Toronto Declaration on:
Bridging Knowledge, Policy and Practice in Aging and Disability

Margaret L. Campbell, Ph.D.
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Acknowledgement

• Many of the slides in this presentation are modified, with permission, from Dr. Luis Salvador-Carulla’s guest lecture at the Administration for Community Living, April 13, 2012 on: International Perspectives on Bridging Knowledge and practice Between Aging and Disability.
Disclaimer

• My contribution to the development of the Toronto Declaration was in conjunction with my role as the co-chair for the 2011 Growing Older With A Disability (GOWD) Conference, held in Toronto, which was approved as part of my regular scope of duties at NIDRR. I am not listed as an author of the Declaration.

• The ideas expressed in this presentation do not reflect the official position of NIDRR or the U.S. Department of Education.
Key Questions to be Addressed

- The Who, what, when and how of the Toronto Declaration (TD)?
- What is the global context of aging and disability; and what are the challenges?
- What is “bridging”?
- What does the TD build on?
- What actions does the TD call for?
- What response has the TD received so far?
- What are the ‘next steps’?
Who, What, When and How of the Toronto Declaration

• **Who:** The authors are international organizers for the Growing Older with a Disability (GOWD) Conference, part of the larger *Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology (FICCDAT)*, held in Toronto, June 5-8, 2011.

• **What:** The goal is build awareness of the need to bridge knowledge, policy and practice across aging and disability systems and develop research and action network to ensure healthy and productive aging for the growing population aging *with* and aging *into* disability.

• **When:** Released March 30, 2012.

• **How:** Based on findings presented at GOWD & FICCDAT and expert-based consensus process
Steering Committee: Growing Older With A Disability Conference, June 2011

Global Context for Aging & Disability

- **2011 WHO World Report on Disability**: 1 billion people with disabilities in the world, nearly 200 million of whom with significant difficulties.

- **2011 Global Health and Aging Report**: people 60+ to reach 1.5 billion by 2050

- **2011 UN Global Strategy for the Prevention & Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD)**: NCDs claim 63% of deaths annually, pointing to need for an integrated care system

- **2011 World Economic Forum Global Economic Burden of NCD**: half of NCD deaths occur in prime work years; thus, the disability imposed and lives lost are also endangering industry competitiveness across borders.
Global Context: 21st Century Advances

Aging as an opportunity
- New models of aging: Active/productive aging, Prevention, Health Promotion, Mental capital
- New services and care systems
- New supports and HIT for aging

Disability: natural part of life course, potential advantage
- New models of disability, focus on participation (ICF)
- Social Inclusion, Consumer-directed services
- Empowerment and Recovery
- Accessibility and Employment
Global Challenges of Aging & Disability?

- Strains on pension and social security systems;
- Shifting from acute to chronic care systems;
- Preventing and managing age and disability associated chronic and secondary conditions;
- Preparing health providers and societies to meet the needs of populations aging with and aging into disability;
- Designing sustainable policies to support healthy aging and community-living as well as long-term and palliative care;
- Developing disability and age-friendly services and settings.
Knowledge Challenges of Aging & Disability?

• Need to know more about the linkages between A&D
  - Persons with disabilities who grow old
  - Older persons who become disabled

• AGING as a field has a lot to contribute to the DISABILITY and vice versa

• AGEING and DISABILITY share common
  - Aspirations to live in the community, models, needs and priorities, and policy agenda (implicit – hidden)
  - Competing funding sources
In the A&D fields, agents and principals generally do not talk to each other and, when they do they do not communicate.

“If the word ‘X’ is used I will leave this table…”

“Your model is not acceptable for us…”

“We are not old…”

“We are not disabled…”

“They get all the funding…”

“Theyir research is not rigorous…”

“Theyir research is not relevant…”
A&D Challenges: Ageism versus Ableism?

Can we understand disability without aging?

*World and society of all ages*

Can we understand aging without disability?

*Nothing about us without us*
A&D Gap: Unwanted consequences

• UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is seen as ‘alien’ by the aging sector
• Separate knowledge bases
• Non-aligned policies
• Lack of collaboration and translation research
• Duplications of services
• Lack of cross-training
• Missing opportunities for knowledge translation, innovative policy change, and co-funding
Making the Case for Bridging!

Health Care vs. LT Services & Supports

Disabilities vs. Ageing
What is Bridging: Definition & Tasks?

• **Definition:** Bridging encompasses a range of concepts, tasks, technologies and practices aimed at improving knowledge translation, sharing and collaboration across stakeholders, organizations and fields in care and support for persons with disabilities, their families, and the aging population *(Source: Toronto Declaration, March 30, 2012).*

• **Tasks:** Bridging tasks include activities of translation research, dissemination, coordination, assessment, empowerment, service delivery, management, financing and policy.
What is Bridging (Contd.)

• **Objective** Improve efficiency, equity of care, inclusion and support at all levels, from the person to the society.

