet to be reimbursed - by Shannon Hagerman (*The Daily Gleaner*). "The New Brunswick government will refund more than \$3,000 to a veteran after forcing the 83-year-old to use his disability pension to pay for his wife's nursing home care. Alexandre Doucet, a Second World War veteran from Bathurst, lost 80 per cent of his hearing during the war and receives a veteran's disability pension. He became embroiled in a legal battle with the provincial government after it clawed back \$3,090 of his pension when his ailing wife was admitted into a nursing home. He argued the pension shouldn't be counted as a form of income."

<http://canadaeast.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050119/DGEBRIEF/301190060/-1/FRONTPAGE>

Washington Lawyers' Committee and Sutherland File Suit to Protect Deaf Patients' Rights - "For the first time, deaf patients have taken a hospital to court claiming that its provision of interpreters through inadequate video conferencing technology does not provide them with effective communication in critical medical situations. The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP today filed a civil rights lawsuit on behalf of seven deaf individuals who sought treatment at Laurel Regional Hospital in Laurel, Md., and despite their specific and repeated requests were denied in-person qualified sign language interpreter services. The plaintiffs allege that they were instead provided with inadequate video interpreting, cryptic notes or, most often, no communication at all."

<http://www.washlaw.org/news/releases/011105.htm>

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MEDICAL

NEWS

Big Changes for Big Pharma - "The fear factor surrounding some commonly used pain-relieving drugs is at fever pitch. Merck (MRK) pulled Vioxx from the market in October due to strong evidence of an increased risk of cardiovascular problems. And questions also have been raised about the safety of Celebrex, made by Pfizer (PFE), and about naproxen, which is sold without a prescription as Aleve by German drug giant Bayer (BAY)."
http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/jan2005/nf2005013_7406_db037.htm

No link between immunizations and autism - "Over the past 20 years, there has been speculation about a connection between immunizations and an increase in autism. However, a study by Mayo Clinic researchers published in the January issue of Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine suggests the increase may be due to improved awareness, changes in diagnostic criteria and availability of services, not environmental factors or immunizations."
<http://www.news-medical.net/?id=7101>

Sudan polio outbreak jeopardises eradication plan - "The polio outbreak in Sudan and other central and west African countries is snowballing to such an extent it threatens to spread to the Middle East and beyond. If not brought under control, it could undermine efforts to rid the world of polio by the end of 2005."
<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn6870>

Younger Adults Do Not Appear To Cope as Well With Pain as Their Elders - "Adults under the age of 50 who have chronic pain may be less able to cope with their condition and more prone to associated depression than their elders, a new study suggests. And the same 'generation gap' pattern exists among both blacks and whites, though blacks of all ages have previously been found to experience more pain and more pain-related negative effects than whites."
<http://www.docguide.com/news/content.nsf/news/8525697700573E1885256F930064D999?opendocument&wf=yes>

RESEARCH

Multiple sclerosis hormone link - "Researchers from University La Sapienza in Italy looked at hormone levels in 25 men and 35 women with MS, and in 36 people without the disease. Women with low testosterone levels were found to have more brain tissue damage. There was no difference in testosterone levels between men with or without MS."
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4175463.stm>

Patient's Own Stem Cells Mend Heart - "Over the past three years, adult stem cell research has been moving from the lab to the clinic with a string of promising outcomes in treating conditions such as chronic arthritis, severe systemic lupus erythematosus, Crohn's disease, cancer, and repairing damaged heart after heart attack (see "Hushing up adult stem cells", SiS 13/14; 'Human cloning & the stem cell debate', SiS 16). Follow-up research in several

laboratories have now confirmed that stem cells in the bone marrow or circulating in the bloodstream are indeed both safe and effective in heart repair, helping to recover the heart's ability to contract properly to deliver oxygen and nutrients to the rest of the body."

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

Research Identifies Promising Route for Treating Age-Related Hearing Loss -

"Researchers have discovered that deletion of a specific gene permits the proliferation of new hair cells in the cochlea of the inner ear — a finding that offers promise for treatment of age-related hearing loss. This type of hearing loss is caused by aging, disease, certain drugs, and the cacophony of modern life. It is the most common cause of hearing loss in older people."

