

Contents:

1. "Development and evaluation of an ICF-based patient education for stroke patients".....	2	8. ICF Core Sets for Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	7
2. The ICF as reference for the evaluation of intervention studies in dementia	2	9. ICF Core Sets for Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)	8
3. ICF E-Learning Tool.....	3	10. ICF Core Sets for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).....	8
4. Multidisciplinary Research Network on Health and Disability in Europe (MURINET).....	3	11. The use of the ICF Core Sets for medical reports of the German national pension insurance of patients suffering LBP and CWP.....	9
5. ICF Core Sets for Bipolar Disorders.....	4	12. Validation of the ICF Core Sets for 12 chronic conditions from the perspective of health professionals.....	9
6. ICF Core Sets for Hand Conditions.....	5	13. ICF Workshops.....	10
7. ICF Core Sets for Head and Neck Cancer (HNC).....	6	Appendix I: Publications.....	11



Dear Partners and Friends,

The year is coming to an end and we would like take this opportunity to send you all warm greetings for the season and our sincere thanks for your collaboration.

During the last months, the ICF Research Branch had launched a couple of new projects, short reports on them are contained at the beginning of this issue.

This newsletter provides updates on all other ongoing projects and a report on the ICF Core Sets Workshop. A list with all new publications is contained on the appendix I.

All best wishes for the end of the year and a good start into 2009,

Your ICF Research Branch Team

1. "Development and evaluation of an ICF-based patient education for stroke patients"

Carla Sabariego (Germany)

We are happy to inform you that the project "Development and evaluation of an ICF-based patient education program for stroke patients", which was granted by the German Ministry for Education and Science (BMBF), begun in April 2008. The objective of this project is to develop and evaluate an ICF-based patient education program for stroke patients attending an inpatient or day care rehabilitation facility in Germany. The education program intends to increase patients' understanding of the determinants of their own level of functioning, to enhance their self-efficacy and hence to improve their skills in fulfilling everyday life responsibilities after rehabilitation. It is multicentre randomized controlled intervention study which evaluates the effects of the patient education in the intervention group in comparison to the control group at two time points: at discharge from the rehab hospital and 6 months after discharge. The education program optimally supports the discharge management at the end of the stay in a rehabilitation hospital and allows the patient to reflect the total course of rehabilitation.



Figure 1: Project team: from left to right: Alarcos Cieza, Silvia Neubert, Carla Sabariego and Marita Stier-Jamer.

A pre-test aiming the study of the feasibility, acceptability and practicability of the ICF-based patient education intervention as well as of the control group was performed in August 2008 in two rehabilitation centres including a total of 14 stroke patients. Participants evaluated both interventions positively. The manual of the intervention is being developed considering lessons learned in the pre-test. A publication about the development of the ICF-based patient education and the results of the pre-test is in preparation.

We have so far recruited five cooperation clinics in the region of Bavaria and started in November with the recruitment of patients and the implementation of the ICF-based patient education program. At this point, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all

cooperation clinics for their engagement: : Clinic Herzogenaurach (Dr. Schupp), Rehabilitation Centre Nittenau (Prof. Henze), Medical Park Loipl (Prof. Sander), Clinic Kipfenberg (Dr. Wiederer) and Rehabilitation Centre Isarwinkel (Silvia Ulze).

If you require further information about the project, please do not hesitate to contact Carla Sabariego, leader of the project. (Carla.Sabariego@med.uni-muenchen.de).

2. The ICF as reference for the evaluation of intervention studies in dementia (ICF - Effect)

Elisabeth Linseisen and Eva Esteban (Germany)

The project named "The ICF as reference for the evaluation of intervention studies in dementia – ICF-effect" began in summer 2008.

The ICF-Effect is a cooperation project between the Department of Primary Medical Care at the University Medical Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf and our ICF Research Branch. It is funded by the Federal Ministry of Health within the national program "Leuchtturmprojekt Demenz".



The aim of this study is to analyze to what extent new instruments are necessary to detect patients' and caregivers' relevant endpoints in intervention studies regarding persons with dementia of the Alzheimer's type (PwADT). In order to reach this goal the following steps have been taken or are planned:

Systematic Literature Review

The databases Medline, Embase, Psycinfo, Cinahl and Pedro have been searched to identify pharmacological and non-pharmacological intervention studies published in the last 10 years. The about 10,000 references found are being screened for inclusion according to predefined criteria.

