

Community Integration of  
Persons with Traumatic  
Brain Injury

State of the  
Science  
2007

April 12-13, 2007

The Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City  
Arlington, Virginia



Sponsored by:

A grant from the National Institute on  
Disability and Rehabilitation Research,  
U.S. Department of Education for the  
RRTC on Community Integration of  
Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury at  
Memorial Hermann|TIRR

Conference  
Highlights

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Community Integration of Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury was awarded to researchers at Memorial Hermann|TIRR and Baylor College of Medicine by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research on November 1, 2003. The Center's mission emphasizes underserved populations and understudied areas of community integration.

This state of the science conference aims to address several key areas of the Center's mission, which are outlined here:

- That all those affected by Traumatic Brain Injury, including traditionally under-served populations, have access to information, resources, and services that maximize participation in their communities and **that treating professionals have the necessary information to meet the needs of persons with TBI**
- **That all areas of community integration, including traditionally under-emphasized areas such as friendship, intimacy, and creative expression, be addressed**
- That attitudinal barriers to community integration of persons with TBI be reduced
- **That new types of partnerships, such as those with the larger disability community, be established in order to empower persons with TBI to have a voice in creating community services and networks to facilitate maximal community participation.**

Therefore, this conference will discuss core areas of community integration that have been the focus of much research and intervention attempts such as

facilitating employment and educational outcomes. However, we will also focus on many other topics that have received relatively less attention, but are considered to be important to a sense of belonging to a community. Topics such as parenting, intimacy, spirituality, friendships, and finding meaning in life are just a few of those understudied areas.

Since many of these topics have not been well-addressed in the TBI literature to date, the goal of the conference is to pair experts in TBI with experts on these topics from other disability areas to work toward plans for implementing models and solutions that would work for persons with TBI.

In addition to presentations by our expert panels, our goal for this conference is to also elicit audience involvement in attempting to generate ways in which various models and programs can be applied to facilitate community integration for those with TBI. Roundtable discussions will follow each group of topics, and we invite audience members to select and join the roundtable with which they would like to participate.

It is our hope that the results of this conference will help set a research agenda and lead to new knowledge and partnerships that can begin to solve problems in these life areas that are so important for persons with TBI.

RRTC on Community Integration  
of Persons with TBI

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## Community Integration and TBI: What is the State of our Science?

Community integration has been defined as “the assumption or resumption of culturally and developmentally appropriate social roles following disability.”<sup>1</sup> Such roles include productive activity “work,” involvement in personal relationships “love,” as well as creativity and leisure activities “play.”<sup>2</sup>

Persons with TBI often emphasize the importance of having meaningful relationships as a vital part of feeling part of a community,<sup>1,3-4</sup> however the majority of post-acute rehabilitation and community rehabilitation programs have been aimed primarily at productive activity and independent living outcomes.<sup>5-7</sup> This conference aims to address a wide range of topics considered to be important for community integration, as successful community integration is viewed as “active participation in a broad range of community involvements.”<sup>8</sup> In addition, an emphasis has been placed on cultural perspectives and on the importance of finding meaning as part of community integration.

<sup>1</sup> Corrigan JD. Community integration following traumatic brain injury. *NeuroRehabilitation* 1994; 4: 109-121.  
<sup>2</sup> Prigatano GP. Work, love, and play after brain injury. *Bulletin of the Meninger Clinic* 1989; 53: 414-431.  
<sup>3</sup> Jacobs HE. The Los Angeles Head Injury Survey: Project rationale and design implications. *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation* 1987; 2: 37-50.  
<sup>4</sup> Wagner MT, Williams JM, Long CI. The role of social networks in recovery from head trauma. *International Journal of Clinical Neuropsychology* 1990; XIII(3-4): 133-137.  
<sup>5</sup> Ben-Yishay Y, Silver SM, Pisetsky E, Rattok J. Relationship between employability and vocational outcome after intensive holistic cognitive rehabilitation. *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation* 1987; 2: 35-48.  
<sup>6</sup> Wehman P, Kreutzer JS (Eds.). *Vocational Rehabilitation for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury*. Rockville: Aspen Publishers, Inc.; 1990.  
<sup>7</sup> Malec JF, Smigielski JS, DePompolo RW, Thompson JM. Outcome evaluation and prediction in a comprehensive-integrated post-acute outpatient brain injury rehabilitation programme. *Brain Injury* 1993; 7: 15-29.  
<sup>8</sup> Willer B & Corrigan JD. Whatever it takes: a model for community-based services. *Brain Injury* 1994; 8: 647-659.



