



THIS ISSUE

<i>VA-UF Rehab Day</i>	1
<i>IOM Appointee</i>	1
<i>Featured Investigator</i>	2
<i>Featured Research</i>	3
<i>Recent Publications</i>	4
<i>Staff News</i>	4

Upcoming Conferences

May 14-16, 2005
American Heart Association
6th Scientific Forum on Quality of Care and Research in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke
Washington, D.C.

June 26-28, 2005
Academy of Health
2005 Research Meeting
Boston, Massachusetts

August 5-10, 2005
Academy of Management
2005 Annual Meeting
Honolulu, Hawaii

October 21, 2005
Society for Medical Decision Making
2005 Annual Meeting
San Francisco, California

October 27-30, 2005
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
AAPMR 66th Assembly
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

November 5-9, 2005
American Public Health Association
Meeting: Evidence-Based Policy and Practice
New Orleans, Louisiana

REHABILITATION RESEARCH DAY A SUCCESS

On May 2, 2005, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the University of Florida and the Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies presented the second annual Rehabilitation Research Day at the MSB Auditorium on the University of Florida campus. The program ran from 8:30 am through noon. Douglas Barrett, MD, UF Vice-President for Health Affairs began the conference with his introductory remarks.



The new Director of the Institute on Aging, Marco Pahor, MD delivered the opening keynote address. Other speakers included RORC Director **Pamela W. Duncan, PhD**, Thomas Mulligan, MD from the VA Geriatrics Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) and the Division of Geriatrics, Leslie Gonzalez-Rothi, PhD, Program Director for the VA Brain Rehabilitation Research Center, Ann Horgas, RN, PhD, from the Department of Adult and Elderly Nursing, Kimford Meador MD, Department of Neurology and Clinical Alzheimer Program, Patricia Kricos, PhD, Center for Gerontological Studies and Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders and William Mann, PhD, Rehabilitation Engineering Center for Successful Aging and the National Older Driver Rehabilitation and Training Center.



In addition to the speaker line-up, a poster session was held in the Founders Gallery for attendees to view presentations from the behavioral and social sciences, rehabilitation outcomes, clinical rehabilitation and aging and basic research. The event was co-sponsored by numerous University and VA entities and brought researchers from across the campuses together as an interdisciplinary rehabilitation research community.



*Pictures courtesy of
The Brooks Center for
Rehabilitation Studies,
University of Florida*

DR. ELENA ANDRESEN APPOINTED TO IOM COMMITTEE

Elena Andresen, PhD, RORC investigator and Professor and Chief of the Epidemiology Division in the College of Public Health and Health Professions was invited to serve as a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Disability in America. The task for the committee is to review the new literature and developments since the 1991 IOM report *Disability in America* was published.

Our Web Site has Changed!

www.va.gov/oroc

FEATURED INVESTIGATOR

Elizabeth “Lisa” Hannold, PhD, is a Research Health Scientist at the RORC and serves as a Courtesy Lecturer with the Rehabilitation Counseling Department at the University of Florida’s College of Public Health and Health Professions. Dr. Hannold is a qualitative investigator with the RORC’s Focus 3 group, where her research has focused on the psychosocial impact of locomotor training (treadmill training with body weight support) on veterans with incomplete spinal cord injury.



Dr. Hannold has an MS degree in Counseling Psychology/Community Counseling from Gannon University (Erie, PA), and earned her PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences from the University of Florida in 2004. Dr. Hannold was a recipient of a 2002-2003 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Pre-Doctoral Associated Health Rehabilitation Research Fellowship. While a doctoral student, Dr. Hannold received a 2001 Graduate Student Teaching Award from the University of Florida’s Office of Research and Graduate Studies, and the 2003 John Muthard Research Award from the University of Florida’s College of Public Health and Health Professions, Department of Rehabilitation Counseling. As a former independent living center program manager, Dr. Hannold has 12 years of experience meeting the peer support, independent living skills, and rehabilitation-to-community transition needs of persons with physical disabilities. Dr. Hannold currently serves as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida, and is a member of the Citizen’s Disability Advisory Council for the City of Gainesville, Office of Equal Opportunity.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hannold, E., Young, M. E. (2001). Consumer perspectives on the revised code of professional ethics for rehabilitation counselors. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*, 32(4), 5-9.

Shaw, L.R, McMahon, B.T., Chan, F., & **Hannold, E.** (2004). Enhancement of the working alliance: A training program to align counselor and consumer expectations. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 20(2), 107-125.