Personal Interviews

Up to 20 semi-structured face-to-face interviews will be performed with PwDAT in the first stage of the disease. Up to 60 primary caregivers of PwDAT in the first and advanced stages of the disease will also be interviewed. The recruitment phase has just started. Geriatric clinics, patient and primary caregiver associations along with other institutions are being contacted.

Linking into the ICF

Goals and outcome measures of intervention studies identified in the literature review as well as problems and challenges experienced by PwDAT and caregivers of PwDAT identified in the personal interviews will be linked into the ICF and compared.



Figure 2: Project team, from left to right: Heinrich Gall, Elisabeth Linseisen, Alarcos Cieza and Eva Esteban.

The results of this comparison will be presented in a database of the ICF Research Branch website.

The project coordinators in Munich are Elisabeth Linseisen and Eva Esteban and the coordinator in Hamburg is Anke Beckmann. For further information please contact Elisabeth.Linseisen@med.uni-muenchen.de or Eva.Esteban@med.uni-muenchen.de

3. ICF E-Learning Tool

Alicia Garza (Germany)

A project to develop an E-Learning course on the ICF was launched on September 2008. The project is spearheaded by the CAT Group at the World Health Organization, the ICF Research Branch of the German WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre based at Swiss Paraplegic Research (SPR) and Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU), Munich in collaboration with the Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for the Family of International Classifications.



ICF research branch

The aim of the ICF E-Learning Tool is to provide a standardized interactive training of the ICF available all over the world.

The ICF E-Learning Tool will comprise three courses, namely basic, advanced and master course.

The *basic course* aims to raise general interest and awareness of the necessity to understand and describe functioning and disability and to improve knowledge and understanding of the ICF, its model, components and structure.

The *advance course's* objectives are: to improve knowledge and ability to document and code using the ICF, to teach how to select codes and use ICF Qualifiers for describing functioning using the ICF and to improve knowledge about the ICF based assessment instruments (e.g. ICF Checklist, ICF Core Sets, the WHODAS II).

The aims of the *master course* are: to improve the understanding and competency on how to use the ICF in specific application areas such as health and disability statistics, clinical assessment, disability certification etc..

Within the scope of this endeavour, a pilot module of the *basic course* was presented as an "ICF Self-Learning Presentation" at the "ICF Training Workshop in Turkey" held between the 26th and 30th of November in Antalya.

This workshop was organized by the Turkish Prime Ministry Administration, Office for Disabled People and the World Health Organization and its main goal was to introduce and train the attendants on the ICF in the context of reforming the disability certification process and related assessment procedures in Turkey.

Dr. T. Bedirhan Üstün and Nenad Kostanjsek from the WHO, Dr. Andrea Martinuzzi from Italy and Dr. Alarcos Cieza were invited to hold ICF talks.



Figure 3: ICF Workshop Antalya. From left to right: Andrea Martinuzzi, Alicia Garza, Nenad Kostanjsek and Berdihan Üstün.

The workshop was attended by forty-six participants working in different health and health related sectors like administration, statistics, clinical and social work. The participants were asked to fill in an evaluation form on the "ICF Self-Learning Presentation". The results on the evaluation form showed that the content and methodology of the *basic course* are ready to be implemented in an e-learning tool.

For further information, please contact: Alicia.Garza@med.uni-muenchen.de

4. Multidisciplinary Research Network on Health and Disability in Europe (MURINET) Project

Nora Fayed (Germany)

Two fellows from the project Multidisciplinary Research Network on Health and Disability in Europe (MURINET) have joined our ICF Research Branch team over the last six months and their projects are currently underway. Nora Fayed, arrived from Canada in April of 2008 on sojourn from her PhD in Rehabilitation Science. Her studies in health and quality of life in children with epilepsy led to an interest in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). MURINET



Nora Fayed



Cristina Bostan

Figure 4: MURINET fellows at LMU

Fellow, Cristina Bostan is a statistician from Romania who began her work at the Institute for Health and Rehabilitation Science in Munich in September of 2008. Cristina has four years of experience as a statistics educator and a statistician in the private sector. She has assumed projects in longitudinal data analysis and methods for structuring ICF-linked data analyses.

