



DISABILITY RESOURCE DIGEST

Volume 10 Issue 1 January 2010

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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 content on the web is continually revised, 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.mb.ca. Readers are also invited to send comments and suggestions regarding the DRD to this same e-mail address.

ACCESSIBILITY

2010 ADA Audio Conference Series – "This audio conference series is sponsored by the Great Lakes ADA Center and provides in-depth information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The program is designed to increase knowledge of regulations and trends under the ADA. Upcoming audio conferences will cover the use of service animals, older workers with disabilities and conducting effective accessibility surveys."
<http://www.ada-audio.org/Schedule/>

Blind man falls onto Metro tracks, isn't the first to slip - by Kytja Weir (*The Examiner*). "A man hit by a Metro train at Gallery Place on Sunday may have tumbled from the platform because he was blind, the transit agency said. The 48-year-old Rockville man, who remained hospitalized in critical condition as of Monday evening, fell just before 7:30 a.m. into the path of a Red Line train bound for Shady Grove. He was not the only person to have slipped accidentally off a train platform onto the tracks this year, nor the first with a disability."
<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/Blind-man-falls-onto-Metro-tracks-isn-t-the-first-to-slip-8694455-80236732.html>

Efforts under way to make Web more accessible – by Brooke Donald (*The Associated Press*). "Imagine not being able to use a mouse to open a Web browser or a keyboard to type an e-mail. What if you couldn't distinguish colors on a computer screen or type the distorted letters in order to buy concert tickets or enroll in a class? Despite technological advances aimed at making the Internet easy to use, the World Wide Web is not wide open for many people. But as the number of people with disabilities grows and more of everything is done online, companies are finding it makes good business sense to make their sites more accessible and are hiring consultants and training programmers to make it happen."
<http://www.ajc.com/business/efforts-under-way-to-241506.html>

FEMA And The FCC Announce Adoption Of Standards For Wireless Carriers To Receive And Deliver Emergency Alerts Via Mobile Devices – "As part of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), the nation's next generation of emergency alert and warning networks, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today announced the adoption of the design specifications for the development of a gateway interface that will enable wireless carriers to provide its customers with timely and accurate emergency alerts and warnings via their cell phones and other mobile devices."
<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=50056>

Social Development Partnerships Program - Disability (SDPP-D) – (*HRSDC*). "The Disability component of the Social Development Partnership Program (SDPP-D) provides \$11 million per year in grants and contributions to help ensure that people with disabilities benefit from the same quality of life as all Canadians. The Program supports innovative solutions to remove barriers through improved access to programs and services, and encourages a wide range of community-based initiatives that provide effective approaches to addressing social issues and barriers that people with disabilities face. Accommodation Projects Contribution funding of up to \$20,000 is available to non-profit organizations holding an event between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011 for projects that enable people with disabilities to fully participate by ensuring

accessibility. Accommodation projects could include items such as sign-language interpretation, real-time captioning, readers and scribes, support persons and interveners." Deadline: February 8, 2010 at 9 pm Eastern Standard Time
http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community_partnerships/sdpp/acc_page.shtml

WiderNet to build disability library – (*TheCitizen*). "In a Nigerian resource center, Cliff Missen observed a computer training session for people who had become blind as adults. The information is helpful but costly, said Missen, director of a University of Iowa effort called the WiderNet Project. The Internet connection cost the center the equivalent of four full-time salaries a month, he said. 'With eGranary, they will not only be able to access this information, but they will have eGranary software that will have the ability to click a button and have a book read to them,' Missen said. Missen and those with WiderNet are primed to develop a digital resource targeting those with disabilities in developing countries. WiderNet received a \$1.6 million grant to work with the U.S. International Council on Disabilities and more than 150 disabilities rights advocates to create the Global Disability Rights Library."
<http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20091230/NEWS01/912300305/1079/news01/WiderNet-to-build-disability-library>

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ADVOCACY

AAPD Objects to Voting Machine Company Merger – (*AAPD*). "The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the country's largest cross-disability membership organization, raised an objection to voting machine company ES&S's acquisition of Premier Voting Services in a letter sent to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Thursday. In the letter to Holder from AAPD's President and CEO, Andrew Imparato, Imparato said in addition to the acquisition creating a monopoly with control of about 70 percent of the market for voting equipment, the acquisition would stifle innovation in voting machines."
<http://www.aapd.com/Communications/2009VotingMachine.html>

British man said to be mentally ill executed in China – (*BBCnews*). "A British man convicted of drug smuggling in China has been executed, the Foreign Office has confirmed. Akmal Shaikh, 53, a father-of-three, of London, had denied any wrongdoing and his family said he was mentally ill. The execution took place despite repeated calls from his family and the British government for clemency. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said he was 'appalled and disappointed'. But the Chinese Embassy said Mr Shaikh had no previous record of mental illness. Mr Shaikh's family made continued calls for leniency right up until the execution deadline, citing his mental state, saying that he suffered from bipolar disorder."
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8433285.stm

Disability Commissioner calls for more power over airlines – by Samantha Donovan (*ABC news*). "The Disability Discrimination Commissioner has renewed his calls for greater powers over airlines after a deaf mute woman was left unaided at Brisbane airport for several hours. After Virgin Blue lost track of the passenger the woman's family was forced to call police for help. AM's Samantha Donovan is speaking with the Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes."
<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2009/s2780008.htm>

Driving Independence and Innovation through Imagination - The NFB Blind Driver

Challenge – by Mark A. Riccobono (*NFB*). "We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too. These words spoken by President John F. Kennedy in the fall of 1962 served as the rallying cry for a tremendous technological effort which has forever changed America's capacity for innovation—the race to be the first to the moon. If we were to substitute the words 'drive a car' for the words 'go to the moon,' we would have the imaginative challenge that Dr. Marc Maurer, president of the National Federation of the Blind, has established for the first decade of the NFB Jernigan Institute—the only research and training facility developed and directed by the blind."