**ACRM BI-ISIG  
Midyear Meeting  
will immediately follow  
the State of the Science conference.  
Plan on attending both events!!!!**

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*Thursday, April 12, 2007*

7:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast  
 7:45am Welcome and Introductions

### Community Integration: Productivity/Access

*Discussant: Mark Sherer, Ph.D., ABPP-CN*

8:00-8:45 **Employment**  
 Robert Fraser, Ph.D.  
 Paul Wehman, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

8:45-9:30 **Education**  
 Roberta DePompei, Ph.D.  
 Lorraine Wolf, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

9:30-10:00 **Break — View Posters**

10:00-10:45 **Transportation**  
 Lisa Rapport, Ph.D.  
 Tom Seekins, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

10:45-11:30 **Cultural Issues**  
 Juan Arango, Ph.D.  
 Fabricio Balcazar, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

11:30-12:30 **Roundtable Discussions:  
Productivity/Access**

12:30-1:30pm **Lunch Provided —View Posters**

**Community Integration: Relationships**  
*Discussant: Mitchell Rosenthal, Ph.D., ABPP-Rp*

1:30-2:15 **Parenting**  
 Mary Hibbard, Ph.D., ABPP  
 Megan Kirshbaum, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

2:15-3:00 **Friendships**  
 Margaret A. Struchen, Ph.D.  
 Steve Nowicki, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

3:00-3:30 **Break—View Posters**

3:30-4:15 **Intimacy**  
 Angelle M. Sander, Ph.D.  
 Stanley Ducharme, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

4:15-5:00 **Recreation**  
 Tami Guerrier, B.S., C.T.R.S.  
 Stuart Schleien, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

5:00-6:00 **Roundtable Discussions:  
Relationships**

6:00-6:15 **Wrap-up Day One — Adjourn**

*Friday, April 13, 2007*

7:00am Continental Breakfast  
 7:45am Introductions

### Community Integration: Finding Meaning

*Discussant: Sunil Kothari, M.D.*

8:00-8:45 **Meaning in Life**  
 George Prigatano, Ph.D.  
 Gary Reker, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

8:45-9:30 **Spirituality**  
 William Gaventa, M.Div.  
 Ellen Idler, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

9:30-10:00 **Break**

10:00-10:45 **Social Action Networking**  
 Judy Panko Reis, M.A., M.S.  
 Joy Hammel, Ph.D.  
 Panel Discussion

10:45-11:45 **Roundtable Discussions:  
Finding Meaning**

11:45-12:30 **Wrap-up — Adjourn**

ACRM BI-ISIG Midyear Meeting begins at 1:30 PM

## Community Integration of Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury

Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check if you will require an accommodation to participate fully in the program.

The conference rate for the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City is \$239 per night for reservations made **prior to March 11, 2007**. After that date, the rate will be based on space availability. Make your hotel reservations by contacting the hotel directly at 703-415-5000 and requesting the group rate for the “TBI Community Conference.”

**Conference Registration Fee: \$135**  
**Registration Deadline: March 23, 2007**

Make checks payable to **Memorial Hermann | TIRR**

Mail completed registration form and check **before March 23, 2007**, to:

Division of Education  
 Memorial Hermann|TIRR  
 1333 Moursund, E-102  
 Houston, TX 77030-3405

For additional information, contact:

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