Revised Linking Rules

Nora Fayed has been working on methodologies for linking health and health-related information to the ICF and the ICF-CY. She hopes that this project will have an effect on the manner in which researchers link written text from documents such as self-report measures to the ICF. The project will focus on developing the guidelines by revising linking rules published by Cieza et al. in 2005 that are currently in pervasive use. Nora Fayed hopes that the revised guidelines will benefit all researchers using the ICF in addition to members of the MURINET network by making linking procedures more explicit and transparent.

In conjunction with revision of the linking rules, Cristina Bostan will work on determining methods of analysing ICF-linked data analysis using multiple-linkers. She will also determine the best methods for organizing and arranging ICF linked data. Her methods of data analysis will be tested in real-time at the Murinet Training Workshop from January 22 to 25, 2009.

Linking to the ICF-CY Feasibility Study

This study is occurring in two phases. The first systematic review phase has identified functioning, disability, health and quality of life self-report measures that are available for children and adolescents in the peer-reviewed literature.

The second phase of the study will determine to what extent the revised linking rules apply to childhood health and health-related information. Many of the self-report outcome measures identified in phase one will be linked to the ICF-CY and any special revisions required for childhood content will be revised and published for use by those who complete their work in this area.

Murinet Training Workshop

All MURINET fellows as well as all further interested colleagues are invited to a MURINET training course at the WHO-ICF Research Branch at the Institute for Health and Rehabilitation Sciences of Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich from Thursday January 22nd to Saturday January 24th, 2009. This is a complementary two and a half days MURINET training course which will be devoted to the development of systematic literature searches and reviews as well as skill development in relation to linking health information to the ICF. Should you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact Nora Fayed: nora.fayed@med.uni-muenchen.de.

Data Analysis

Cristina Bostan is performing statistical analyses using data collected in studies which have used the ICF, such as the European Coordination Action MHADIE "Measuring Health and Disability in Europe: supporting policy development". She will develop models that allow the study of changes in the level of functioning and disability over time. Cristina Bostan will first identify the best analytical method using data from patients with musculoskeletal conditions before extending the models and analyses to patients with other health conditions.

5. ICF Core Sets for Bipolar Disorders

Carolina C. Ávila (Spain)



Figure 5: Universidad Autonoma, Madrid.

We are happy to report our recent progresses in developing the ICF Core Sets for Bipolar Disorders, a collaboration project among the Autonoma University in Madrid, Spain, the ICF Research

Branch and the Bipolar Disorder Program of the Institute for Neurosciences at the Hospital Clinic from the Barcelona University, Spain.

Answers from about 70 health professionals have been collected for the **Expert Survey**. We expect to start the data analysis soon. Regarding the **Empirical Studies**, ICF-based data on patients with bipolar disorder is being collected at the Hospital Clinic in Barcelona (Prof. Vieta) and the Hospital Universitario de la Princesa in Madrid (Prof. Ayuso-Mateos). **Interviews** with patients are also being conducted at the same hospital in Madrid.

The parameters contained in studies included in the **Systematic Literature Review** have been retrieved and linked to the ICF according to the linking rules. Statistical analyses are now in process and we expect to report the results soon.



Figure 6: Team members Madrid: Back row from left to right: Roberto Nuevo and José Luis Ayuso. Front row, from left to right: Marta Miret, Maria Cabello and Carolina Avila.

For further information, please contact: carolina.avila@uam.es.

6. ICF Core Sets for Hand Conditions

Sandra Kus (Germany), Michaela Coenen (Germany)

The project "Development of ICF Core Sets for Hand Conditions" is a cooperative effort of the German Social Accident Insurance "Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung" (DGUV), the Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention in the Health and Welfare Services (BGW) and the ICF Research Branch.



Figure 7: Team members: left to right: Michaela Coenen, Gertrud Müller, Silvia Neubert and Markus Faulhaber.

We are currently in the phase 1 of the project, conducting four different preparatory studies:

Systematic review

An electronic search was conducted in MEDLINE®, PsycINFO®, EMBASE, CINAHL and PEDRO databases for articles on hand conditions that have been published between 1998 and 2008. The abstracts of all the retrieved articles were screened for inclusion according to a priori defined eligibility criteria. Up to now 444 articles of 2782 randomly selected abstracts fulfilled the predefined eligibility criteria. The next steps will be to extract the parameters reported in the finally included full-text articles. Within the next weeks the identified parameters will be linked to ICF categories.