DUNCAN APPOINTED TO STROKE COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

RORC Director, **Pamela W. Duncan**, PhD, FAPTA, has been recommended and invited to serve on the American Heart Association, Stroke Council's Leadership Committee as the Vice-Chairperson. Dr. Duncan will serve a two year term beginning July 1, 2005 and ending on June 30, 2007.

The Stroke Council is one of thirteen scientific councils within the larger umbrella of the American Heart Association. Its mission is to promote and support excellence in stroke research and education and to achieve the objectives of the American Stroke Association in stroke research, treatment and prevention. The American Stroke Association is a division of the American Heart Association.

American Heart Association Stroke Council members participate in a variety of activities at the national and local affiliate levels to support the association's mission "to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke." Dr. Duncan's appointment to this committee as the Vice-chairperson has two "firsts": she is the first non-MD to hold this office and the first woman nominated and invited to the post. As Vice-Chairperson, she will also serve as the Chair of the Budget Committee. The staff of the RORC congratulates Dr. Duncan on this prestigious appointment.

FEATURED RESEARCH

Effects of Locomotor Training on the Psychosocial Adaptation of Persons with Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury**

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth M. Hannold, PhD

Locomotor Training (LT), or treadmill training with body weight support, is an emerging rehabilitation therapy used to improve walking in persons with central nervous system (CNS) damage. The intervention involves providing manual assistance to a participant while he or she steps with body weight support on a treadmill. Despite the increasing scientific interest in LT, few studies have examined its impact from veterans'/participants' perspectives.

Dr. Hannold's study aim is to explore the effects of LT on the psychosocial adaptation of persons with incomplete spinal cord injury (I-SCI). Specific objectives include: to define and describe 1) participants' experiences of LT, 2) participant-therapist interactions during LT and 3) to explore the impact of these interactions from participants' perspectives. Understanding the experiences and benefits described by LT participants will better prepare clinicians to meet the comprehensive needs of persons undergoing the therapy, and contribute to the development of participant-centered treatment approaches and better outcome measures. The sample included 16 participants (13 males, 3 females) currently or formerly enrolled in an ongoing LT study. All participants completed 45 sessions of LT. Qualitative research methods were used for data collection and analyses. Data were obtained from 42 in-depth, participant interviews and 100+ observations of participant-therapist interactions during LT sessions.

Preliminary data analyses have revealed numerous findings related to participants' LT experiences and to the LT therapeutic process. Prevalent themes include experiences of the changing body, experiences of the cognitive and physical demands, and the role of empowerment in the therapeutic process. Participants identified many benefits of LT, including increased role participation, knowledge of ambulation, social support, hope, confidence and self-esteem. All participants preferred LT in comparison to conventional gait therapies.

** *Project funded by: VA OAA Pre-Doctoral Associated Health Rehabilitation Research Fellowship (September 1, 2002-August 31, 2003), Partial VA Post-Doctoral Fellowship (April 1, 2004-August 31, 2004), VA RR&D Rehabilitation Research Disability Supplement Award (September 1, 2004-Present), and VA Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center (RORC) (September 1, 2002-Present).*

REKER/HUBBARD TO INVESTIGATE WHEELCHAIR USE BY VETERANS WITH STROKE

Dean Reker, RN, PhD and Sandra Hubbard, OT, PhD recently received approval to conduct an RR&D investigator initiated project. The project has several aims: 1) To describe demographics, utilization, and functional gain of veterans who have had a stroke and received ADL and mobility-related devices (wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, canes, crutches, braces, bathing, toileting, dressing, and grooming devices) from the VHA, and 2) To compare the provision of VHA versus CMS ADL and mobility-related devices to veterans over 65 years of age who have had a stroke. To achieve the aims, the NPPD will be joined with the National Patient Care Database (NPCD) to explore variation in utilization by factors such as age, gender, race/ethnicity, and region (VISN). These analyses will be able to identify potential areas of over- or under-utilization. The NPPD will also be joined with the Functional Status Outcomes Database (FSOD) and the Decision Support System (DSS) cost extracts to explore functional and cost outcomes while controlling for case-mix. The purpose of these analyses will be primarily descriptive to guide future analyses rather than establishing definitive relationships. Finally, Medicare data on the cohort of stroke patients greater than 65 years will be joined to obtain a complete picture of ATD provision, costs, and utilization of services by veterans, and to understand how the two-payer system may complement one another, and at the same time identify potential duplication of services and equipment.