<http://www.nfb.org/images/nfb/Publications/bm/bm09/bm0911/bm091103.htm>

Landmines — Jerry White's Survivor Corps Mission – (*AbilityMagazine*). "During a hike in the hills of Israel, a chance encounter with a landmine left Jerry White with a new view on life. White placed his focus not on what had been taken from him, but on how his personal experience and passion could make the world safer for others. In 1997 he co-founded The Landmine Survivors Network with fellow landmine survivor Ken Rutherford. Working closely with such prominent figures as Princess Diana of Wales, King Hussein and Queen Noor of Jordan, White became a leader in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and was co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize for Peace. Today, White leads the charge in addressing the repercussions of violence and armed conflict across the globe."

http://www.abilitymagazine.com/Jerry_White.html

UN: People With Disabilities Face Huge Obstacles – "The United Nations says hundreds of millions of disabled people around the world continue to face colossal obstacles in their efforts to lead a meaningful life. For the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is commemorated on December 3, the United Nations has chosen the theme 'Empowering Persons with Disabilities with the Right to Act.' The United Nations estimates that between 670 million and 800 million people, more than 10 percent of the world's population, are disabled or have a close family member who is. About 80 percent of those who are disabled live in developing countries."

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/social-issues/UN-People-With-Disabilities-Face-Huge-Obstacles-78358772.html>

Wonder promotes message of peace – (*CNN*). "Stevie Wonder has had more than 30 U.S. top ten hits and has won 22 Grammy Awards -- more than any other male artist. Blind from birth, Wonder's music has always reflected his concern with humanitarian and social issues. On Thursday, he joined the prestigious list of U.N. Messengers of Peace and will focus on the battle for disabled rights. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment, calling Wonder a 'musical genius' and 'great humanitarian, who has campaigned against apartheid, for children in need, and for persons with disabilities.' Speaking about his new U.N. role Wonder told CNN's Becky Anderson: 'It's about that ten percent of the world that suffers

with a disability. It's about sounding that alarm off that says to the 90 percent: it's time to get it together for those of us with disabilities'."

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/12/04/stevie.wonder.peace.messenger/>

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COMMENTARY

Cochlear implant controversy – by Paul Rendine (*delmarvnow.com*). "The conflict concerning cochlear implants is centered on the definition of disability, especially as it is viewed by the deaf and other communities. If deafness is defined as a disability, in the eyes of many, it is something to be altered and repaired. According to the medical view, deafness is a disability. On the other hand, another view suggests if deafness is a cultural identity, it should be allowed to thrive and given the emphasis on diversity in today's society, should be readily accepted and supported. This opinion is based on the cultural view of deafness. Although the controversy seems simple, it is based on the complicated and often unstated implications of the meaning of deafness."

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20091227/OPINION01/912270342>

Colo. funding decision stymies disabled supermom – by Susan Greene (*The Denver Post*).

"There's a term, 'supercrip,' that describes a way of portraying people with disabilities as though it's astonishing that they get out of bed each morning and go about their lives. No one's more irked by that caricature than Carrie Ann Lucas. At 38, she's deaf and legally blind, though you'd never know it. She has a progressive neuromuscular disease that requires her to use a ventilator to breathe and a wheelchair to get around. She's a talented lawyer and leading advocate for disabled parents in Colorado. She has adopted three daughters of her own, all with disabilities. And she's raising a 15-year-old foster child who faced adolescence institutionalized until Lucas brought her home to Windsor, where she's now thriving."

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_14074954

N.F.L.'s Request For Brains Must Yield Honest Effort To Sack Trauma – by Teddy Mitrosilis.

"The old adage applies here: help me to help you. As we sit down to enjoy our Sunday rituals of barbecues, halftime naps, or whatever yours may be while you indulge in a day of football, one thing will always remain constant. Helmet-to-helmet collisions; foreheads hitting knees; the back of skulls exchanging low-fives with the turf; all of these vicious realities that generate immediate cringing will never fade. They waltz hand-in-hand with the guacamole and the Miller Lite at our football gatherings. In that sense, the news coming from Boston is uplifting. According to an Associated Press report, the N.F.L. is joining Boston University brain researchers in the quest to accurately define the long-term effects concussions and other football-induced head trauma has on the lives of players. The researchers at BU want to determine whether or not there are recurring signs of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (C.T.E.) in a significant proportion of the players they test. C.T.E. is a condition in the brain resulting from repetitive head trauma and can cause dementia as early as 40."

<http://bleacherreport.com/articles/312239-nfls-request-for-brains-must-lead-honest-effort-to-sack-trauma>

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EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Presentations from RAatE 2009 conference in December available online – "RAatE 2009 is the only UK conference focused on the latest innovations and developments in assistive technology. . . The conference program has, over the past years, regularly included new technological developments, service innovations, results of formal research projects, service based research and development and a wide range of other stimulating topics."
<http://www.raate.org.uk/content/paper-presentations/>

POST-SECONDARY

UBC student council blocks representation of students with disabilities, marginalized groups – by Carlye Cunniff (*Rabble*). "The Alma Mater Society (AMS), or student council, of the University of British Columbia (UBC) is generally considered by students to be an inherently problematic institution in which a select few young, power-grabbing students are able to fulfill their power-trip fantasies. The actions of the council are usually met with little more than a flippant but indifferent 'I hate the AMS' from frustrated students, who view the body contentiously but as essentially harmless. Two weeks ago, however, the council voted down the proposed installation of a disability representative to the body, an action that has students reacting with more fervor than usual."
<http://www.rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/campus-notes/2009/12/ubc-student-council-blocks-representation-students-disabilities->

When the world speaks, UofT listens – (*TheStar*). "Rod Michalko wasn't looking to be a lightning rod. But when the sparks flew and the rallies started, when the web pages and the blogs and the petitions multiplied, when the outrage echoed around the planet, it was clear the award-winning professor had galvanized a community on the verge of greatness. Disability pride will never again be underestimated in Canada. Hold that thought as we venture forth into a new decade."
<http://www.thestar.com/living/disabilities/article/739259--when-the-world-speaks-uoft-listens>

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EMPLOYMENT

Disabled workers 'worst hit by cuts in recession' – by Sarah Cassidy (*TheIndependent*). "One in 20 disabled people has lost their job in the last 12 months as the recession hits the most vulnerable the hardest – and the worst is yet to come. The job prospects and standard of living of disabled people could worsen even further as public services are cut. Discrimination against disabled people is increasing in the workplace as employers target them for redundancy and unfairly turn them down for new jobs, according to a report by Leonard Cheshire Disability."
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/disabled-workers-worst-hit-by-cuts-in-recession-1851588.html>