<http://www.hhmi.org/news/coreydp2.html>

Transplantation of Monkey Embryonic Stem Cells Reverses Parkinson Disease in

Primates - "The replenishment of missing neurons in the brain as a treatment for Parkinson disease reached the stage of human trials over 15 years ago, however the field is still in its infancy. Researchers from Kyoto University have now shown that dopamine-producing neurons (DA neurons) generated from monkey embryonic stem cells and transplanted into areas of the brain where these neurons have degenerated in a monkey model of Parkinson disease, can reverse parkinsonism. Their results appear in the January 3 issue of the Journal of Clinical Investigation."

<http://www.stemcellfunding.org/fastaction/news.asp?id=1242>

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MEDIA

Comforting, empowering, disappointing - by William J. Peace (*Ragged Edge*). " I'd been looking forward to the publication of Gary Karp's *From There to Here*. Last year I had seen ads on the internet and in [New Mobility](#) asking spinal cord injured people for submissions about how their life had changed as a result of spinal cord injury. The call for essays was narrowly focused: how do spinal cord injured people get from 'there,' meaning the point of injury to 'here,' their current circumstances of life. I considered writing an essay but hesitated to do so given what I considered the conservative and religious editorial viewpoints of the places I'd seen the announcements. After reading *From There to Here*, I feel I made a wise decision. The book consists entirely of essays which fall into the 'insightful,' 'inspirational' 'and comforting' category, reinforcing stereotypes of disability as a tragedy that needs to be overcome."

<http://www.raggededgemagazine.com/reviews/peacethereherekarp.html>

Kids on Wheels Published - "*Kids on Wheels*, a resource book for wheelchair-using kids, their families, teachers and rehab professionals, is now available. With upbeat photography and illustration throughout, *Kids on Wheels* is a positive, motivating resource for children with disabilities and the people who care about them. The first of its kind ever published, *Kids on Wheels* features two volumes. The first book is written for grade school children and includes profiles of other kids, recreational opportunities, peer advice and more. The second

book is written for adults and helps parents, teachers and professionals create a positive environment for keeping kids healthy, happy and as independent as possible."

http://www.newmobility.com/review_article.cfm?id=712&action=browse

We need to talk! - by Mary Johnson (*Ragged Edge*). "Alejandro Amenábar's *The Sea Inside* is the real-life story of Ramon Sampedro's crusade to get others to help him end his life. Clint Eastwood's *Million Dollar Baby* ends with young boxer Maggie, now paralyzed, getting Frankie's help in ending her life. Are these movies dangerous? Yes they are, as long as no national conversation about disability exists to counter the images and ideas they carry. It is not the presence of the films so much as the lack of a credible counter understanding that creates the danger."

<http://www.raggededgemagazine.com/mediacircus/weneedtotalk.html>

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POLICY/RESEARCH

Financier Set to Oversee Stem-Cell Program - by Lisa M. Krieger and Paul Jacobs (*Mercury News*). "Faced with a massive federal roadblock to his plans to develop low-income housing, a frustrated California lawyer built an alternate route, creating a state program to help pay for what the U.S. government would not. Three decades later, a similar strategy designed by the same man launched the state's \$3 billion stem-cell program, which could make California a global leader in the promising field. This time, his motivation is personal -- a drive to find cures for diseases like juvenile diabetes and Alzheimer's, which afflict his son and his mother, despite federal restrictions on stem-cell research."

<http://www.stemcellfunding.org/fastaction/news.asp?id=1259>

Kaiser Health Poll Report May/June 2004: American's Views of Disability - "June 22, 2004 marks the fifth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of *Olmstead v. L.C.*, which found that the unjustified institutional isolation of people with disabilities is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). This decision marked the first time that the Court has interpreted the ADA, the landmark civil rights law for people with disabilities, in a way that directly impacts Medicaid, the national program providing health and long-term services to people with disabilities. On the anniversary of this landmark decision, this month's Kaiser Health Poll Report Featured Topic examines the public's attitudes toward people with disabilities, as well as their opinions about different policy options related to disability."

