are common among these conditions; (2) determination of the comparative prevalence and incidence of specific medical conditions between persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities and the general population; (3) use of prevalence and incidence data to better understand risk factors for concomitant conditions; (4) promotion of surveillance, screening, and specific treatment protocols for health provision; (5) institution of a program of translationally collaborative research related to older-age associated conditions; and (5) dissemination of information related to aging and health to providers and people affected by these conditions.

Marks, B., Sisirak, J. (2008) Health services, health promotion, and health literacy: Report from the state of the science in aging with developmental disabilities conference. Disability and Health Journal, 1(3), 136-142. NARIC Accession Number: J55007. Project Number: H133B031134. Abstract: This article summarizes the proceedings of the Health Services, Health Promotion, and Health Literacy work group that was part of the “State of the Science in Aging with Developmental Disabilities” symposium. Participants aimed to identify unmet needs related to health and health care and to determine training, research, and policy needs addressing the demands for increasing health care services and resources, end-of-life and palliative care, and health literacy. Key issues addressed included: (1) major health-related disparities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD); (2) the impact of internal and external factors on health care services and resources, end-of-life and palliative care, and health literacy for adults with IDD; and (3) frameworks that can be used for understanding and promoting health care services and resources, end-of-life and palliative care, and health literacy. Group participants identified research and practice needs related to primary care, health promotion, disease prevention, illness care, end-of-life issues, and palliative care.

Auger, C., Demers, L. (2008) Powered mobility for middle-aged and older adults: Systematic review of outcomes and appraisal of published evidence. American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 87(8), 686-880. NARIC Accession Number: J55244. Project Number: H133A010401; H133A060062. Abstract: Article presents a systematic review and appraisal of studies examining the outcomes of power mobility devices for middle-aged and older adults. Articles were mapped to the Taxonomy of Assistive Technology Device Outcomes, which describes categories of impact of assistive devices in terms of effectiveness, social significance, and subjective well-being. The studies were appraised using the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation criteria. The review included 19 studies and identified 52 different categories of impacts of powered mobility devices. The coverage of outcome dimensions was not as extensive for adults aged 50 years and older as it was for mixed-age groups. Most of the research designs were assigned very low evidence grades. Three studies were low to moderate in quality of evidence, among one with a randomized trial.

More seniors are going online to find health information. The National Institutes of Health Senior Health website features a trainer toolkit for information professionals to teach these senior surfers how to find quality, reliable information on their own. The free kit is available at nihseniorhealth.gov/toolkit/toolkit.html.
psychometric properties of instruments used in disability research, as well as to develop better measures of depression, fatigue, participation, and pain; (3) tests the efficacy of two innovative interventions that enhance the health and participation in these populations, using remote monitoring of activity levels and a pilot intervention featuring remote prompting to enhance self-management of activity patterns; (4) enhances understanding of the experiences of individuals aging with SCI, MS, PPS, and MD in the workplace and with vocational rehabilitation and employment services through secondary data analysis and qualitative interviews; and (5) disseminates the findings from the research projects in an effective and efficient manner to individuals with disabilities, their family members, and their health care providers.