Qualitative study

To reflect the patient's perspective, eight focus groups (45 participants) were conducted at the following study centres:

- Department of Hand Surgery, Plastic- and Microsurgery, Burns Unit Hospital of Workmens Compensation Hamburg (BUKH), Germany
- Department of Hand, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Burn Center, BG-Unfallklinik, (BGU) Tübingen, Germany
- Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Burn Surgery, Hand Surgery, BG-Kliniken Bergmannstrost / Halle a.d. Saale, Germany
- Department of Hand, Replantation, and Microsurgery, Unfallkrankenhaus Berlin (UKB)

The data analysis is in process.

Expert survey

The expert survey is performed as an internet survey to collect information from the expert's perspective. The opinion of physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, nurses, psychologists, and social workers is gathered. Initially, an expert pool of 454 health professionals was identified. A stratified sample of 194 potential participants was drawn considering the criteria health profession and WHO world region. The survey started the 29th of November. Up to now more than 100 experts completed the survey. Within the next weeks the expert's statements will be linked to ICF categories.

Cross-sectional empirical study

Two hundred patients will be included in the empirical study. The study is performed at the previously mentioned study centres. Currently data of 12 patients has been collected.

ICF Consensus Conference

The International ICF Core Set Consensus Conference will be held at the Guido A. Zäch Institute in Nottwil, (Switzerland) from May 7th to 9th, 2009. Following a multi-stage decision process, 21 selected experts will agree on the ICF categories to be included in the ICF Core Sets for Hand Conditions.

For further information please contact Dr. Michaela Coenen: Michaela.Coenen@med.un-muenchen.de or Sandra Kus: Sandra.Kus@med.uni-muenchen.de

7. ICF Core Sets for Head and Neck Cancer (HNC)

Dr. Uta Tschiesner M.D. (Germany)

Validation Phase

The first version of the ICF Core Sets for HNC was agreed on at the international ICF consensus conference in Nottwil, Switzerland in November 2007.

Since January 2008, the Brief and the Comprehensive ICF Core sets for HNC are presently being tested in a multi-center study at 14 different study centers in 11 countries. Elisabeth Linseisen is responsible for the coordination of the different study centers during the validation phase.

About 260 patient datasets were sent to our department at Munich University (Germany) and were combined into a central database. Analyses have nearly finished and the results will be published in 2009.

The data collection process was a great effort of many study centers. We owe special thanks to

- Dr. S. Baumann (Germany; Universität Saarland),
- Mrs. K. Becker-Bikowski (Germany; Universität Heidelberg),
- Mrs. N. Blanco-Pinero, Dr. S. Sanchez-Gomez and Dr. T. Herrero (Spain; Virgen Macarena Hospital, University of Seville)
- Prof. V. Bonkowksy and Dr. V. Krutsch (Germany, Klinikum Nürnberg),
- Dr. P. Erenthal (Israel; Kaplan Medical Center)
- Mrs. E. Heitmann and Dr. E. Carrara (Brazil, Hospital A.C. Camargo)
- Prof. A. Maiya (India, Manipal University);
- Mrs. M. Nutt (Australia, ACT Health),
- Prof. Papatthaniou and his team (Greece, Technological Educational Institute of Patras)
- Prof. K. Park, Prof. Yeon Hee Park and their team (South Korea, Samsung Medical Center),
- Prof. S. Rogers, Mrs. S. Forgie and Mrs. S. Pringle (UK, Aintree University Hospitals Liverpool),
- Prof. Rogowski and Dr. M. Chlabicz and (Poland, University Bialystok)

- Mrs. L. Schuster (Germany, University of Munich)
- Prof. Dr. R. Walvekar (USA, New Orleans)

The ICF Core Sets for HNC have been developed not only from an international perspective, but also for the multi-disciplinary approach in head and neck cancer, in order to identify which ICF categories within the Core Sets can be assessed by which health profession, further validation studies are being performed applying the Delphi-methodology.