<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/7104.cfm>

Model National Personal Assistance Policy - by Adolf Ratzka (ed.) (*Independent Living Institute*). "Most people who depend on the help of other persons in the activities of daily living such as getting up in the morning, toileting or bathing face very limited lives in residential institutions or parental homes. How must the ideal national policy for personal assistance look that empowers them to live in the community, as equal and fully participating citizens, taking their rightful place in family, neighborhood and society, with work and families of their own? The European Center for Excellence in Personal Assistance (ECEPA) is a project run by people who themselves depend on personal assistance. This model legislation was formulated using their combined personal experience with personal assistance services in eight European countries."

<http://www.independentliving.org/docs6/ratzka200410a.html>
<http://www.independentliving.org/docs6/ratzka200410a.pdf>

Montreal Declaration On Intellectual Disabilities - "The Pan-American Health Organization and the World Health Organization held a consultation in Montreal, Quebec, Canada with families, self-advocates, organizational advocates, health care experts and legal experts in the field of intellectual disability for the purpose of creating a statement on the rights of people with intellectual disability. The Arc of the United States was included in this consultation as a member organization of Inclusion International. The 'Montreal Declaration' is the result. The Montreal Declaration clarifies shared international expectations regarding decision-making about health care, long-term care and accommodations that support inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities."
<http://www.aapd.com/News/disability/MontrealDec.html>

WebAIM's response to the National Education Technology Plan and Call for Action - "Today, the U.S. Department of Education released its [National Education Technology Plan 2004](#) 'Toward a New Golden Age in American Education: How the Internet, the law and today's students are revolutionizing expectations'. This is the third such plan and was developed over the past several years with input from thousands of educators, students, administrators, and those in educational organizations, as well as the technology industry. It acknowledges the importance of technology in academic achievement as well as the role of technology in the 21 st century. The blueprint frames the direction for educational technology in American schools for years to come. The plan released today is impressive in scope, visionary in action, and notable in detail. As these plans become reality, the academic outcomes of students without disabilities will benefit greatly. Moreover, we can anticipate that both our society and economy will benefit in obvious ways. WebAIM applauds the plan with the exception of one prominent omission. The plan does not mention the critical need for accessible technology for millions of students with disabilities. Because this need is not identified, nor addressed, there are no apparent plans to remedy this ever-increasing digital divide."
<http://www.webaim.org/alert>

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REHABILITATION

Age Over Matter - by Patricia Dworak, MSOT, OTR/L, ATP; Robin Folland, PTA, ATP; and Amy Kirkner, MPT, ATP. "Geriatric seating, positioning, and functional mobility is an area of assistive technology that provides great rewards as well as unique challenges for the clinician. In working with the senior population, therapists deal with an individual's primary diagnosis as well as the normal physical and cognitive changes associated with aging. Clinicians need to address a multitude of factors associated with aging with a disability."
<http://www.rehabpub.com/features/122004/4.asp>

Annual Review of Limb Loss & Prosthetics Research - (*Newswise*). "The Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development (JRRD) has compiled a compendium of articles describing advances in limb loss and prosthetics research published in JRRD in 2004. This research provides state-of-the-science knowledge, evidence-based rehabilitation practices,

techniques, and devices that enable veterans and others with limb loss to improve their health outcomes, to participate in sports and leisure activities, and to perform the mundane activities of daily-living able-bodied people take for granted."

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/509362/>

Electric Delivery - by Delmas Bolin, MD, PhD, FACSM, and Michael Goforth, MS, ATC. " When hip-hop music impresario P. Diddy was suffering from chronic knee pain the night before his well-publicized New York City Marathon run, he was treated with iontophoresis for his pain. After completing the marathon, the rap star had no knee pain and credited iontophoresis for his ability to run the race.¹ Since P. Diddy's endorsement, the role of iontophoresis in the management of chronic overuse conditions has received increased attention. When famous stars or athletes embrace a treatment, many patients quickly research it via the Internet and, armed with this knowledge, seek a physician or therapist in search of the miracle cure. Patients view iontophoresis as a 'secret' pain treatment that can speed recovery from weekend warrior overuse injuries. As with any treatment, the physical therapist and treating physician should understand when to use iontophoresis and exactly what benefits it can and cannot achieve for the patient."

