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Rehabilitation R&D Progress Reports is distributed as number one each year of the Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development. The mailing list is intended to cover all professionals in the rehabilitation field who are either actively involved in research, contemplate such involvement or need to remain familiar with the direction and methods of current research and the clinical application of its results.

At present, the Journal and the progress report annual publication are distributed free of charge, both in the United States and in foreign countries. Additions will be made to the mailing list upon request.
Editor’s Note

Rehabilitation R&D Progress Reports 1987 is the fifth annual compilation of ongoing work in the field of rehabilitation research and engineering both in this country and abroad. Our goal of increasingly comprehensive coverage in each annual edition has been achieved once again. Moreover, authors have expanded their reporting of publications and patents resulting from completed research.

Several other changes and new features are included in this year’s edition: the organization of progress reports under subject headings has been improved and a new subject index is included.

A true picture of progress in rehabilitation requires a broader perspective than that provided by a description of individual projects alone. This year, as a start toward reporting a broader perspective, sponsoring agencies were asked to provide information on their overall rehabilitation R&D strategies and priorities. Selected results are presented as a part of the Sponsor Index.

The availability of funds is clearly a part of the broader perspective which relates to current and future rehabilitation R&D progress. This year, as a start toward annual coverage of funding, a new section presenting a selected listing of agencies that fund rehabilitation R&D has been added. Hopefully, this information will assist researchers in locating additional support for their work.

Perhaps most significantly, Rehabilitation R&D Progress Reports are now online (see inside front cover) on the VA Rehabilitation Database and will be maintained on an ongoing basis. Thus, a researcher can report progress (including “breakthroughs”) and within days have his or her report available to other scientists and over 300,000 system users. Ongoing reports will allow users to get a more current picture of activity and progress in rehabilitation R&D than an annual publication alone can provide. An annual hard copy report will continue to be published in January of each year and will be derived from the progress reports contained in the VA Rehabilitation Database.

The deadline for submission for inclusion in the next annual edition is September 1, 1988. Guidelines for submitting progress reports are listed on page ii.

Seldon P. Todd, Jr.

Electronic Publishing: A Technical Note

The organization and preparation of this publication was done on a database specifically designed for the production of the progress reports and the indexes. The programs used were dBase III+ (Ver 1.1) and the Norton Editor (Ver 1.3B). The operating system was IBM PC DOS (Ver 3.2) and hardware consisted of IBM PCs, XTs, ATs, and Compaq 386s. The database structure was designed by John Bowman, Chief, Technical Support. Another specially designed program, using Microsoft QuickBasic (Ver 3.0), needed in the final preparation phase of the text files was written by John J. Martin, VA Medical Center, Washington, D.C.
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Progress reports are presented in appropriate subject categories. VA-sponsored reports are presented first and are followed by those of other participating organizations in alphabetical order by sponsor name. Multiple reports sponsored by the same organization are listed alphabetically by principal investigator. (See next page for a topical listing.)

461 Section II. SPONSOR PROGRAM SUMMARIES WITH INDEX TO PROGRESS REPORTS

Often, individual rehabilitation R&D projects represent parts of broader, overall programs of research. Program summaries are presented for selected sponsoring agencies. This section also contains the name and location of all sponsoring agencies and an index of the titles and page numbers of the projects sponsored by each agency.

482 Section III. FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

This is a selected list of rehabilitation research funding resources.

486 Section IV. SUBJECT INDEX

The purpose of this index is to allow readers to identify and locate particular areas of interest within the entire text of the progress reports. Key words are taken from the text of each progress report and are listed with their corresponding page numbers.

489 Section V. AUTHOR INDEX

This is an index of all progress report investigators and directors of sponsoring organizations with corresponding page numbers.

ON THE COVER

The UNISTIK hand vehicle controller, which represents the results of a VA/NASA Interagency Agreement carried out under the sponsorship of the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service. Based on the design of the NASA Lunar Rover controller, the UNISTIK device allows severely disabled individuals to drive conventional vehicles. Engineering safety and reliability testing have been completed and clinical testing is under way. A progress report on the UNISTIK device is on page 144. Photographs: Courtesy of the Spinal Cord Injury Service, VA Medical Center, Seattle, WA. Cover design by Holly M. Jellison.
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