At this point the following Delphi studies are underway:

- Speech- and language- therapists (presently in 3rd round, contact: Silke Sczecinna)
- Psycho-oncologists (finished, contact: Sven Becker)
- physicians (1st round finished, contact: Andreas Leib)



Uta Tschiesner



Elisabeth Linseisen



Sven Becker



Andreas Leib

Figure 8: HNC Team

Presentations & Publications

The project and the methodology being used have been presented at the following congresses:

German Otorhinolaryngol. Conference, Bonn, Germany, Mai 2008: Becker S, Tschiesner U., Cieza A., Berghaus A.: Identifikation relevanter Probleme der Funktionsfähigkeit von Patienten mit Kopf-Hals Tumoren aus Expertensicht – eine Internetbasierte Umfrage

German Otorhinolaryngol. Conference, Bonn, Germany, Mai 2008: Tschiesner U., Becker S., Cieza A, Berghaus A.,

Harreus U.: Multizenterstudie zur Erfassung von Lebensqualität bei Patienten mit Kopf Hals Tumoren

7th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, San Francisco, USA, Juli 2007: AHNS Panel: Functional outcome in Head & Neck Cancer- Fixing Shortfalls in Data Collection, A Worldwide, Evidence-Based Approach Chen, A., Rogers, SN, Funk, G., Tschiesner U., Yueh B

The publications regarding this project are listed at the appendix I of this newsletter.

We would like to thank everybody, who has been involved in the development and validation process for ICF Core sets for HNC over the last years for his / her commitment and enthusiasm.



Marta Renom Guiteras



Andreas Leib

Figure 9: MS Validation Team

8. ICF Core Sets for Multiple Sclerosis

Michaela Coenen (Germany)

Validation of ICF Core Sets for MS

To come forward with the validation of the *ICF Core Sets for Multiple Sclerosis (MS)* from the perspective of health professionals several Delphi studies are performed (overview see table 1). The main question is whether the interventions applied to patients with MS by different health professionals and the intervention-related effects on the patients' functioning and well-being are represented in the ICF categories selected for the ICF Core Sets for MS. It is a pleasure to us to cooperate with Marta Renom Guiteras from Barcelona (Day hospital for MS & Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau; Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation); she supports our team regarding the validation of the ICF Core Sets from the perspective of speech and language therapists. We are also extremely happy with Stefanie Eiermann, Philippa Bringewatt und Henriette Schmalz from the University of Applied Sciences Idstein who performed the linking of the statements of Physical and Occupational Therapists.

Health profession	Participants	Status
<i>Coordinated by</i>		
Physicians <i>Stephanie Berno</i>	N=99	2 nd round completed
Physical therapists <i>Andrea Wiedenmann-Conrad</i>	N=91	2 nd round in process
Occupational therapists <i>Andrea Wiedenmann-Conrad</i>	N=82	1 st round completed
Psychologists <i>Michaela Coenen</i>	N=52	2 nd round completed
Nurses <i>Michaela Coenen</i>	N=47	2 nd round completed
Speech and language <i>Andrea Wiedenmann-Conrad;</i> <i>Marta Renom Guiteras</i>	N=99	recruitment phase

Table 1: Overview MS Delphi studies



Michaela Coenen



Andrea Wiedenmann-Conrad

Linking Workshop

A training workshop with health professionals and researchers involved in the projects "The use of the ICF Core Sets for the appraisal of patients suffering low back pain and chronic widespread pain" and "Validation of ICF Core Sets for Multiple Sclerosis" took place on July 30th and 31st 2008 at the ICF Research Branch. The contents of the two-day workshop were: 1) an introduction into the ICF, 2) general information on the process for the Development of the ICF Core Sets and 3) detailed information on linking procedure. The workshop was performed by Michaela Coenen and Andrea Wiedenmann-Conrad.



Figure 9: Participants of the Linking workshop in Munich, 30th and 31st July 2008

Back row from left to right: Kathrin Ecker, Andrea Wiedenmann, Stephanie Berno, Michaela Coenen, Philip Quinones, Elisabeth Linseisen, Michaela Kirschneck. Front row left from right: Stefanie Eiermann, Philippa Bringewatt und Henriette Schmalz

9. ICF Core Sets for Spinal Cord Injury

Inge Kirchberger (Germany)

Following the consensus conference in November 2007 where the first version of the ICF Core Sets for SCI was decided, the publications on the Core Sets for individuals with SCI in the early-post acute and the chronic context, respectively, were prepared. In addition, four publications reporting the results of the preparatory studies namely the expert survey, the systematic literature review, the empirical study and the qualitative study were written. The writing process is expected to be concluded by end of this year and all manuscripts will then be submitted to „Spinal Cord“.

