



## News for and about MICL Research Partners, Advisory Panel Members and Related Folks

Greetings! This newsletter supplements the regular research progress reports provided by partners in the **Research and Training Center on Measurement and Interdependence in Community Living (MICL)**. For the complete cast of characters, see the last page.

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### Grants

We're delighted to announce (again) that our work to increase community participation will continue in a newly funded NIDRR center: **The Research and Training Center on Community Living**. The staff for this new center includes disability researchers from the University of Kansas, the University of New Hampshire, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Montana. A Scientific and Consumer Advisory Panel will collaborate on the center. Please visit our fledgling [RTC/CL webpage](#) for more details.

NIDRR has also granted us a one-year extension to conclude projects in the MICL portfolio, which now runs until October 2012.

Congratulations to Dot Nary, PhD, on winning the Switzer Fellowship from NIDRR, which provides 12 months of funding for a research project. Fellowships are awarded to help the nation build disability and rehabilitation research capacity.

Dr. Nary's project is titled, "Is there really no place like home? An exploratory study of the impact of non-visitable homes on wheelchair users." This qualitative study will allow her to interview wheelchair users about their experiences in visiting the homes of family members, friends, etc. She will use the data to document barriers that limit the participation of people with disabilities in their communities. Her study may also support the "visitability" policy initiative, which proposes ordinances requiring that all new single family homes be built with accessibility features that allow wheelchair users and others with mobility-related disabilities to visit.

### In the News

Dr. Amanda Reichard's health disparities research was featured by the University of Kansas in an article titled ["Preventive care can boost results, shrink price tag of Kansas Medicaid."](#) The story was picked up on a national level by Kaiser Health News, an independent news organization that covers health care policy and

politics, and covered by numerous news organizations in Kansas and Missouri.

A short audio piece about her research titled “[Medicaid in Kansas](#)” is also on KU’s “Research Matters” website.

Reichard’s research on health disparities is also being disseminated by the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability. NCPAD has posted information about her finding on its website: [Examining Health Disparities among Adults with Disabilities and What It Means for Public Health](#).

## Service

Martha Hodgesmith, JD, has been invited to join the Kansas Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Advisory Board. As an advisor, she’ll help guide the agency in the process of implementing its vision and strategic plan.

## Publications

RTC graduate research assistant Ana Carolina Sella, PhD, and Maria Cristina Muller coauthored the lead article in the *Brazilian Journal of Special Education* (May-Aug. 2011) (The article is in Portuguese, but the abstract is in English.)

“[Is Habermas’s Discourse Ethics Possible for People with Disabilities?](#)” evaluates the applicability of Jurgen Habermas’s ideas to special education in Brazil. The authors conclude that his ideals of inclusion are good, but in practice exclude many people with disabilities since they require people to have the ability to articulately and rationally verbalize their arguments.

## International Work

Glen White, PhD, Kyung Mee Kim, PhD, and Chiaki Gonda Kotani, MA, are replicating R-5’s CIL staff survey research in South Korea and Japan. (See [R-5 on our website](#) for results from more than 420 American CIL staff members who have been surveyed.)

They are collaborating with national CIL organization directors in Japan and Korea to survey independent living center staff about the importance of and their satisfaction levels with various services that their organizations offer. The international research team hopes to have at least 200 participants in each country, with plans to release initial study results next spring.

## Presentations

Amanda Reichard, PhD, presented “Quality of Diabetes Care for Adults with Physical Disabilities” at the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference in Washington, D.C., held Oct. 29-Nov. 1. She also moderated the session “It All Adds Up: Overweight and Underactivity among Children with Special Health Care Needs.”

Dr. Reichard was invited to present information on “Disability – ADA Standards and Resources” at the Kansas Quality of Care Project Learning Workshop on Oct. 14, 2011. Due to her illness that day, Dot Nary, PhD, graciously presented in Reichard’s stead. Some 90 physicians and other clinicians from across Kansas attended the talk, representing primary care

clinics that are working to improve care for individuals with hypertension, hyperlipidemia and diabetes. [Disability resources for physicians and other healthcare providers](#) were distributed to the physicians and are now available on our website.