EEOC Launches Guides to Spur Federal Hiring of Individuals with Disabilities – "Advancing its campaign to increase federal hiring of employees with disabilities, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has issued a set of guides on leveraging Schedule A, an authority available to federal agencies to hire and/or to promote individuals with disabilities without competing the job. The [five "ABCs of Schedule A" guides](#) are tailored for each participant in the federal hiring process: Service Providers, Applicants with Disabilities, Human Resources Professionals, Hiring Managers, and Disability Program Manager and/or Selective Placement Coordinator. Each guide is clear, concise, and simple." <http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/release/12-14-09.cfm>

The First Annual Job Fair for People with Disabilities – (*NeilSquire*). "The Neil Squire Society has partnered with various community organizations to create the First Annual Job Fair for People with Disabilities to take place on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 from 1:30-5:00pm at University of Regina in the Centre for Kinesiology, Health & Sport which is located at 3737 Wascana Parkway. This Job Fair is exclusively for work seekers living with a disability. It will feature company and organization booths with employees committed to a representative workforce. At each booth resumes can be collected and business cards can be exchanged between employers and people with disabilities as well as provide a convenient location to perform initial interviews. There will also be service providers with information on accommodations and funding." <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=198614639854&ref=mf>

Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities – "The Opportunities Fund is a program designed to help people with disabilities prepare for and obtain employment or self-employment. It also assists people to develop the skills they need to keep a new job. . . The Opportunities Fund accepts applications from people with disabilities, and from sponsor organizations and employers that help people with disabilities to enter or return to the workforce. . . Projects may be approved for a period of up to 52 weeks; however, in some circumstances the period may be extended to a total of 78 weeks. The duration of assistance varies according to the action plan developed for each individual and is based on individual needs . . . View our [brochure and other publications](#) online for more information." http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/disability_issues/funding_programs/opportunities_fund/index.shtml

Overview of Self-Employment for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities – (*Web Course*). February 15 - March 22, 2010. "The success rate of small business is surprisingly high, despite widely accepted folklore to the contrary. The U.S. Small Business Administration reports that over 79% of small businesses are still operating after the initial eight years. And, the long term trend in employment is smaller firms. Self employment and small business are a defining characteristic of America's economic landscape, and present a tremendous opportunity for those most challenged by the competitive labor market." http://www.worksupport.com/training/webcourses/self_employment_course.cfm

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GENERAL

Cool Stuff in Every Pocket: An Interview with Fred Gissoni – by Deborah Kendrick (*AFB*). "My friend, Michael Lichstein, a clinical psychologist who is blind, once told me I was reminding

him of Fred Gissoni. I considered it the highest of compliments. We were having lunch, and I had pulled a few of the latest 'gadgets' of interest to blind people, maybe a Book Port, a Victor Reader Stream, or an Olympus 40, whatever I was reviewing at the time, out of my bag to show him. When Michael was a child, he said, he and his mother would sometimes meet with Fred, and it seemed, as Michael recalled, 'He just kept pulling amazing objects out of his pockets to show us.' I love that image of Fred Gissoni, the legendary blind pioneer who has a droll sort of humor that has me smiling throughout any conversation with him, and who has gently, humbly devoted his life to learning and sharing that learning with other blind people."
<http://www.afb.org/afbpres/pub.asp?DocID=aw100607>

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GOVERNMENT

CANADA

Critics blast province's disability cutbacks as a 'disaster' – by Krista Sylvester (*The Metro*).

"Gary Coombe watched his deaf and developmentally delayed son's progress succeed with support but is concerned his progress will crumble when the Alberta government yanks funding. Coombe watched his son struggle from becoming a young boy with severe communication problems to a young man who is involved with the Canadian Association of Disabled Skiers. Coombe directly relates his 26-year-old son Cody's success to the Calgary Scope Society, supported with government funding, but the Conservative government recently made cuts to Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) programs."

<http://www.metronews.ca/calgary/canada/article/403997--critics-blast-province-s-disability-cutbacks-as-a-disaster>

Ont. overpaid by \$1.2B on welfare, disability – (*The Canadian Press*). "Ontario does a poor job of determining who is eligible for welfare and disability supports and, as a result, overpayments are on the rise with the government doing little to reclaim that money, the auditor general said Monday. Overpayments to both the Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works have increased dramatically since those programs were last audited, for a cumulative total of \$1.2 billion wrongly going out the door, Jim McCarter said. 'I don't think enough attention is being paid to make sure that we're only giving money to people who are eligible to get money,' the auditor general said after releasing his annual report."

http://toronto.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20091207/Ont_audit_091207/20091207/?hub=TorontoNewHome

US

Dodd Bill Targets Physical Restraints On Students – by Dave Altimari (*The Hartford Courant*).

"U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd on Wednesday proposed legislation to prevent a growing problem in public schools nationwide: the increasing use of restraints on problematic children. Dodd and Rep. George Miller of California unveiled the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act, a bill that is similar to legislation that Dodd help pass in 1998 concerning restraints of children in psychiatric facilities."

<http://www.courant.com/news/politics/hc-dodd-restraints1210dec10,0,3939357.story>

'Voc-rehab' boss to lead fed program – by Brad Shannon (*The Olympian*). "Lynnae Ruttledge, leader of Washington state's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, is headed to a new job running the \$4 billion federal 'voc-rehab' program for the Obama administration. Ruttledge hopes to start Monday in Washington, D.C., and says she wants to improve the federal program like she is credited with doing for Washington's after she arrived in Olympia four years ago. 'At the federal level I want to be a part of the economic recovery of the country. I want people with disabilities to be identified as part of the solution and not a part of the problem,'" Ruttledge, 60, said from her Lacey office this week."

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/partners/theolympian/story/1009342.html>

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LEGAL

Man left paralyzed by unprotected sex denied disability award – by Janice Tibbetts (*The Vancouver Sun*). "A B.C. man who became paraplegic after contracting herpes from unprotected sex lost a \$200,000 disability award Friday when the Supreme Court of Canada sided with his insurance company in a ruling that concluded that his misfortune, while tragic and unexpected, was not an accident. The unanimous court said that allowing Randolph Gibbens to cash in 'would stretch the boundaries of an accident policy beyond the snapping point' by effectively turning it into health insurance for disease sufferers, with lower premiums. The case, which pitted the Co-operators Life Insurance Company against the former high-pressure water blaster, centred on the meaning of the word 'accident' in deciding insurance claims."

