



## Rory Cooper receives Magnuson Award

Rory Cooper, PhD, director of the Center for Wheelchair & Related Technology and senior research career scientist, was presented the 2003 Magnuson Award by VA Rehabilitation Research and Development in June.

The Magnuson Award is presented annually to a rehabilitation investigator who exemplifies dedication to veterans, innovations in practice, and humanitarianism. It recognizes the importance of rehabilitation research within VA healthcare system and is the highest award for VA rehabilitation researchers.

One of the foremost authorities on mobility, Cooper was recognized for pioneering work in wheelchair and related technology and building the careers of young scientists within the VA healthcare system. Cooper has contributed to the design of manual and electric powered wheelchairs, developed wheelchair standards, promoted the understanding of secondary disabilities among wheelchair users, and improved the social integration of people with disabilities.

Professor and department chair of rehabilitation science and technology at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, Cooper has authored or co-authored more than 300 publications and been an invited lecturer at institutions around the world. VA presented Cooper with the Olin Teague Award in 2002 for research accomplishments that have been of special benefit to veterans with service-connected problems.



Dr. Patricia Dorn (left), acting deputy director of Rehabilitation Research & Development, presents Dr. Rory Cooper, director of the Center for Wheelchair & Related Technology, the Magnuson Award.