In 2009 the project will focus on both the validation and the implementation of the ICF Core Sets for SCI. The Comprehensive ICF Core Sets for SCI will be validated from the perspective of the different health professions involved in the care of people with SCI. Six international expert surveys involving physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, nurses and social workers will be performed using the Delphi-technique. In order to facilitate the implementation of the ICF Core Sets for SCI in clinical practice, a user manual will be developed. Inge Kirchberger from the ICF Research Branch in Munich will be in charge of the Delphi-surveys in collaboration with members of the Swiss Paraplegic Research in Nottwil.

10. ICF Core Sets for Traumatic Brain Injury

Sara Laxe (Spain)

The Institute Guttmann, Hospital for Neurorehabilitation, is leading the development of the ICF Core Sets for traumatic brain injury in cooperation with the ICF Research Branch in Munich. Since the last

edition of the Newsletter, we have submitted the protocol paper to the journal Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair.

We have also attended the IBIA congress held in Lisbon, Portugal, the past April, the Neurorehabilitation Spanish Congress, Santiago de Compostela, Spain in September and the Mediterranean Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine held in Portorose, Slovenia, in September. We presented the project of the development of the ICF Core sets for TBI and the preliminary results of the literature review respectively with a great acceptance showing the increasing interest of the ICF among the professionals dealing with this health condition.



Figure 10: Team at the Institut Guttmann: Front row from left to right: Antonia Enseñat, Teresa Roig, Sara Laxe, Raquel Lopez, Almudena Gómez and Marta Rudilla. Back row from left to right: Montserrat Bernabeu, Alejandro García, Alberto García, Pablo Rodriguez, Sara Espot

In order to promote the use of the ICF in TBI and to help our collaborating partners to have a better understanding of the use of the ICF, we organized two workshops: one held in Lisbon and the other held in Montecatini, Italy in the frame of the meeting of the Italian Neurorehabilitation Society.

We are currently developing the literature review, the focus groups, the expert survey and the empirical study. This last one in cooperation with the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Malaya (Dr Rameezan), Italian Brain Injury Network (coordinated by Dr Aiachini), The Republic of Slovenia Institute for Rehabilitation (Dr Grabljevic), Ullevål University Hospital from Oslo (Dr Bautz Holter) and the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney from Australia (Dr Tate).

For any additional information, please, do not hesitate to contact us:

Sara Laxe, MD; Raquel Lopez, MSt; and Montserrat Bernabeu, MD, at: tbi_icf_core_sets@guttmann.com

11. The use of the ICF Core Sets for medical reports of the German national pension insurance of patients suffering low back pain and chronic widespread pain

Michaela Kirschneck (Germany)

In collaboration among the ICF Research Branch and the German National Pension Insurance (Federation) of different federal states an 18 month project was started early this year. The aim of the study is to verify if the ICF Core Sets can provide a basis for the appraisal of patients suffering low back pain (LBP) and chronic widespread pain (CWP). The appraisal of patients based on the bio-psycho-social model of the ICF will allow a systematic assessment of functioning and disability and will lead to the standardization of the medical reports, facilitating the communication between physicians and insurance companies. The contents of 600 randomly selected medical reports will be analyzed.



Figure 11: Team from left to right: Philip Quinones, Michaela Kirschneck, Alarcos Cieza and Heinrich Gall.

At the moment we have a total of 451 medical reports: 181 CWP and 270 LBP (Table 1). Of these, 65 medical reports have been translated in the language of the ICF and compared with the specialized physicians from the German National Pension Insurance. 200 medical reports will be translated in the language of the ICF from both sides and following the remaining 400 medical reports will be translated to the ICF in the ICF Research Branch. Kathrin Ecker and Philip Quinones, *student research assistants*, are preparing the database for these 400 medical reports.

First analyses show that the structure of medical reports varies enormously. Therefore a comparison of the content without having a common basis is hardly possible. This ratifies the importance of the project and the possible value of the ICF and the ICF Core Sets for structuring the content of medical reports for the German National Pension Insurance.