<http://www.rehabpub.com/features/122004/2.asp>

Serious rehabilitation Psychologist-developed treatments are providing hope for people with serious mental illness. - By Karen Kersting (*Monitor Staff*). "Serious mental illness (SMI) affects 5.4 percent of the U.S. adult population each year, but only about 15 percent receive proper medication, counseling and community integration interventions, according to research in the *Journal of Public Health* (Vol. 92, No. 1). The other 25 percent who are treated at all receive high doses of medication that reduce their symptoms--but also compromise their life functioning and fail to address underlying problems."

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/jan05/rehabilitation.html>

Tired of Pain? Consider Alternative Treatments - by January Payne (*Washington Post*).

"Gwenn Herman knows chronic pain -- the regular backaches, the stiffness of her neck after her 1995 car accident, the pain that didn't respond, or responded inconsistently, to prescription and nonprescription painkillers. That's why she learned, long before the recent rash of safety alerts about three commonly used pain medications, to explore alternative treatments such as meditation, guided imagery and breathing exercises. That view is likely to find more adherents following reports linking the prescription pain drugs Vioxx and Celebrex and, more recently, the popular over-the-counter painkiller Aleve (naproxen) to potentially life-threatening side effects."

<http://www.immunesupport.com/library/showarticle.cfm?id=6220>

WHO appoints Federico Montero, M.D. to head Disability and Rehabilitation Team - "On Friday, December 3, 2004, the United Nations Day of Persons with Disabilities, wheelchair user Federico Montero, M.D. was appointed coordinator of the World Health Organization's Disability and Rehabilitation unit. Apart from being a medical rehabilitation authority

[Dr. Montero](http://www.independentliving.org/docs7/montero20041203.html) has been principal activist and organizer of the disability rights and independent living movement in his native Costa Rica and throughout Central America."
<http://www.independentliving.org/docs7/montero20041203.html>

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SELF HELP


The Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation - "The MDS Foundation is a multi disciplinary, international organization devoted to the prevention, treatment, and study of the myelodysplastic syndromes. The organization is based upon the premise that international cooperation will accelerate the process leading to the control and cure of these diseases."
<http://www.mds-foundation.org/>

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CONFERENCES

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

ONLINE

-  **Supporting Deaf People online conference** - March 10-16, 2005 | Internet.
Keynote presentations include:
- Around the Language Table: A Discussion about the Working Practices of Language Tutors with Deaf Students - (paper will be presented in British Sign Language and English)
 - Educational Interpreting - Does It Work As Well As We Think?
 - Consumer perceptions of sign language interpreting
- http://www.dpi.org/en/events/international/01-17-05_deafonline.htm

CANADIAN

Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children 2005 Annual Conference - February 17-19, 2005 | Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children is pleased to announce that their annual provincial conference, 'Building Safe and Caring Learning Environments', will be held at the Fairmont Hotel, 2 Lombard Place, Winnipeg, from Thursday, February 17th to Saturday February 19th, 2005. They are once again very pleased with the guest speakers and topics that are scheduled for the upcoming event."
http://www.dpi.org/en/events/north_america/09-23-04_mcec2005.htm

AT the Edge 2005 - April 14-15, 2005 | Edmonton, Alberta. "A conference on assistive technology in lifelong learning, employment, recreation and research."
www.acrat.ca

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Conference and Annual General Meeting - June 2-5, 2005 | Kelowna, British Columbia.
http://www.chha.ca/conference/conference_index.htm

Canadian Disability Studies Association (CDSA) 2nd Annual Conference - May 31 - June 1, 2005 | London, Ontario. "Conference Theme: Paradoxes of Citizenship: Environments, Exclusions, Equity The Canadian Disabilities Studies Association is planning its second annual conference as part of The Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2005. The theme for this year is very relevant to disability studies, and provides an opportunity to discuss the challenges, as well as the richness of diversity that contribute to our unique culture."
<http://www.disabilitystudies.ca/cdsacall.htm>