<http://www.vancouversun.com/life/left+paralyzed+unprotected+denied+disability+award/2356274/story.html>

Mentally Impaired Student Wins Discrimination Lawsuit – (AVVO). "According to a recent ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Patrick Duggan, the administrators of Oakland University violated federal disability rights laws when they prohibited a student with a cognitive impairment from living on their Rochester, Michigan, campus. Under a University program called OPTIONS, the student has been paying fees equal to the cost of tuition to attend ungraded courses designed for students with cognitive disabilities."

<http://www.avvo.com/news/mentally-impaired-student-wins-discrimination-lawsuit-612.html>

Quadriplegic Mother Fights for Custody of Son – by Joseph Brownstein (*ABCnews*). "A quadriplegic mother is fighting her ex-boyfriend in court to retain custody of their son. The ex-boyfriend claims she cannot be a competent mother because of her disability. It is a case that touches on important questions about the rights of the disabled. Kaney O'Neill, 31, lost the use of her legs and much of the use of her arms 10 years ago when she fell from a balcony in Newport News, Va. Now, as she tries to raise her 5-month-old son, Aidan, she is locked in a court battle with her ex-boyfriend, David Trais, over custody rights."

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/MindMoodNews/quadraplegic-mother-fights-maintain-custody-son/story?id=9403163>

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MEDIA

2010 Wheels for Wheels Residency Fellowships For Visual Artists and Writers Who Use Wheelchairs and/or Live with a Spinal Cord Injury or Disease (Sci/D) – (*Spinalcord.org*).

"The Vermont Studio Center (VSC) is pleased to announce: The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation Residency Fellowship Awards for three outstanding visual artists and writers living with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) or Spinal Cord Disease (SCD). In accordance with the mission of the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, artists and writers living with spinal cord disease will be considered but preference will be given to people living with SCI."

<http://www.spinalcord.org/news.php?dep=1&page=6&list=2407>

American Airlines, American Association of People With Disabilities Announce Winner of First Altitude Award – (*PRnewswire*).

"The people have spoken: the Texas Lions Camp's television advertisement has been selected by online voters as the winner of the first Altitude Award, created by American Airlines and the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) to honor the best U.S. television ad featuring positive portrayals of people with disabilities. The winning advertisement, 'Different Abilities Not Like the Others,' highlights the captivating spirit of the Texas Lions Camp, which is designed for children with disabilities. The ad was chosen from among the top five finalists by voters who visited the online gallery at www.aa.com/altitudeaward. As winner of the Altitude Award, the spot will run gratis for one month onboard selected American Airlines flights."

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/american-airlines-american-association-of-people-with-disabilities-announce-winner-of-first-altitude-award-78136712.html>

Book Review – Design meets Disability by Graham Pullin – Posted by Robert Blinn "Even the sighted often suffer from a sort of blindness. When another human being walks into their visual field with an 'impairment,' the immediate reaction is frequently either to stare or to look away. Whether witnessing genetic, geriatric or accidental injuries, healthy people have an aversion to being reminded just how fragile their bodies are. Consequently, a book called Design Meets Disability isn't the first thing that a 'fashionable' designer might pick up off the shelf no matter how sexy amputee/paraplegic Aimee Mullins happens to be, nor how gorgeous Cutler and Gross's eyewear advertisements appear ... and that, um, short-sightedness is rather unfortunate. Although it was released a while ago, Pullin's book is worth a look."

http://www.core77.com/blog/book_reviews/book_review_design_meets_disability_by_graham_pullin_15597.asp

Modern Drummer Joins Forces with Pat Gesualdo for Groundbreaking Disability Column –

(*PR.com*). "Modern Drummer, the world's most popular drum magazine, has joined forces with award winning drum virtuoso/Drum Therapy pioneer Pat Gesualdo. The venture will feature a monthly column at www.moderndrummer.com based on Gesualdo's recent breakthrough Drum Therapy® techniques. Numerous Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Teachers, Drum Instructors, Behavioral Therapists, and Physical Therapists throughout the world use Gesualdo's breakthrough Drum Therapy techniques, to help Autistic and Special Needs children develop vocal communication, retention, coordination, and physical and cognitive functioning. Drum Therapy is brought to schools, hospitals, and community centers on a Global basis via Gesualdo's non-profit organization DAD (Drums and Disabilities)."

<http://www.pr.com/press-release/199146>

The Real Rain Man Dies of Heart Attack in Home Town of Salt Lake City, Aged 58 – by Ed Pilkington (*Guardian*). "Kim Peek, the real Rain Man whose almost unimaginable powers of memory were coupled with severe disabilities and who inspired the Oscar-winning film role played by Dustin Hoffman, has died of a heart attack in his home town of Salt Lake City, aged 58. Peek has been called a 'mega-savant' for his ability to memorise to the word up to 12,000 books, including the Bible and the Book of Mormon. He could read two pages in about 10 seconds – the right page with his right eye and the left simultaneously with his left eye. He knew phone books by heart, and could tell you what day of the week a particular date fell upon going back decades. One of his party tricks was to tell strangers the names of the people who used to live next door to them years ago. . . At the same time, though, he had deep disabilities and relied on his father Fran for help dressing, brushing his hair and other simple motor skills."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/dec/22/kim-peek-rain-man-dies>

RJ Mitte — Breaking Bad Is Good Interview – (*AbilityMagazine*). "ABILITY Magazine's Liz Angeles and Chet Cooper caught up to the youngest actor, RJ Mitte, of the hit show, along with his manager, Addison Witt, at an acting studio in Sherman Oaks, CA."

http://www.abilitymagazine.com/RJ_Mitte.html

Vic Chesnutt, 1964-2009 – (*NewMobility*). "Singer-songwriter Vic Chesnutt, whose eclectic musical style and melancholy but often comic lyrics earned him wide acclaim among music aficionados and critics, died Dec. 25 in Athens, Ga. He was 45. Chesnutt slipped into a coma on Christmas Eve following an overdose of muscle relaxants. At press time it was unclear if the overdose was accidental or intentional. Born in Jacksonville, Fla., Chesnutt sustained a C6 spinal cord injury in a car accident at age 18. After going through rehab and moving out of his parents' home, he began writing songs and became a part of the 1980s Athens music scene made famous by groups like R.E.M. and the B-52s. In a statement, R.E.M. lead singer Michael Stipe — who discovered Chesnutt and produced his first two albums — said, 'We have lost one of our great ones. ... His songs and his story remain'."

