

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
(March, 2010) (Note: Changed format)**

Canada

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
3/15/10	http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2010/15/c2060.html	<p>The Mental Health Commission of Canada has released a report addressing the needs of multicultural, immigrant and refugee groups. The study is part of its mandate to improve mental healthcare across all areas of Canadian society.</p> <p>"These groups face unique challenges and are more exposed to factors that promote mental health problems and illnesses," says Steve Lurie, Chair of the Commission's Service Systems Advisory Committee.</p> <p>The document, titled 'Improving Mental Health Services for Immigrant, Refugee, Ethno-cultural and Racialized (IRER) Groups,' outlines factors that policy makers and service providers may want to consider when working to improve mental health services for these groups.</p> <p>"Migration, discrimination, language barriers and lack of awareness of services have an impact on mental health," says Lurie. "Trust in services, cultural competence, targeted health promotion, and stigma can all delay access to treatment."</p> <p>The 16 recommendations in the report are firmly rooted in the goals of the Mental Health Strategy for Canada. The recommendations fit into one of three main areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better coordination of policy, knowledge and accountability - The Involvement of communities, families, and people with lived experience - More appropriate and improved services <p>The report was prepared by the Diversity Task Group, a subcommittee of the Commission's Service Systems Advisory Group. For more details on the recommendations, see the attached backgrounder. To read the report please visit:</p> <p>http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/Pages/ServiceSystem.aspx</p> <p>http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/Key_Documents/en/2010/Issues_Options_FINAL_English%2012Nov09.pdf</p> <p>The Mental Health Commission of Canada is a non-profit organization created to focus national attention on mental health issues. The MHCC does not provide services, but rather acts as a catalyst for action. The Service Systems Advisory Committee is one of 8 MHCC committees tasked with making a difference in targeted areas. The other seven are: Child and Youth; Mental Health and the Law; Seniors; First Nations, Inuit and Métis; Workforce; Family Caregivers; and Science.</p> <p>http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/Pages/default.aspx</p>

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
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Provinces – Eastern Canada

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
2/27/10	<p>http://www.docguide.com/news/content.nsf/news/852576140048867C852576D7006A70A9</p> <p>http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/717593</p> <p>http://journals.lww.com/neurotodayonline/Fulltext/2010/04010/Executive_Function_Often_Impaired_After_TIA.9.aspx</p>	<p>Patients who suffer transient ischaemic attacks (TIAs) or minor strokes should be tested specifically for executive function problems, researchers said here at the 2010 International Stroke Conference* (ISC).</p> <p>"As many as 40% of patients show impaired executive function skills following a TIA or minor stroke," said Michael Harnadek, PhD, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. "Our study underscores the need to employ measures of executive functioning when screening for cognitive impairment in patients with cerebrovascular disease, since the Mini-Mental State Examination [MMSE] is insensitive in detecting cognitive problems in this population," he said during a press briefing on February 24.</p> <p>In the study, researchers enrolled 140 patients who had been diagnosed with a TIA or a minor ischaemic stroke. The mean age of the patients in the study was 67.3 years, and 61% were men. About 45% were diagnosed with a TIA, and 55% were diagnosed with a minor stroke. The patients performed a series of tests and were also evaluated using the MMSE.</p> <p>About 5% of patients appeared to be impaired when assessed with the MMSE, but 13.2% of patients were assessed impaired on a study of executive judgment (Cognistat Judgment substest); 15.3% of the patients were observed to be impaired in the standard Clock Drawing Test; 31.2% of patients were found impaired in the Trail Making Test-A, and 39.6% of patients were found to be impaired in the Trail Making Test-B, Dr. Harnadek said.</p> <p>He said that compared with the rate of impairment in the general public, all the tests results were statistically significant -- except for the differenced seen with the MMSE. "The Mini-Mental State Examination is not sensitive to cognition changes following a TIA or a minor stroke," Dr. Harnadek said. "Clinicians need to examine executive functioning skills when considering cognition."</p> <p>He added, "This study contributes to a growing body of literature documenting the common occurrence of executive dysfunction in patients with cerebrovascular disease prior to major stroke." Funding for this study was provided by the Canadian Stroke Network.</p> <p>[Presentation title: High Prevalence of Executive Dysfunction in TIA and Minor Ischemic Stroke Patients. Abstract P275]</p> <p>* http://americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3067536# http://strokeconference.americanheart.org/portal/strokeconference/sc/</p>
3/1/10	<p>http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2010/01/c5603.html</p> <p>http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?</p>	<p>The next advance in treating major depression may relate to a group of brain chemicals that are involved in virtually all our brain activity, according to a study published today in Biological Psychiatry*. The study is co-authored by Drs. Andrea J.</p>