12th Biennial Canadian Social Welfare Policy Conference - June 16-18, 2005 | Fredericton, New Brunswick. "The Forging Social Futures Conference will provide a bilingual forum for citizens, scholars, and individuals working in government, university, non-profit, and voluntary settings to work toward forging more responsive and equitable policies, programs, and practices in the social policy arena in Canada and abroad. The primary goals of this cross-sector, cross-disciplinary, and cross-national conference are to generate new data and theories, stimulate collaborative synergies, envision novel policy ideas, and maximize knowledge exchange and mobilization."
<http://www.unb.ca/gsa/conf.html>

✿ **CAG 2005 Navigating Aging Adjusting the Sails to meet the Winds of Change** - October 20-23, 2005 | Halifax, Nova Scotia. " The theme for this years conference was inspired by an anonymous quote - 'We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sail.' We cannot change the reality of a rapidly aging society. The demographics of the future are well known. However, there is much that all disciplines in the field of gerontology, government, the non-profit sector and individuals, including seniors and baby-boomers, can do to have a direct impact on aging in Canada."
http://www.cagacg.ca/english/410_e.php

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U.S.

21st Annual Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities - February 28 - March 1, 2005 | Honolulu, Hawaii. "Pac Rim 2005 brings together researchers, professionals, persons with disabilities, family members, and students in a variety of disciplines that include health, education, social services and others. Presenters who represent consumer, family, research, and policy perspectives in a variety of disciplines -- including health, medicine, social science and the disability field -- are encouraged to participate. Since the first Pacific Rim (Pac Rim) Conference in 1985, the scope and size of this event has grown to include participants from the U.S. Mainland, Alaska, Pacific Islands Nations, Japan, Australia, the Philippines and numerous other countries. Persons with disabilities, family members, researchers, and service providers join policy-makers and speakers in the field of disabilities to participate in the Pac Rim Conference to learn from each other and to share resources for communities to fully accept and support persons with disabilities."
<http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/>

LDA 42nd Annual International Conference--Everyone a Winner - March 2-5, 2005 | Reno, Nevada. "This 42nd Annual International Conference is one of the ways LDA provides

information to individuals with learning disabilities and their families and to the education, administrative, mental health, and health professionals who work with them. Some sessions are informational; some are applied and practical; some present research; and others share experiences."

<http://www.ldanatl.org/>

The 2005 Mobility Planning Services Institute - March 5-8, 2005 | Washington, D.C. "This is an opportunity to build and sustain partnerships between the disability community and transportation industry of local cities and regions. Advocates and service providers must form teams of between three and five individuals and file the application for the Mobility Planning Services Institute together. Every community has a unique story about the history and working relationship of their disability community and transportation industry. Every community is at a point where if they make a genuine commitment to join forces and work together to identify barriers and solutions, their local transportation services will become more reliable and accessible for everyone. This is what the 2005 Mobility Planning Services Institute (MPS) is all about."

http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_training_conferences&esLocation=ta

✿ **32nd Annual Conference on Dyslexia & Related Learning Disabilities** - March 14-15, 2005 | New York, New York. "The two-day Conference provides 100 sessions by leading researchers and practitioners from across the country. Presenting the most up-to-date research and practices on learning disabilities and reading difficulties for all professionals working with children and adults. The conference will provide you with the information you need to understand, assess and work with learning disabled or at-risk students."

<http://www.nybida.org/annualconf.html>

CSUN's 20th Annual International Conference "Technology and Persons with Disabilities" - March 14-19, 2005 | Los Angeles, California. "This is a comprehensive, international conference, where all technologies across all ages; disabilities; levels of education and training; employment; and independent living are addressed."