<http://www.newmobility.com/newsDetail.cfm#article11566>

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MEDICAL

Gene behind some forms of intellectual disability identified – "Scientists at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) have identified a gene, called TRAPPC9, which is involved in some forms of intellectual disability. Two international research teams independently have confirmed the findings of John B Vincent, a scientist at CAMH, and his team. 'This spotlights the intense interest that genetics is bringing to types of inherited intellectual disability that, to date, have been poorly understood,' said Vincent. 'Now that we have identified TRAPPC9 as a gene that may be associated with hundreds of thousands of cases of intellectual disability world-wide, we can build on that knowledge with research to help individuals and their families,' he added. Unlike intellectual disabilities that are part of a syndrome with other medical conditions or physical abnormalities, TRAPPC9 is associated

with non-syndromic types of intellectual disability-causing up to 50% of intellectual disability worldwide."

http://www.dnaindia.com/scitech/report_gene-behind-some-forms-of-intellectual-disability-identified_1324316

Muscle Synergies May be Key to Stroke Treatment, Say MIT Researchers –

(*RehabManagement*). "Researchers at MIT, Cambridge, Mass, and San Camillo Hospital, Venice, Italy, have shown that motor impairments in stroke patients can be understood as impairments in specific combinations of muscle activity, known as synergies, says a statement from MIT. Previous work in animals and humans has shown that groups of muscles tend to be co-activated as a unit in predictable patterns, or synergies, across a wide range of movements, says the statement. These synergies are thought to represent the fundamental building blocks from which the brain constructs complex movements. The new findings support this concept and also suggest new approaches to the rehabilitation of stroke patients. Stroke is a leading cause of long-term disability in the United States, with about 700,000 new or recurrent cases annually."

http://www.rehabpub.com/news/2009-12-24_01.asp?frmTagFilePath=%2Fnews.asp

Physician-assisted suicide: A perspective from advocates for people with disability –

(*Eurekalert*). "Although public opinion in the United States on physician-assisted suicide is evenly divided, about half of states have either defeated bills to legalize assisted suicide or have passed laws explicitly banning it and only two states (Oregon and Washington) have legalized it. In this environment, A Disability Perspective on the Issue of Physician-Assisted Suicide, a special issue of *Disability and Health Journal: The Official Journal of the American Association on Health and Disability*, published by Elsevier, examines the issues related to assisted suicide and disability, the legal considerations and the Oregon and Washington experiences. Journal editors Suzanne McDermott, PhD, USC School of Medicine, Columbia, SC, and Margaret A. Turk, MD, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, have assembled six articles from disability advocates and scholars who oppose assisted suicide and thereby add important insights and background information to the debate."

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-12/ehs-psa122009.php

Stem cell eye treatment gives victim of fight his sight back – by Mark Henderson (*TheTimes*).

"A man who was partially blinded after intervening in a fight has had his vision restored by a new stem-cell therapy. Russell Turnbull, 38, lost most of the sight from his right eye in 1994 when he was sprayed in the face with ammonia while trying to break up an altercation on a bus in Newcastle upon Tyne. The chemical burnt his cornea, leaving him with cloudy vision, pain on every blink and extreme sensitivity to light. He has now become one of the first people to benefit from a treatment developed at the North East England Stem Cell Institute in Newcastle, in which stem cells from his good eye were used to repair his damaged one."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/health/article6965043.ece>

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POLICY/RESEARCH

Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities 2009 – "Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities 2009 is the Government of Canada's seventh annual report on disability. This report looks at the experiences of Canadians with disabilities and notes changes over time. Following the 2001 and 2006 censuses, surveys were conducted of adults and children who have difficulties with daily living activities, or who indicated that a physical or mental condition or health problem reduces the kind or amount of activities they can do.¹ This report presents a statistical comparison of those surveys, building on Advancing the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2004, which examined disability issues using 29 indicators of progress. This report uses many of the indicators identified in the 2004 report, as well as new indicators."
http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/disability_issues/reports/fdr/2009/page04.shtml

Developing a Deprivation Index: The Research Process – by Richard Matern, Michael Mendelson and Michael Oliphant (*Daily Bread Food Bank and the Caledon Institute*). "In the fall of 2007, the newly re-elected Ontario government came to power with a commitment to introduce a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy. Both government and anti-poverty advocates recognized that targets and indicators to measure poverty would be critical elements of an effective strategy. In February 2008, Daily Bread Food Bank, in partnership with the Caledon Institute of Social Policy and with the support of the Metcalf Foundation, began developing a 'deprivation index' and advocating for its inclusion as one of the measures of poverty in Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy. This paper introduces the concept of the deprivation index and describes the three-stage research process undertaken to produce a deprivation index for Ontario."
<http://www.dailybread.ca/learningcentre/documents/DevelopingaDeprivationIndexFINAL.pdf>

Disability May be Rising Again After 20-Year Decline, Say Researchers – by Sarah Yang (*RehabManagement*). "Disability rates among noninstitutionalized older Americans increased between 2000 and 2005, a trend that could seriously impact the quality of life of seniors in the coming decades if it continues, according to a study led by researchers at the University of Toronto and the University of California, Berkeley. The findings are troubling, said the authors, because they suggest that the steady decline since the 1980s of disability rates among older adults may have ended. Adding to the concern is the expected doubling between 2000 and 2030 of the number of Americans over 65 as the Baby Boom generation continues to age."
http://www.rehabpub.com/news/2009-12-31_01.asp?frmTagFilePath=%2Fnews.asp

Elderly Report Rising Rates of Disability After 20-Year Decline – (*HealthDay News*). "The disability rate among U.S. senior citizens is on the rise, a surprise considering the rate had been falling since the 1980s, new research has found. 'People are living longer, but many are also living sicker,' study co-author Amani Nuru-Jeter, an assistant professor of community health and human development at the University of California Berkeley School of Public Health, said in a university news release. 'This study is providing an early warning sign that the decline in disability rates we've been hearing about might be ending.' After analyzing the period from 2000-2005, the researchers found a 9 percent increase in the number of non-institutionalized people aged 65 and older who said they have difficulty handling day-to-day activities, including dressing and bathing, because of a problem lasting six months or more."
<http://www.healthfinder.gov/news/newsstory.aspx?docID=634349>