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Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Successful Aging with Disability: Optimizing Participation Through Technology (OPTT-RERC) University of Southern California (H133E080024) led by Carolee J. Winston, PhD, PT (USC); Philip Requejo, PhD (Rancho Los Amigos). Margaret Campbell, PhD, Project Officer. Abstract: The goal of this project is to enhance the lives of individuals aging with and into disability through: (1) development and delivery of cutting-edge technologies for identification, evaluation, and rehabilitation of motor processes that facilitate or impede functional performance, employment, and community participation for the intended beneficiaries; (2) employment of state-of-the-art data management, dissemination, and performance evaluation techniques to ensure that the knowledge and products emergent from the RERC are accessible for all intended beneficiaries; (3) assembly of a multidisciplinary team of experts in clinical rehabilitation, engineering, and gerontology, along with a select group of technology partners, and disability advocates to ensure that OPTT- RERC’s short- and long-term outcome goals are successfully implemented; and (4) alignment of the clinical and technological strengths of several area programs into an integrated infrastructure to provide training opportunities for future rehabilitation researchers. The Dexterous Manipulation with the Fingertips Project evaluates a clinically useful metric and rehabilitation strategy for dynamic multifinger dexterity develops a home-use gaming system to promote retention and improvement of dexterous manipulation via immersion technologies. The Virtual Reality (VR) and Gaming for Home-Based Motor Assessment and Training Project develops low cost, home-based VR toolkits (VRT) for motor assessment and rehabilitation and investigates the efficacy of the VRT games for use in both the clinic setting and the home for individuals aging with and into disability. The Optimizing Mobility in the Home and Community for Manual Wheelchair Users Project identifies optimal transfer and lifting mechanics to preserve the shoulder complex and uses VRT games into disability. The Optimizing Mobility in the Home and Community for Manual Wheelchair Users Project identifies optimal transfer and lifting mechanics to preserve the shoulder complex and uses VRT games to enhance the health and participation in these populations, using remote monitoring of activity levels and a pilot intervention featuring remote prompting to enhance self-management of activity patterns. The Virtual Reality (VR) and Gaming for Home-Based Motor Assessment and Training Project develops low cost, home-based VR toolkits (VRT) for motor assessment and rehabilitation and investigates the efficacy of the VRT games for use in both the clinic setting and the home for individuals aging with and into disability.

Longitudinal Studies. This database includes longitudinal studies, data sets, and repositories. It spans all age groups. The database is fully searchable at www.nia.nih.gov/ResearchInformation/ScientificResources/LongitudinalStudies.htm

National Institute on Aging

Current Literature  - Selections from REHABDATA

Vogel, C. (2008) The live well collaborative: A new model for universities and companies to work together to meet the needs of 50+ consumers. Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation, 15(2), 103-108. NARIC Accession Number: J54325, Project Number: H133B031127. Abstract: Article discusses how consumers aged 50 years and older are affecting the process of designing and marketing new technology. The “baby boomers” lifestyle has created new opportunities for universities and companies to work together to meet the needs of aging consumers. The author proposes the development of a consortium that will coordinate university resources in design, engineering, business, and medical research with corporate research and development and marketing and design.

Mann, W., Johnson, J. (2008) Changes in impairment level, functional status, and use of assistive devices by older people with depressive symptoms. American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT), 62(1), 9-17. NARIC Accession Number: J54492, Project Number: H133E010106. Abstract: Study examined how functional status, impairment level, and use of assistive devices changed over 3 years for 73 older adults with depressive symptoms. During the study period, participants experienced increased physical disability, a decline in severity of depressive symptoms, and an increase in the total number of assistive devices owned. The findings suggest that a significant number of older adults experience a reduction in depressive symptoms, despite an increase in physical disability. In addition, older adults with depressive symptoms acquire more assistive devices as they age.

Breed, S., Sacks, A. (2008) Cognitive functioning among individuals with traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer’s disease, and no cognitive impairments. Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, 23(3), 149-157. NARIC Accession Number: J54519, Project Number: H133A020501; H133P050004. Abstract: Study compared cognitive functioning in older adults with traumatic brain injury (TBI), Alzheimer’s disease (AD), and no neurological disorder. Cognitive performance was assessed by a battery of neuropsychological tests including measures of memory, executive function, attention, and verbal ability. Results showed that older adults with AD and TBI had lower scores in most areas of cognitive functioning examined than did those with no neurological disorder. Individuals with TBI were better able to learn and retain new information than were individuals with AD.

Janicki, M., Henderson, C. (2008) Neurodevelopmental conditions and aging: Report on the Atlanta study group charrette on neurodevelopmental conditions and aging. Disability and Health Journal, 1(2), 116-124. NARIC Accession Number: J55004, Project Number: H133B031134. Abstract: Article provides a summary of the proceedings of the Neurodevelopmental Conditions Study Group charrette held on May 21-22, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia. The aim of the charrette was to examine the existing knowledge on aging-related long-term effects and interactions of a number of neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, spina bifida, and Williams syndrome. Participants noted that although there is some published information regarding lifespan changes with these disorders, especially cerebral palsy and Down syndrome, there is a lack of confirming evidence for most of these conditions. It was concluded that additional evidence-based research and investigatory clinical work are needed to examine the long-term effects of maturation and aging on adults with these conditions. Primary recommendations included: (1) a call for more work toward the identification and description of the presentations and courses of age-related medical disorders that