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

✿ **Association Of Children's Prosthetic-Orthotic Clinics Annual Meeting** - March 16-19, 2005 | Orlando, Florida. "Shriners Hospitals for Children Tampa is pleased to be the host of the 2005 Annual ACPOC Meeting in Orlando, Florida. After surviving the hurricane season, we are expecting the typical sunny blue skies to greet our guests. For the first time ever, we are co-locating our meeting with the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) which will offer the venue of two meetings for the price of one!! Both organizations are committed to quality presentations and encourage all attendees to sample both without additional costs."

http://www.acpoc.org/ACPOC_PP05_FINAL.pdf

Disability Research Institute Annual Symposium - April 5, 2005 | Washington, D.C. "Hosted by the Disability Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Funded by a

grant from the U.S. Social Security Administration For further information, contact the Disability Research Institute University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign."
http://www.dri.uiuc.edu/save_date.htm

2005 CEC Convention & Expo - April 6-9, 2005 | Baltimore, Maryland. "Give new education materials and resources to students with disabilities and gifts a trial run at CEC Exhibit Hall. More than 300 exhibitors bring you the latest and most innovative resources and materials for students with special needs."
http://www.cec.sped.org/conventions/maryland_2005/

✿ **2005 ADA Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, and Disability Conference** - April 11-13, 2005 | Columbus Ohio. "The Fifth Annual Multiple Perspectives conference will encourage reflection on sameness, difference and equity while providing an opportunity to share practical information, explore current research and develop collaborations. The conference will continue its tradition of bringing together a diverse audience (individuals and employers, students and educators, advocates and policy makers, consumers and service agencies) to reflect on the many dimensions of disability."
<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2005program.htm>

MindFreedom 2005 Action Conference in D.C. - April 29 - May 2, 2005 | Washington, D.C. "This conference will bring together key leaders, activists and advocates in the field of human rights for people labeled with psychiatric disabilities to support grassroots community organizing campaigns for human rights and alternatives in the mental health system, especially campaigns that are led by psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers. The conference will focus on grassroots activism, as well as on how the law can assist these campaigns."
http://www.mindfreedom.org/mindfreedom/action_conference.shtml

Ninth International Conference on Post-Polio Health and Ventilator-Assisted Living: Strategies for Living Well - June 2-4, 2005 | Saint Louis, Missouri. "Purpose and goals of presentations are intended to:

1. Promote greater understanding of and opportunities for healthy living by people with disabilities, specifically the survivors of polio and those who use mechanical ventilation.
2. Promote greater awareness of the power of self-help and of the independent living philosophy.
3. Propose solutions to major issues facing people with disabilities.
4. Report on the latest research, programs and developments related to post-poliomyelitis and other neuromuscular respiratory conditions.
5. Facilitate enhanced interaction between people with disabilities and health care professionals."

<http://www.post-polio.org/>

✿ **17th Annual Postsecondary Disability Training Institute (PTI)** - June 7-11, 2005 | Portland, Maine. "Come learn skills you'll use every day! The objective of this Training Institute is to assist concerned professionals to meet the unique needs of college students with disabilities. Participants can select from a variety of Strands and Single Sessions taught by

experts in the field that provide participants with in-depth information and adequate time for questions and follow-up activities. Participants also have opportunities to share information and network with each other at various activities throughout the week."

<http://vm.uconn.edu/~wwwcped/05pti.htm>

- ✿ **RESNA's 28th International Conference on Technology & Disability** - June 23-27, 2005 | Atlanta, Georgia. "RESNA takes the 2005 Conference to Atlanta, GA, where assistive technology's leading researchers, renowned clinicians, and policy experts will create a conference program with unmatched levels of knowledge and expertise."
www.resna.org

ICORR 2005: IEEE 9th International Conference on Rehabilitation Robotics - June 28 - July 1, 2005 | Chicago, Illinois. "CORR highlights the most recent advances in the basic sciences of rehabilitation robotics. This conference will focus on a number of topics, including the themes of:

- Assistive Robotics
- Therapeutic Robotics
- Brain-machine Interfaces for Rehabilitation
- Robotics in Prosthetics and Orthotics
- Hardware and Control Developments for Rehabilitation
- Evaluation Methods and Clinical Experience
- Biorobotics and Biomimetics
- Basic Science and Sensory/Motor Control Learning"

<http://www.smpp.nwu.edu/ICORR2005/>

2005 NCIL IL Conference - July 11-14, 2005 | Washington, D.C. "For Centers for Independent Living and Statewide Independent Living Councils there is nothing more important to their mission and philosophy than advocacy and systems change. Each one of us can and must promote and actively work for the integration and inclusion of all people with disabilities into all aspects of our communities."