Genes to Cognition (G2C) Online – "Genes to Cognition (G2C) Online is about modern neuroscience. It focuses on cognitive disorders, cognitive processes, and research approaches. Use the dynamic network maps to explore our library of 750+ unique items. Or, use the linear Selected Items menu on top of each map to tour selected content. Explore, interact, and have fun!"
<http://www.g2conline.org/>

International Day of Persons with Disabilities - "Making the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) disability-inclusive: Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities around the world" – (*United Nations*). "The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues, the rights of persons with disabilities and gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities. The Day provides an opportunity to mobilize action to achieve the goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities, established by the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1982."
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1484>

The Millennium Development Goals and Disability – (*United Nations*). "The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established a unifying set of developmental objectives for the global community. Bringing together United Nations agencies, governments and civil society around eight key development issues, the MDGs foster collaborative action to reduce poverty, improve health and address educational and environmental concerns around the world's most pressing development problems. The MDGs are specifically designed to address the needs of the world's poorest citizens and the world's most marginalized populations. MDGs will not be achieved however if their policies, programmes, monitoring and evaluation do not include persons with disabilities."
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1470>

Living with disability series: Defining disability in the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey – by Andrew MacKenzie, Matt Hurst and Susan Crompton (*Statistics Canada*). ". . . Over the course of the next few months, Canadian Social Trends is planning to release several articles that use the national Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS) to examine a variety of issues related to disability. In this first article of the 'Living with disability series,' we briefly explore the evolution of theories about disability and outline contemporary thinking about how to define disability. We then compare PALS data from 2001 and 2006 to see how the incidence of disability is growing in Canada, and the proportion of growth that is due to changing public perceptions of disability."
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2009002/article/11024-eng.htm>

Living with disabilities series: Social participation of children with disabilities - by Krista Kowalchuk and Susan Crompton (*Statistics Canada*). "This article will identify the factors that influence the social engagement of children with disabilities aged 5 to 14 who live with their parents. The focus is on participation in social activities outside the family home and outside regular school hours. Social engagement is measured by participation in organized sports; in organized non-sport activities (lessons, clubs and community groups); and in virtual networks

with their peers (phone, chatrooms, email). Following the literature, the factors we examine include the effect of the child's condition on their day-to-day functioning, the child's own social competencies, family functioning, parental support, and environmental barriers."

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2009002/article/11021-eng.htm>

Social participation of children with disabilities – (*Statistics Canada*) "This study examined factors that influence the participation of a child with disabilities in certain social activities. These activities were divided into three groupings: participation in organized sports and physical activities; participation in organized non-sport activities, such as clubs or community groups; and participation in virtual networks with peers, such as communicating through chat rooms or e-mails." (2006).

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/091211/dq091211c-eng.htm>

Mental health, disability service shake-up urged – (*ABCnews*). "South Australia's public advocate has called for a shake-up of funding and delivery for disability and mental health services. In his annual report, Dr John Brayley says a new vision is required to help those in need. He says SA is an efficient provider of services to those with disabilities and mental health issues but more can be done. 'We do get to many people in SA with services, but we do that by delivering less services than they might require,' he said. 'This isn't just a question of money, it's a question of a vision for disability services into the future.' Rather than a system based on welfare, Dr Brayley wants a rights-based system where individual needs are looked at more closely."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/12/07/2763494.htm>

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REHABILITATION

SPARKy Devices Help Amputees Return To Normal Lives – (*Rehab Management*). "Arizona State University researchers have developed a prosthetic device that literally puts the spring back into an amputee's step. The ASU scientists have developed and refined SPARKy (for spring ankle with regenerative kinetics) into a smart, active, and energy storing below-the-knee (transbital) prosthesis. SPARKy is a prosthetic device that applies regenerative kinetics to its design, which results in a lightweight (4-pound) device that allows the wearer to walk on grass, cement, and rocks, and ascend and descend stairs and inclines."

http://www.rehabpub.com/news/2009-12-23_01.asp?frmTagFilePath=%2Fnews.asp

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Paralympics excluded from free-to-air list – by Paul Carter (*Disability Now*). "A long awaited review into what live sporting events should be broadcast on free-to-air television has failed to include the Paralympic Games, Disability Now can reveal. Under current legislation, so-called 'crown jewel' sporting events such as the World Cup and the Grand National are 'protected' events, and have to be shown on terrestrial television. Last year the former Culture Secretary

Andy Burnham ordered a review of the listing regime, to consider what sports, if any, should remain under legislative protection."

<http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2/paralympics-excluded-from-free-to-air-list>

Sailors With Disabilities Ready to Tackle Classic Australian Yacht Race – by Phil Merce (*Voanews*). "Blind and paraplegic sailors as well as others with physical disabilities will crew a boat in one of the world's great ocean events, the annual Sydney to Hobart yacht race. The race, which starts on Saturday, is one of the toughest competitions of its kind anywhere. The Sydney to Hobart race is a test of character. Crew members go sleepless, suffer seasickness and fight monster waves on their journey down Australia's southeast coast. And, as the novices on board the Sailors with disABILITIES vessel Kaz are learning, they have to get used to cramped surroundings below deck."

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/asia/Sailors-With-Disabilities-Ready-to-Tackle-Classic-Australian-Yacht-Race-80064682.html>

Whistler Boasts Abundant Access Upgrades for 2010 Paralympics – by Candy B. Harrington (*Disaboom*). "As the venue for the 2010 Paralympic alpine events, Whistler is putting the finishing touches on a bevy of access improvements. That's good news for wheelchair users and slow walkers, because the bulk of the improvements will remain intact long after the Paralympic torch moves on, making Whistler a very accessible year-round vacation choice."