Information gained from this study will increase the efficiency of the prescription and provision of prosthetics to veterans with stroke by providing functional benefit in association with cost and provide utilization data for policy makers.

RORC MISSION

To enhance access, quality, and efficiency of rehabilitation services through interdisciplinary research and dissemination activities.

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RORC RECENT PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

[Beyth RJ](#): Patient self-management of anticoagulation: an idea whose time has come. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2005 Jan 4 ; 142(1): 73- 7.

[Braun UK](#); [Rabeneck L](#); [McCullough LB](#); [Urbauer DL](#); [Wray NP](#); [Lairson DR](#); [Beyth RJ](#): Decreasing use of percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube feeding for veterans with dementia-racial differences remain. *Journal of The American Geriatrics Society*, 2005 Feb ; 53(2): 242- 248.

[Burg M](#); [Uphold C](#); [Findley K](#); [Reid K](#): Complementary and alternative medicine use among HIV-infected patients attending three outpatient clinics in the Southeastern United States. *International Journal of STD & AIDS*, 2005 Feb 1 ; 16(2): 112- 116.

[Dolan T](#); [Chumbler N](#): Innovations in Telemedicine: The UFCD Tele-dentistry Grant. Annual Grantee Meeting of the Office for the Advancement of Tele-health, Health Resources and Services Administration, Arlington, VA 2005 Jan 12.

[Duncan PW](#); [Dejong G](#); [Hoenig H](#); [Vogel B](#): Length of stay, functional outcome, and mortality following medical rehabilitation. *JAMA : The Journal of The American Medical Association*, 2005 Jan 19 ; 293(3): 294- 295.

[Reker DM](#); [Reid K](#); [Duncan PW](#); [Marshall C](#); [Cowper D](#); [Stansbury J](#); [Warr-Wing KL](#): Development of an integrated stroke outcomes database within Veterans Health Administration. *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*, 2005 Jan ; 42(1): 77- 92.

[Stansbury JP](#); [Jia H](#); [Williams LS](#); [Vogel WB](#); [Duncan PW](#): Ethnic disparities in stroke: epidemiology, acute care, and post-acute outcomes. *Stroke; A Journal of Cerebral Circulation*, 2005 Feb 1 ; 36(2): 374- 386.

[Weber B](#); [Mills T](#); [Chumbler N](#): Strategies to improve recruitment and retention in clinical trials [Poster]. Annual Scientific Conference of the American Psycho-Oncology Society, Phoenix, AZ 2005 Jan 5.

STAFF NEWS

- ◆ [William Mkanta](#), a graduate student in the Department of Health Services Research and Policy Management , and an RA at the RORC, is the 2004-2005 recipient of the Sherri Aversa Memorial Foundation Dissertation Completion Award for his topic, "Correlates of Service Utilization among HIV Infected Veterans with Prolonged Survival Following the Use of HAART." Congratulations William!
- ◆ Dr. [Christopher Johnson](#), RORC investigator and Associate Professor at UF, is leaving Gainesville for a position at Texas A&M. The RORC staff wishes him all the best in his new position. We can even dial him into Focus 1 meetings anytime he wants!
- ◆ Kudos to [Helena Chapman](#) who received her Master's in Public Health from the University of Florida this term — She also published an article in the American Public Health Association student newsletter...way to go Helena!
- ◆ Congratulations to investigators [Maude Rittman](#), [Elena Andresen](#), [Neale Chumbler](#), and [Becca Beyth](#) for getting their QUERI LIPs funded!
- ◆ Love is in the air... congratulations to [Sonya Gallagher](#), [Gail Dale](#), and [Erica Nielsen](#) all of whom will be married this summer.
- ◆ [Jami Delli Fraine](#), RORC post-doctoral fellow, has accepted a faculty position at Penn State starting in the fall. We'll miss you Jami and good luck in your new position!
- ◆ Dr. [Connie Uphold](#) was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Association on HIV over Fifty.
- ◆ Dr. [Jim Stansbury](#) will be leaving us for one year to pursue an MPH at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Good Luck Jim!
- ◆ Congratulations to [Arlene Schmid](#) on her engagement to Richard... Aloha!
- ◆ Kudos to RORC's IT Specialist [Liddy Cope](#) for making Dean's List at Santa Fe Community College!