<http://www.ncil.org/Conferences/index.html>

- ✿ **AHEAD 2005** - August 2-6, 2005 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "Meeting the Profession"
www.ahead.org/

- ✿ **2005 TASH Conference Call for Presentations** - November 9-12, 2005 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "TASH members support practices that promote our resolution that all people, regardless of their label or perceived level of disability, should have the supports they need to direct the course of their own lives, and to live and participate successfully in neighborhood schools and the community. Proposals accepted will demonstrate innovation, collaboration, energy, daring, and all that is possible for people with disabilities and their families. Presentations are encouraged, when possible, to be made by a team that includes individuals with disabilities, family members, advocates, and professionals. We also encourage presentations that are culturally relevant or reflect a wide cultural and linguistic diversity."

<http://www.tash.org/tash2005/index.htm>

- ✿ **IDA 56th Annual Conference** - November 9-12, 2005 | Denver, Colorado. "More than 100 EXHIBITORS will showcase their products by demonstrating new technologies and software, and schools, universities and others will highlight their programs!"
http://www.interdys.org/servlet/compose?section_id=7&page_id=213

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OVERSEAS

Vision 2005 - April 4-7, 2005 | London, England. "The fully peer-reviewed conference programme will unveil scientific research and present practice-based work from around the world. Delegates will have the opportunity to take part in interactive round-table debates on subjects of topical and controversial interest."
http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/PublicWebsite/public_v2005speakers.hcsp

3rd. World Congress of International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine - ISPRM - April 10-15, 2005 | Sao Paulo, Brazil. "We are pleased to announce that deadline for abstract submission has been extended to December 15th, 2004. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to submit your study and research findings for presentation at the 3rd. World Congress of ISPRM. The best papers will be included on the Congress Book of Proceedings, to be published by Monduzzi Editore and indexed in Medline / Index Medicus. Visit the Abstract Information section of this website for details."
<http://www.adtevento.com.br/isprm/site/>

2nd Congress of the International Society for Vascular Behavioral and Cognitive Disorders (VAS-COG) - June 8-12, 2005 | Florence, Italy. "A special feature of the Florence Congress will be the discussion of standardized, prioritized, clinical, behavioral, neuropsychological, imaging and neuropathological definitions and operational, provisional criteria. Common minimal definitions and criteria are essential to make studies comparable, not only in the future but to generate hypotheses from one existing set of data to be tested on another. The combination of standardized data sets and DNA banking opens up unparalleled opportunities for progress from existing data. Preliminary work will have been done by the VAS-COG working groups, which you are invited to join."
<http://vas-cog.org/vas%2Dcog2005/>

The 20th International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED) - July 17-20, 2005 | Maastricht, the Netherlands. "The world's professional community working in the field of education of people with hearing impairments needs to exchange its ideas, experiences, ongoing innovations and future plans. The 20st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED) in 2005 is the worldwide activity to meet and exchange. ICED is being organised only each five years, the last Congress took place in Sydney in 2000."
<http://www.conferenceagency.com/>

Assistive technology from virtuality to reality 8th European conference for the advancement of assistive technology in Europe - September 6-9, 2005 | Lille, France. "The Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE) is organising its 8th conference in Lille, France, in 2005. This biannual conference is an

opportunity for people to discuss new developments, trends and research in the field of assistive technology. Following successful conferences held in Ireland, Slovenia, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Sweden and Netherlands, over 200 papers were selected and published at the last AAATE conference in 2003."

<http://www.aaate2005.com/html/aboutaaate.html>

- ✿ **Accessible Design in the Digital World** - August 23-25, 2005 | Dundee, Scotland. "The conference will explore the frontiers of inclusive design in the real world. It will examine some of the challenges in both implementing guidelines and meeting legal responsibilities. There will be opportunities for discussion and debate among those at the front-line of design and development work and those providing guidance regarding accessible and inclusive design."

<http://www.accessinthedigitalworld.org/2005/>

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