<http://www.disaboom.com/destinations/whistler-upgrades-access-for-paralympics>

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TECHNOLOGY

Two New Portable Digital Book Players Enter the Market – by Darren Burton (*AFB*). "In the May, July, and September 2008 issues of AccessWorld, we published a series of three articles discussing the accessibility of iPods and other digital audio players. In the September article, which focused on players designed specifically for people with vision loss, we determined Humanware's Victor Reader Stream was the leading product in the portable player category on the strength of its easy-to-learn interface and ability to play a wide range of books and music. However, the Stream is facing competition in the market from two new accessible digital audio players -- GW Micro's BookSense and the PLEXTALK Pocket (PTP1) from Shinano Kenshi. . . . This article describes these new players and compares their features and functions with those of the Stream."

<http://www.afb.org/afbpres/pub.asp?DocID=aw100602>

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CONFERENCES

(🌟 **New Conferences**)

CANADA

26th International Seating Symposium – March 10-13, 2010 | Vancouver, British Columbia.

"This international symposium addresses current and future developments in the areas of seating, positioning and mobility. Topic areas include service delivery, product development,

research and evaluation. The format for the symposium will include plenary, poster, instructional and paper sessions. Extensive opportunities are provided for networking with colleagues."

http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/26th_Seating.htm

DRN 2010 "Pathways To Success: The Power of Inquiry, Connections & Mentorship" – May

17-18, 2010 | Vancouver, British Columbia. "The DRN Conference Planning Committee is pleased to invite you to the 2010 annual conference, which will bring together once again, practitioners in both programs and services in post-secondary institutions from around the province, along with community based programs. This year, we are also looking forward to including representatives from lower mainland secondary schools with a view to strengthen the transition process for students. This year's theme aims to bring you new information through inquiry, expand and strengthen your efforts through connections among all stakeholders, and foster success through mentorship. Featuring international keynote speakers, such as David Harp : internationally- acclaimed writer and teacher of cognitive psychology and cognitive science , actor Geri Jewell and much, much more!"

http://www.drNBC.org/newsDetail.cfm?DNWS_NEWS_ID=760

College Committee on Disability Issues 22nd Annual Conference – May 17 - 20, 2010 |

Huntsville, Ontario." The College Committee on Disability Issues (CCDI) invites you to join us at Deerhurst Conference Centre for the 22nd Annual conference. Titled 'It All Starts Here - Transitioning from Secondary School to College or University' the conference program will provide a variety relevant tracks designed to provoke thought and discussion and will highlight transitioning from secondary school to College or University to employment. The conference is three days of skill building and partnerships to promote success for students with disabilities. For: Disability Specialists; Assistive Technologists; Learning Strategists; Counsellors; Elementary and Secondary School Teacher Assistants; parents; and students the conference is three days of learning and networking which will enlighten and energize each conference delegate."

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

International Society for Gerontechnology 7th World Conference – May 27-30, 2010 |

Vancouver, British Columbia. "Internationally recognized experts in gerontechnology will share their knowledge and experience through lectures, symposia, workshops, papers and posters. Topics to be addressed will include rehabilitation engineering, robotics, telemonitoring, telecare, ICT, biomechanics and ergonomics, assistive technology, inclusive design and usability, smart homes and smart fabrics, sensor technology, and cognitive aging and computer games."

<http://www.sfu.ca/isg2010/about/index.html>

2010 CDSA-ACEI Conference – June 2-4, 2010 | Montreal, Quebec. "The Congress 2010 theme

is 'Connected Understanding – Le savoir branché' and encapsulates the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of research and the importance of connecting the academic world with users of knowledge from all sectors. It also refers to the impact of the rise of digital technology on scholarly research."

<http://www.cdsa-acei.ca/conference.html>

Shine 2010 CACUSS Conference – June 20-23, 2010 | Edmonton Alberta. "On June 20th 2010 we welcome you, our student services colleagues from across Canada and the world to Edmonton, Alberta. This year our theme is 'Shine: Light it Up in Edmonton'. During these trying times of economic recession our institutions are facing pressures from many sources that are testing our student service capabilities daily. And so, our simple theme is meant to celebrate what we do and to shine some light into the variety of challenges we deal with daily. In doing so we plan to celebrate solutions, share the difficulties, focus on the positives and embrace the possibilities."
<http://www.cacuss2010.ca/>

- ✿ **2010 ACRM-ASNR Joint Educational Conference** – October 20-23, 2010 | Montreal, Quebec. "The 2010 Annual Conference reflects ACRM and ASNR's focus on creating a dynamic, innovative, evidence-based educational conference that brings together generators, users, and funders of rehabilitation science and research in a collaborative effort. The 2010 Program Committee invites members and newcomers to join this exciting effort and submit proposals for Symposia, Morning Sessions and Research Work Sessions focusing on evidence-based medicine."
<http://www.acrm.org/>

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U.S.

- ✿ **ATIA 2010 Orlando** - January 27-30, 2010 | Orlando, Florida. "The ATIA Conference features the latest products and services, showcasing more than 125 exhibitors in one of the most comprehensive exhibitions in the industry. Meet one-on-one with leading AT suppliers to get your questions answered and get hands-on experience with the most up-to-date AT technologies."
<http://www.atia.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3688>

2010 IARP Case Management/Disability Management Conference – February 11-13, 2010 | Scottsdale, Arizona. "The first Case Management & Disability Management Section Conference will take place Feb. 11-13, 2010, at the beautiful Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz. This will be a fantastic opportunity to shake off the winter blues and cold weather for many of our members, or for others an occasion to enjoy all that the area has to offer. The programs offered at this conference are based on the needs expressed by our members in response to membership surveys conducted over the past two years."
<http://www.rehabpro.org/events/2010-CM-DM>

In Such a Time as This...Responding Wisely in Difficult Times – March 7-9, 2010 | Durham, North Carolina. "As we experience budget and service cuts, it seems increasingly difficult to be successful without seriously damaging our values. But we can continue to be successful – if we are willing to learn from our past and the innovations that today are making a difference in the lives of people who experience disability. Join us as we examine creativity and collaboration with renewed hope. Join us as we learn to engage with people who experience disability in new and constructive ways. Join us as we throw off unnecessary limitations and find new solutions – for such a time as this."

<http://craconferences.com/>

The 25th Annual International Technology & Persons with Disabilities Conference - March 22-27, 2010 | San Diego, California. – "The conference strives to present a best-practices approach for the education of students, professionals and consumers involved with the many aspects of technology and disability. Your experience, gained through practical applications and/or research, is vital to the promotion of effective assistive technology practices on a widespread basis."