• **Conceptual Frame:** Recognizing the complexity of the human condition from birth to death, the capabilities of all people, and the need for a conceptual vision that takes into consideration planning for a society where participation of all citizens is the ultimate goal.
B/KT: What is Bridging/Knowledge Translation?

• According to Luis Salvador-Carulla, B/KT is a meta-discipline, a social net & space, a tool for innovation:
  - Translational (Horizontal > Vertical)
  - Multidisciplinary & transdisciplinary
  - Complex
  - Dynamic
What Does the Toronto Declaration Build On?

Previous Conferences & Declarations:

- **2006 Graz** Declaration on Disability and Ageing. Graz, Austria. (Joint Publication of the European Disability Forum; AGE: The European Older People’s Platform, European Federation of Older Persons, Inclusion Europe, Association on Research and Training in Europe).

- **2009 Barcelona** Declaration on Bridging Knowledge in Long-Term Care and Support.

- **2012 Linz** Declaration: Independent Living for Ageing Persons with Disabilities. Linz, Austria.
Example:
BARCELONA DECLARATION

Bridging knowledge in Long Term Care and Support

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- Political stand to make bridging and knowledge transfer key components of any program in the fields of disability and aging in Europe.

- Call for action involving policy makers and stakeholders, including those from the health, education, social and justice sectors, social partners, as well as civil society organizations.

- Call for research and funding

- Improve the knowledge base
TD Call to Action:  
CONSENSUS STATEMENTS

- National and international bridging of A&D knowledge, policy and practice must be actively **promoted**

- Bridging is composed of several **activities** which must occur simultaneously, at multiple levels of knowledge development, policy and practice, and include D&A stakeholder groups.

- Building effective bridges across A&D requires **interdisciplinary collaboration** and engagement with national and international decision-makers.

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Connecting the field of A&D will require development of a clear **model** of bridging.

Bridging requires developing a **common terminology** and knowledge base.
TD Call to Action: MAJOR PRIORITY AREAS

- Health and well-being
- Inclusion, participation and community
- Long-term supports and services
- Income security
- Science of bridging
TD Call to Action:
RECOMMENDATIONS

• An international agenda for bridging aging and disability be formally developed through the involvement of researchers, practice professionals, policy-makers, older adults, persons with disabilities and their families.

• Public and private funders provide financial support for research and scholarship that advances the science of bridging aging and disability knowledge, practice and policies.

• Health and social policy-makers incorporate bridging and knowledge transfer as key strategies in policy planning for building a society where all citizens can fully participate including persons with disabilities of all ages.

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Response to Toronto Declaration

• To date, 70 individuals from four continents (North America, Europe, Australia, and Japan) and six organizations have submitted endorsements, and their names are published on the GOWD/FICCDAT website.

• Another group of organizations have indicated that their boards of directors are currently considering endorsement.

• Interestingly, most organizations endorsing the TD are from the disability sector, not aging (e.g., RESNA, The Arc of Illinois, The Sibling Leadership Network).
Next Steps in Bridging A&D?

• Authors of the Toronto Declaration are continuing to raise awareness of the need for “bridging and knowledge translation” between aging and disability by soliciting endorsements via the Internet, making presentations at professional and consumer conferences, and preparing papers for publication (http://www.marchofdimes.ca/dimes/images/emails/FICCDAT/Toronto_Declaration_Endorsement.pdf).

• In addition, another GOWD Conference is planned for 2015 under the FICCDAT umbrella.
Next Steps in Bridging A&D (contd.)

Recruit new partners to assist in building awareness and visibility and developing the following key components of “bridging”:

- New conceptual frameworks
- New meta-discipline and scientific road-map
- New methods of analysis
- New knowledge translation, research, informational and action networks
- New professionals
- New service delivery models, and
- New policy options.
For More Information on the Toronto Declaration

- **Full-text of the TD:**
  [http://www.marchofdimes.ca/dimes/images/emails/FICCDA
T/Toronto_Declaration.pdf](http://www.marchofdimes.ca/dimes/images/emails/FICCDA
T/Toronto_Declaration.pdf)

- **View Endorsers of the TD:**
  [http://www.marchofdimes.ca/dimes/images/emails/FICCDA
T/Toronto_Declaration_Endorsement.pdf](http://www.marchofdimes.ca/dimes/images/emails/FICCDA
T/Toronto_Declaration_Endorsement.pdf)

- **New Endorsements:** If you wish to endorse the Toronto Declaration, send your name, organization name, and contact information to torontodeclaration@marchofdimes.ca

- **Presentations:** View list of presentation dates and locations for TD:
  [http://www.marchofdimes.ca/dimes/images/emails/FICCDA
T/Toronto_Declaration_Dissemination_Activities.pdf](http://www.marchofdimes.ca/dimes/images/emails/FICCDA
T/Toronto_Declaration_Dissemination_Activities.pdf)
Thank you!
Contact Information

• Margaret L. Campbell, Ph.D.
  Senior Scientist for Planning and Policy Support,
  National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
  Email: margaret.Campbell@ed.gov
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