



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**White House/VA Conference  
Emerging Technologies in Support of the New Freedom Initiative:  
Promoting Opportunities for People with Disabilities  
October 13-14, 2004**

**Final Conference Agenda**

**Location:** Hay-Adams Hotel, 16<sup>th</sup> and H Streets, NW, Washington, DC

**Conference Purposes**

- Highlight technological advances which improve the lives of Americans with disabilities;
- Explore barriers to the availability and accessibility of emerging technologies to individuals with disabilities;
- Enhance cooperation among stakeholders including government agencies, industry, and consumers; and
- Clarify federal government opportunities as they relate to the New Freedom Initiative.

**Wednesday, October 13**

7:30 a.m. **Registration & Continental Breakfast  
(The John Hay Room)**

8:20 a.m. **Introductions**  
**Mindy L. Aisen, M.D.**, Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, Office of Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs

8:25 a.m. **Stephan D. Fihn, M.D., M.P.H.**, Acting Chief Research & Development Officer, Office of Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs

8:30 a.m. **Welcoming Addresses: (10 minutes each)**

**The Honorable Anthony J. Principi**, Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
**The Honorable John H. Marburger, III, Ph.D.**, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President (OSTP)  
**The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta**, Secretary of Transportation (DOT)  
**The Honorable Phillip J. Bond**, Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology (DOC)  
**The Honorable Cristina V. Beato, MD**, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health (HHS)  
**The Honorable Troy R. Justesen, Ed.D.**, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Research (DOE)  
**David J. Brailer, MD, PhD**, National Health Information Technology Coordinator (HHS)

10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. **Panel Discussion**

**New Freedom Initiative: Technology Meets Reality**

**Moderator: Mindy L. Aisen, M.D.**, Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, Office of Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs

[15 minutes each; followed by discussion and Q&A]

*Role of Research and Disability*

**The Honorable Steven J. Tingus**, Director, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Department of Education

*Technology Enabling Independent Living*

**Eric Dishman, Ph.D.**, Intel Proactive Health Research

*Technology Transfer: Industry's Role in Getting Life Changing Inventions to the People Who Need Them*

**Alfred E. Mann**, President Alfred E. Mann Foundation

*Technology Enabling Employment*

**Dinah F. Cohen**, Director, Department of Defense Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**

**Speaker: The Honorable Christopher H. Smith**, U.S. House of Representatives

1:30 p.m. **Panel Discussion**

**Emerging Assistive and Transformational Technologies**

**Moderator: The Honorable Kathie Olsen**, Associate Director for Science, Office of Science and Technology Policy

[15 minutes each; followed by discussion and Q&A]

*Overview: Technology and Physical Impairments*

**The Honorable Margaret Giannini, M.D.**, Director, Office of Disability, Department of Health and Human Services

*State-of-the-art and promise of neuroprosthetics*

**John P. Donoghue, Ph.D.**, Professor of Neuroscience, Brown University

*Retinal prostheses: How close are we and who will it help?*

**Joseph F. Rizzo, III, M.D.**, Retinal Implant Project, Boston VA Medical Center (VAMC) and Harvard Medical School

*Paralysis: Natural recovery vs assistive technology?*

**P. Hunter Peckham, Ph.D.**, Director, Cleveland Functional Electrical Stimulation Center and VA Center of Excellence in FES, Cleveland VAMC

*Multidisciplinary approaches to limb loss: A chain of events leading to a single step*

**Hugh M. Herr, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

3:15 p.m. **Charge to Breakout Groups**

3:20 p.m. **Break**

3:30 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**

- **Research and Technology Development Directions**  
**(Parlor Suite – Room 512)**

Discussion of areas of recent research and progress that might find application in assistive technologies. (E.g., nanotechnology, broadband communication, robotics, etc.)

Co-chair: **Michael Weinrich, M.D.**, Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, National Institutes of Health

Facilitator: **Robert J. Jaeger, Ph.D.**, Interagency and International Affairs, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education

- **Workforce/Education**  
**(The John Hay Room – Section B)**

Discussion of ongoing research in assistive technologies that can help children with disabilities beginning in the classroom, through the transition from school to work, and finally, as they move into the workforce. Assistive technologies have typically been viewed as only applicable to individuals with physical disabilities, but a new frontier in assistive technology may be opening up that is focused on individuals with cognitive and learning disabilities.

Co-chair: **The Honorable Steven J. Tingus**, Director, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Department of Education

Co-chair: **Susan Parker**, Director of Policy and Research, Office of Disability Employment Policy, Department of Labor

Facilitator: **Margaret L. Campbell, Ph.D.**, Program Specialist, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Department of Education

- **Technology Delivery**  
**(The Windsor Room)**

Discussion of the barriers (and possible means to overcome them) for transitioning new technologies from universities and other research institutions to the end users.

Co-chair: **The Honorable Ben Wu**, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy & Administration, Department of Commerce

Co-chair: **David A. Appler**, Washington D.C. Representative, Federal Laboratory Consortium

Facilitator: **Jeffrey J. Moore, Ph.D.**, Portfolio Manager, Department of Veterans Affairs

- **Transportation**

- (The John Hay Room – Section A)**

- Discussion of the progress, issues, challenges and innovations needed for enhanced mobility of travelers with disabilities using the highway, transit, rail, marine, and air transportation systems.

- Co-chair: **K. Thirumalai, Ph.D.**, Chief, Engineer, Research and Special Programs Administration – Innovation, Research and Education, Department of Transportation

- Co-chair: **Michael Winter**, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

- Facilitators: **Bryna Helfer/David Schneider**, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

5:30 p.m. **Adjourn to Conference Reception**

Indian Treaty Room, Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
17<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

**(Must arrive at EEOB no later than 6:15 pm. Security tent closes at 6:30 pm)**

**Thursday, October 14**

8:15 a.m. Chairpersons Reconvene  
**(The Windsor Room)**

9:00 a.m. **Reconvene and Welcome**  
**(The John Hay Room)**

The Honorable Steven J. Tingus, **Director, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Department of Education**

*Vocational Technologies*

**The Honorable Emily Stover DeRocco**, Assistant Secretary,  
Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor

9:30 a.m.    **Reports of Breakout Groups and General Discussion**

Moderator: **Michael Weinrich, M.D.**, Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, National Institutes of Health

Chairpersons:        The Honorable Ben Wu  
                              The Honorable Steven J. Tingus  
                              David A. Appler  
                              Susan Parker  
                              K. Thirumalai, Ph.D.  
                              Michael Weinrich, M.D.  
                              Michael Winter

11:45 a.m.    **Closing Remarks**

**Mindy L. Aisen, M.D.**, Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, Office of Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs

12:00 p.m.    **Adjourn**