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	<p>_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6T4S-4XPXT85-1&_user=10&_coverDate=03/01/2010&_rdoc=15&_fmt=high&_orig=browse&_origin=browse&_zone=rslt_list_item&_srch=doc-info%23toc%234982%232010%23999329994%231682128%23FLA%23display%23Volume)&_cdi=4982&_sort=d&_docanchor=&_ct=23&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=a8f8ca4e53a65af1ace33b74029b6437&searchtype=a</p>	<p>Levinson and Zafiris J. Daskalakis of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). This study shows that compared to healthy individuals, people who have major depressive disorder have altered functions of the neurotransmitter GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid). In the study, individuals with the most treatment-resistant forms of illness demonstrated the greatest reductions of GABA levels in the brain. This points to the possibility that medications which correct a GABA imbalance could advance the treatment of major depressive disorder. Approximately 4% of Canadians experience major depressive disorder each year. Several current medications for mood disorders correct imbalances in neurotransmitters such as serotonin and dopamine. However, many patients do not benefit from these medications. "Our findings build on the idea that some current medications do not help many patients because those drugs don't affect the GABA-related brain chemistry," says study author Dr. Andrea Levinson... The GABA neurotransmitter and its receptors are critical to how humans think and act, Dr. Levinson adds. "We apply so many conscious and unconscious perceptions and judgments to our actions at every second, without even realizing that we are doing so," she says. "GABA is part of the brain system that allows us to fine-tune our moods, thoughts, and actions with an incredible level of detail."... The journal published a separate editorial to highlight the potential for an individualized approach to diagnosing depression, one that would include brain stimulation to identify low levels of the GABA neurotransmitters. Dr. Daskalakis has international expertise in the electrophysiology of psychiatric disorders, particularly related to GABA. This study was conducted at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, with coauthors in Melbourne, Australia. Funders of the study were the Ontario Mental Health Foundation, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and NARSAD.</p> <p>* http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00063223 http://tinyurl.com/29bpfpa http://preview.tinyurl.com/29bpfpa</p>
<p>3/10/10</p>	<p>http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/free-press-staffers-receive-awards-to-research-fasd-reserves-water-87204632.html</p>	<p>NEWSROOM staff at the Winnipeg Free Press are the recipients of two major journalism awards that will provide them \$40,000 for in-depth research into Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and drinking water on reserves. The awards are among 18 provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research this year... Reporter Mary Agnes Welch is heading a three-reporter team of Carol Sanders and Mia Rabson, who will explore Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders -- causes, social costs, treatments, and prevention...</p>

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Provinces – Western Canada

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Other Countries

Australia

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Ireland (includes Northern Ireland)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
3/11/10	http://www.irishhealth.com/article.html?id=16993	A website that provides access to new technology to assist people with disabilities has won the inaugural Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) Innovation Award. www.try-it.ie is the first website of its kind in Ireland and allows people an opportunity to access technological solutions to promote independence and aid day-to-day living. According to NAI, by providing an opportunity to try out equipment and devices, people can learn about what it available and select those that best meet their needs... The Neurological Alliance of Ireland is an umbrella group for neurological charities. See: www.nai.ie
3/11/10	http://www.thurrockgazette.co.uk/news/5057015.New_disability_website_to_go_live_on_Wednesday/	THURROCK Council has teamed up with national disability organisation DisabledGo* to provide an online information guide for residents and visitors. The guide caters for disabled people of all ages, as well as their family and friends, by giving details on accessible buildings and venues across the borough... * http://www.disabledgo.com/

New Zealand

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
3/11/10	http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1003/S00181.htm	Yesterday's launch of New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) fourth Vulnerability Report shows New Zealanders are significantly worse-off than they were a year ago. Members of ComVoices, an independent network of Tangata Whenua, and community and voluntary sector organisations say that the report demonstrates that our most vulnerable citizens are still feeling the impact of the recession despite some early economic indications that the worst is over... The Vulnerability Report will be published online with printable versions available from the www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz website. =====
		Vulnerability Report NZCCSS is committed to giving priority to the poor and vulnerable members of our society. To this end our new

