Introduction

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For nearly a decade, the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model Systems of Care funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research have developed comprehensive service delivery programs. Prospective multicenter data collection throughout the continuum of care serves as a useful complement to information gathered through clinical experience. Through the NIDRR programs important knowledge has been gained regarding optimal care, relationships between injury characteristics and outcome and psychosocial adjustment.

This special issue of NeuroRehabilitation provides clinically relevant information derived from the model systems brain injury program. Seven manuscripts are included on topics ranging from subacute services to impaired awareness to community-based employment services. We close this issue of NeuroRehabilitation with a research article from J. Poole, who examines the performance of dyspraxic children and adults.

K. Hall and her colleagues review studies of pre-morbid history and present data on a brain injury sample. The authors present a clinically relevant screening tool which incorporates a variety of pre-injury psychosocial factors. With the proliferation of subacute rehabilitation programs, practitioners have called for consensus in developing treatment guidelines. Drs. Stewart, Miller and Cifu offer service provision guidelines based on the Rancho Los Amigos cognitive scale. M. Sherer and his co-authors provide a comprehensive literature review and describe treatment strategies to address impaired awareness. For many individuals who sustain a brain injury, return to work has proven very difficult. A community-based training and employment program especially aimed toward individuals who are economically disadvantaged is described by J. Wall and her colleagues. Using case studies for illustration, J. Hatten provides a detailed description of a community-based, multicultural case management program. R. Zafonte and colleagues offer an in-depth discussion of superior sagittal sinus thrombosis. D. Wisor and his colleagues provide an overview of Internet resources and their potential role in long-term support and education.

We continue to seek applied research manuscripts on a variety of rehabilitation-related topics. We’ve been pleased with the variety and quality of submissions from internationally well known colleagues and look forward to expanding the dissemination of clinically relevant research.