For further information, please contact: Michaela.Kirschneck@med.uni-muenchen.de

Federal state	LBP	CWP
DRV Bund <i>Herr Dr. Timmer</i>	10	4
Bayern Süd <i>Frau Dr. Karl</i> <i>Herr Dr. Legner</i>	100	100
Rheinland-Pfalz <i>Herr Dr. Dannhäuser</i> <i>Herr Maucher</i>	51	33
Mitteldeutschland <i>Frau Schäfer</i> <i>Frau Garlin</i>	624	42
Berlin-Brandenburg <i>Herr Reichel</i>	45	2
A total of	270	181
Aim	300	300

Table 2: Overview of reports received.

12. Validation of the ICF Core Sets for 12 chronic conditions from the perspective of health professionals

The main question is whether the interventions applied to patients with a specific health condition by different health professionals and the intervention-related effects on the patients' functioning and well-being are represented in the ICF categories selected for the corresponding ICF Core Sets. This approach is being pursued with an international survey of experts (physicians, physical and occupational therapists, nurses, psychologists and social workers) according to the Delphi method.

In total, 19 Delphi-surveys including more than 1000 health professionals worldwide were conducted. The results of three studies are already published, four papers are submitted and eleven papers are currently prepared.

Interested persons please contact Dr. Inge Kirchberger: Inge.Kirchberger@med.uni-muenchen.de

Currently a Delphi study to validate the ICF Core Set for diabetes mellitus (DM) from the perspective of physical therapists is being conducted at the ICF Research Branch. The first round has been concluded. We expect to come to an end early next year.

Hamzeh Awad is leading the project as part of his PhD study at the LMU. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact: Hamzeh.Awad@med.uni-muenchen.de

Tab 3 Status on the Delphy studies:

	Physician	Psychologists	Nurses	Occupational therapists	Physical therapists	Social Worker
Breast Cancer					+	
Chronic Ischaemic Heart Disease						
Chronic Widespread Pain	+					
Depression						
Diabetes Mellitus	+				#	
Low Back Pain	+				+	
Obesity						*
Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases	+				*	
Osteoarthritis					+	
Osteoporosis					+	
Rheumatoid Arthritis	*	√	*	√	√	
Stroke	+			+	+	

√ = paper published; * = paper submitted
+ = paper in preparation; # = study in progress

13. ICF Core Set Development Workshop

A training workshop on the methods to be followed for the *Development of ICF Core Sets* took place on December 8th and 9th, 2008 at the ICF Research Branch. The contents of the two-day workshop were: 1) an introduction into the ICF, 2) general information on the process for the Development of the ICF Core Sets and 3) detailed information on the preliminary studies: patient interviews, literature review, empirical study and expert survey.

Twenty one participants coming from Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland and USA attended the meeting. Among the attendees there were persons interested in developing ICF Core Sets for Burn Injuries, Leprosy and Aging.



Figure 12: Participants of the ICF Core Set Development workshop in Munich, 8th and 9th December 2008

Back row from left to right: Franz Porzsolt, Wolfgang Seegerer, Peter Viehoff, Christian Loepold, Teresa Brinkel, Reiner Eckhardt, Eberhard Standl, Erik Bautz-Holter, Maximilian Batz, Hamzeh Awad, Florus van der Giesen, Markus Faulhaber. Front row, left to right: Juan Antonio Fernandez, Margaret McMahon, Christine Mulhorn, Saskia Decuman, Tanja van Roojen, Alarcos Cieza, Marcelo Riberto, Stefan Spenner, Sonja Maczan and Cristina Bostan.

The ICF Research Branch will offer similar workshops periodically. The workshops will be planned depending on the demand; if you are interested in attending such a meeting please contact: Teresa.Brinkel@paranet.ch

For further information on our research work, please visit our website:

<http://www.icf-research-branch.org>

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APPENDIX I New Publications of members of the ICF Research Branch:

Allet L, Cieza A, Burge E, Finger M, Stucki G, Huber EO.

Intervention categories for physiotherapists treating patients with musculoskeletal conditions on the basis of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.

Int J Rehabil Res. 2007 Dec; 30(4):273-280.

PMID: 17975446 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Cieza A, Bickenbach J, Chatterji S.

[The ICF as a conceptual platform to specify and discuss health and health-related concepts.](#)

Gesundheitswesen. 2008 Oct; 70(10):e47-56. Epub 2008 Oct 17. Review.

PMID: 18932116 [PubMed - in process]

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[The International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health: its development process and content validity.](#)

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