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		<p>Vulnerability Report, which commenced in mid 2009, will actively monitor the level of economic and social hardship experienced by a growing number of New Zealanders. Each Vulnerability Report will provide the latest information we have been able to access from government agencies and from a range of community based organisations – both from our members and from others. It is intended that these snapshot quarterly reports will contribute to the development of compassionate policy responses.</p> <p>http://www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz/site/page.php?page_id=260</p>
3/14/10	<p>Manahau: Resilience and Celebration - newsletter with a focus on the Human Rights issues of disabled people</p> <p>http://www.hrc.co.nz/newsletters/manahau/</p>	<p>UNESCO frequently asked questions on the Disability Convention</p> <p>The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO recently published a new resource. It provides information in response to frequently asked questions about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The information includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what are human rights? what is a convention? how does the convention work? <p>The resource is available in HTML and PDF on the UNESCO website</p> <p>http://www.unesco.org/nz/index.php/priority-areas-/inclusivity-and-diversity/un-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-faqresource</p>

Scotland

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
3/1/10	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article7045739.ece</p> <p>http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/revealed-shocking-legacy-of-drinking-in-pregnancy-1.1010017</p>	<p>At least 900 children in Scotland are suffering from a debilitating and potentially fatal syndrome caused by mothers who binge drink in the first three months of pregnancy.</p> <p>Thousands more Scots children are suffering from less obvious symptoms such as learning difficulties caused by women who drink too much in the later stages of pregnancy, according to a new report.</p> <p>The study, which has been sent to both the UK and Scottish parliaments, warns too much emphasis has been placed on the cost of adults misusing alcohol, and the impact on their unborn children has been ignored.</p> <p>Dr Jonathan Sher, director of research, policy and programmes at Children in Scotland*, which has more than 450 members including children's charities and community groups, compiled the report. The study warns that Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and the less obvious Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) are entirely avoidable and completely incurable...</p> <p>* http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/</p> <p>Media Release: http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/docs/pubs/alcoholandpregnancy.pdf</p> <p>Submission to the Scottish Parliamentary Labour Party's Alcohol Commission</p>

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		<p>http://www.childreninScotland.org.uk/docs/AlcoholCommission.pdf</p>
<p>3/2/10</p>	<p>http://www.scotsman.com/features/Stories-from-the-front-line.6111104.jp</p>	<p>Stories from the front line: Special report on social work in Scotland By Peter Ross Vilified, under-resourced and struggling to cope with society's ills, social workers are stretched to breaking point. After a month-long investigation, with unprecedented access to the human encounters at the heart of the job, Peter Ross reveals a profession in crisis . . . In Scotland there are around 10,500 registered social workers dealing with an estimated 500,000 people at any one time. The approximate social work budget for 2009/10 is £2.8 billion... Public incomprehension and hostility are additional pressures on a profession that has stress built into the very nature of the work. According to surveys by the trade union Unison*, social workers are struggling with unmanageable caseloads, a situation exacerbated by high rates of stress-related sickness and a high turnover of staff, particularly in the area of child protection.</p> <p>At UK level there are simply not enough people willing to do the job, and though Scotland has fewer problems with recruitment, retaining staff is a challenge. In Edinburgh, the turnover rate in the Children and Families sector is around 14 per cent, double what it is elsewhere within the city's social work department...</p> <p>[Read the article for an interesting overview of some of the issues faced in Scotland.] * http://www.unison.org.uk/ http://www.unison.org.uk/socialwork/index.asp</p> <p>Social workers raise concerns about personal budgets in social care http://www.unison.org.uk/socialwork/pages_view.asp?did=11255</p> <p>See The Social Work Task Force (UK) at http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/swtf/ Building a safe, confident future - The final report of the Social Work Task Force http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01114-2009DOM-EN.pdf</p> <p>The Social Work Reform Board, set up in January 2010, leads a national social work reform programme. http://www.education.gov.uk/swrb/ Social Workers' Workload Survey: Messages from the Frontline http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/swtf/downloads/SWTF%20Workload%20Survey%20(final).pdf</p>