Reichard also presented “Using Research Findings for Advocacy” at NCIL’s annual conference in July. Thanks to our collaboration with Three Rivers CIL in Wamego, Kansas, Executive Director Audrey Shremmer-Phillip discussed the practitioner’s experience in this video: ["Using Research Findings for Advocacy."](#)

Dot Nary, PhD, moderated a Disability Section scientific session at the APHA annual meeting in Washington D.C., Oct. 29-Nov. 1. As Membership Chair of the Disability Section, she gave a presentation for new members and presented a Disability Section award.

Charles Drum, PhD, presented “Community Engagement: from Health Care to Community Living” at APRIL’s annual conference in October 2011 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Craig Raveslout, PhD, and Angela Weaver, MEd, both presented on peer support in a “Disability in Practice Webinar” sponsored by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities on Oct. 25. Raveslout discussed “Peer Support: A Pillar for Living Well with a Disability” and Weaver spoke about “Healthy Lifestyles for People with Disabilities: Making Opportunities for Healthy Lifestyles.” (PDF is available [online](#).)

Danielle Bailey, MPH, presented the “Community Engagement Initiative: A Topical Webinar” on August 3, 2011 for State Disability and Health Grantees who are funded by the CDC. The Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) hosted the call. She also discussed OHSU’s emergency preparedness work in AUCD’s “Disability in Practice Webinar: Emergency Preparedness” on Sept. 20.

David Gray, PhD, Jessica Dashner, OTD, and graduate student Lisa Garrett presented “Improving Community Receptivity by Advocacy - CHEC IT OUT and CHANGE IT” as an IL Conversation on Sept. 29, 2011. The ILRU sponsors these informative teleconferences and APRIL hosts them. The call is [archived on APRIL’s website](#).

Jamie Simpson, MS, our partner at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s Disability and Health Program, presented a poster at the American Psychological Association’s Inequity to Equity conference in Washington, D.C. in October. “Creating a Shared Vision for Decreasing Barriers to Healthcare for People with Disabilities” was coauthored by Simpson, Amanda Reichard, Lori Haskett and Ghazala Perveen, PhD.

## New Resources

We’ve added these resources to the MICL and RTC/IL websites. Special thanks to Audrey Shremmer-Phillip from Three Rivers CIL in Wamego, Kansas, for collaborating with us on the videos.

- Video: [Using Research Findings for Advocacy](#) – featuring Audrey-Schremmer Philip
- Powerpoint: [Using Research Findings for Advocacy](#) – by Amanda Reichard
- Video: [Living Well with a Disability: One CIL’s Success Story](#) – featuring Audrey

Schremmer-Philip

- Factsheets: [Disability Resources for Healthcare Providers](#)

**Who's who in the Research and Training Center on Measurement and Interdependence in Community Living (RTC/MICL).**

**University of Kansas Research and Training Center on Independent Living:**

Glen W. White, PhD, director, co-investigator  
Martha Hodgesmith, JD, associate director  
Amanda Reichard, PhD, research director  
Dot Nary, PhD, research associate  
Kyung Mee Kim, PhD, international visiting scholar  
Ana Carolina Sella, PhD, graduate research assistant  
Jeff Gordon, BS, graduate research assistant  
Catherine "Cat" Howland, MA, project coordinator  
Pam Willits, grants specialist  
Leslie Schmille, BS, project assistant  
Val Renault, MA, information/dissemination coordinator

**University of Montana Rural Institute on Disabilities:**

Tom Seekins, PhD, co-investigator  
Craig Ravesloot, PhD, research associate

**Oregon Health and Science University:**

Angela Weaver, MEd, project coordinator  
Charles Drum, PhD, JD, MPH, co-investigator (now at the University of New Hampshire)  
Willi Horner-Johnson, PhD, assistant professor  
Danielle Bailey, MPH, research assistant

**Washington University in St. Louis, School of Medicine:**

David Gray, PhD, co-investigator  
Holly Hollingsworth, PhD, statistician  
Jessica Dashner, OTD, OTR/L, research associate  
Denise Dickerson, BA, data manager

**U.S. Department of Education:**

David Keer, Program Specialist  
Co-chair, Interagency Subcommittee on Disability Statistics, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

**MICL Advisory Panel:**

Fabricio E. Balcazar, PhD  
Gwen Gillenwater  
Linda Gonzales, MA  
Robert Michaels  
Jean Ann Summers, PhD  
Betsy Valnes

We want your news! Send it to Val Renault, [vrenault@ku.edu](mailto:vrenault@ku.edu), 785-864-0575, [www.rtcil.org/micl](http://www.rtcil.org/micl).