<http://www.csunconference.org/index.cfm?EID=80000218>

2010 Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium Equality, Difference, and The Right to Live in the World – April 15-16, 2010 | Baltimore, Maryland. "To carry forward the work of Dr. Jacobus tenBroek in assuring that all citizens may have the opportunity for full participation in the society in which we live, the National Federation of the Blind is hosting the Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium. The 2010 symposium will consist of plenary sessions and workshops facilitated by distinguished law professors, practitioners, and advocates who will discuss the concepts of equality and difference as they relate to the disabled in employment, education, medical treatment, and access to technology."

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Law_Symposium.asp

The Third Pacific Rim International Forum on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – April 12 & 13, 2010 | Hawai'i. "The 2010 Pacific Rim International Forum will focus on the convention on rights of persons with disabilities with special attention to education and employment. With its beginnings dating back to 1985, the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities 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. Pac Rim continues to provide cutting-edge opportunities to learn from one another, share resources and ideas that support the quality of life, community inclusion, and self-determination for all persons with disabilities and their families and help shape our world community."

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

7th International Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Web Accessibility – April 26–27, 2010 | Raleigh, North Carolina. "A revolution in the information society is now starting, based on the use of mobile phones in developing countries. The hyper-growth of mobile phone penetration is deeply changing the lives of people in most of the world; their ways of communicating, working, learning, and structuring their societies. The promising next step is obviously to access the Web. The Web has already touched the lives of over a billion people and now is the time for the next billions. However, this expansion faces unprecedented accessibility challenges. Even the word 'accessibility' needs a new definition for people in the developing regions. How can someone who is illiterate or barely literate access the Web? In some cases, a language may not even have a written form. The affordability of the technology is also a challenge, while access is constrained by low computational power, limited bandwidth, compact keyboards, tiny screens, and even by the lack of electric power. All of these constraints compound the problems of access and inclusion."

<http://www.w4a.info/2010/>

2010 International VSA Arts Festival – June 6-12, 2010 | Washington, D.C. "From June 6-12, 2010, VSA arts will bring together artists, educators, researchers, and policy makers with disabilities from around the world for a multicultural celebration of the arts and arts education. Featuring visual, performing, literary, media artists, and a guest list that includes over two thousand participants from all corners of the globe. . . A primary goal of the International Festival is to provide information and effective strategies that can be translated from theory to practice for use in the home, community, or classroom. With this goal in mind, the 2010 International VSA arts Festival will convene an International Education Conference at the downtown Grand Hyatt Washington, June 10–12, 2010. Focusing on three areas—21st - Century Learning, Inclusive Education, and Pathways to Employment—the conference features several notable keynotes including percussionist Evelyn Glennie, Kenneth Eklindh of UNESCO, and noted author and arts educator Sir Ken Robinson."
<http://www.vsarts.org/x5992.xml>

RESNA 2010 and the International Symposium on Quality of Life Technology – June 26-30, 2010 | Las Vegas, Nevada. "Call for papers: Scientific and Student Scientific Papers will be due January 18, 2010. Instructions for submitting these papers will be forthcoming."
<http://www.resna.org/conference/index.php>

Rebuilding Sustainable Communities with the Elderly and Disabled People after Disasters – July 12-15, 2010 | Boston, Massachusetts. "The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has estimated that between 1987 and 2007, about 26 million older people were affected each year by natural disasters alone and that this figure could more than double by 2050 due to the rapidly changing demographics of ageing. Correspondingly, a recent report by Baylor College of Medicine and the American Medical Association (Recommendations for Best Practices in the Management of Elderly Disaster Victims) has computed that 74% of the approximately 1,200 people who died as a result of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans were over 60 years old and 50% were over age 75. The elderly comprised only 11.7% of the total population."
<http://www.rebuilding.umb.edu/rscepd>

International Forum on Disability Management 2010 - September 20-22, 2010 | Los Angeles, California. "IFDM 2010 will advance disability management knowledge and initiatives to:

- Realize the aspirations of people with disabilities to find and maintain meaningful employment.
- Support employers in achieving productive and stable workforces.
- Educate human resource, workers' compensation, and disability specialists on successful techniques to accomplish desired outcomes.
- Advocate for public policy initiatives that provide better social protection and economic empowerment for everyone."

<http://www.ifdm2010.com/>

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OVERSEAS

12th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons

(TRANSED 2010) – June 2-4, 2010 | Hong Kong. "The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) is proud to announce that the 12th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED 2010) will take place in Hong Kong in 2010. The theme of TRANSED 2010 is Sustainable Transport & Travel for All. Held every three years, TRANSED conferences are milestone events in the field of accessible transportation, attracting researchers, policy-makers, transport operators, consumers and other specialists worldwide to share innovations and best practices in order to make transportation and mobility accessible to everyone."

<http://www.transed2010.hk/front/#>

12th International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs

– July 14-16, 2010 | Vienna Austria. "ICCHP focuses on all aspects related to Assistive Technologies (AT) and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for people with disabilities. According changes in awareness and understanding of disability as well as social and legal frameworks, driven by Disability Rights and Independent Living Movements led to what is known as eAccessibility, Universal Design or eInclusion. User involvement and user centred design are the underlying general topic of ICCHP leading to an interdisciplinary discussion of all stakeholders in the value chain that allows social innovation in the information society."

<http://www.icchp.org/node/194>

✿ The 3rd International Conference for Universal Design in HAMAMATSU 2010

– October 30 - November 3 ,2010 | Hamamatsu City, Japan. "Japan's first international Universal Design (UD) Conference was held in Yokohama in November 2002. The declaration adopted on the last day of the enormously successful conference stated that UD signifies the building of a comprehensive social environment that respects the dignity of each individual by redefining relations between the user, the designer and the producer. With the experience of a super-aged population ahead of other countries, Japan has the responsibility to build a model society safe and secure not just for an increasing number of seniors but for people with disabilities, children and expectant mothers, and ethnic groups who have different languages and diverse cultures. For this to happen, we absolutely must have designs that incorporate facility and diversity so as to ensure that no one due to age, gender or origin or lacking in skills and capacity will be unfairly excluded."

http://www.ud2010.net/outline/en_prospectus.html

<http://www.ud2010.net/index.en.html>

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