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
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<p>3/15/10</p>	<p>http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2010/03/15/114050/Personalisation-in-Scotland.htm</p>	<p>Scotland's government is pledging to make self-directed support central to social care... last month the Scottish government put out to consultation* its own strategy for self-directed support. Its ambition - echoing policy in England - is to make self-directed support "the mainstream mechanism for the delivery of social care"...</p> <p>As in England, the strategy promotes the use of individual budgets - known as personal budgets in England - under which users are allocated a sum of money to meet their assessed needs which they can take as a direct payment or leave to the council or a third party to administer...</p> <p>North Lanarkshire Council started piloting individual budgets in 2008, with the charity In Control. A review** published last year found individual budgets had "filled in the gaps" by enabling people to spend money on gym membership and other services not funded by the council and improved control and flexibility for users...</p> <p>* Self-Directed Support: A National Strategy for Scotland http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/05133942/0 http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/301424/0094007.pdf ** http://www.jitscotland.org.uk/downloads/1262961334-North%20Lanarkshire%20way%20ahead%20report%20(3).pdf http://www.scribd.com/doc/21693150/Way-Ahead-%E2%80%93-North-Lanarkshire-Report http://www.in-control.org.uk/site/INCO/Templates/General.aspx?pageid=1336&cc=GB</p> <p>Related sources: http://www.cpa.org.uk/information/readings/personalisation.pdf Personalisation milestones http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2009/09/15/112593/Personalisation-milestones.htm</p>
<p>9/9/10</p>	<p>http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/09/07141141/0</p> <p>found at http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/</p> <p>http://childpolicyinfo.childreninscotland.org.uk/index/news-app?story=9566&category=2&archived=N</p>	<p>Towards an Autism Strategy for Scotland (consultation) The Scottish Government, working in partnership with the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Reference Group, have developed a draft Scottish Autism Strategy. The Strategy sets out what the Scottish Government in partnership with users, carers and professionals proposes to do to meet the needs of people with ASD in response to growing concerns that, whilst much has been achieved in Scotland to date, much has yet to be done.</p> <p>Report available at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/323742/0104252.pdf</p>

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
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UK

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3/1/10	<p>http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/british-library-creates-archive-of-defunct-web/article1485505/</p> <p>http://www.physorg.com/news/186685513.html</p>	<p>The British Library* says it's creating an archive of the country's defunct websites to preserve snapshots of the ever-changing Internet for posterity.</p> <p>The library is already charged with keeping a copy of every published work distributed in Britain and Ireland. In 2003 that directive was extended to electronic materials such as compact discs and online publications.</p> <p>Now the British Library says it's begun trawling through the Web and making archival copies of sites of historic interest — including those once maintained by now-bankrupt companies such as Woolworths, Web pages spawned after the July 7, 2005, terrorist attacks in London and Internet coverage of Britain's last general election.</p> <p>The Library says it has so far archived 6,000 sites.</p> <p>* http://www.bl.uk/</p> <p>Several projects around the world are also aimed at archiving Web sites, not just dead ones but those that have changed over the years. Among them is the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine at http://www.archive.org/index.php</p>
3/18/10	<p>http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/182815.php</p>	<p>BrainPort Helps Blinded Soldier See With Tongue ...</p> <p>... The BrainPort device looks like a square plastic lollipop that connects via a wire to a tiny video camera mounted on sunglasses worn by the user. When users want to "see" their environment, they put the "lollipop" in their mouth and the video camera images are converted to electrical impulses that users sense with their tongue when it makes contact with the lollipop...</p> <p>You can't speak or eat while using the current prototype of the BrainPort, but the designers are planning to make a smaller version that instead of a lollipop that goes in the mouth has a plate that sits behind the teeth or on the roof of the mouth, allowing it to be worn more or less all the time and have a more natural look and feel.</p> <p>The device currently has 400 points of contact with the tongue. The next version will probably have 4,000 points, delivering much clearer, higher resolution images to the user.</p> <p>BrainPort is made by Wicab Inc of Middleton, Wisconsin in the United States, a company established by American neuroscientist Dr Paul Bach-y-Rita in 1998...</p> <p>http://vision.wicab.com/technology/</p>

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USA

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3/4/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	Annual Disability Statistics Compendium: 2009 http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2979 Summary: This compendium is the first of an annual publication of statistics on people with disabilities and government programs that serve this population. It is designed to serve as a reference guide to government publications. The information focuses on state-level statistics published by Federal agencies and presents some time-trend data. A glossary is provided to assist in the interpretation of the statistics. http://www.hcbs.org/files/176/8770/Compendium2009.pdf http://www.disabilitycompendium.org/
3/4/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	Caregiving in the U.S. 2009 http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2984 Summary: Almost one third of the U.S. adult population plays a caregiver role, according to this new, comprehensive report that details the prevalence, implications, costs, and demographics of caregivers. The study was designed to replicate similar studies conducted in 2004 and 1997, and includes a sampling of those caring for children as well as adults. http://www.caregiving.org/ http://www.caregiving.org/data/CaregivingUSAllAgesExecSum.pdf http://www.caregiving.org/data/2009CaregivingAARP_Full_Report.pdf http://www.caregiving.org/data/2009Caregiving_Appendix_A_Full_Questionnaire.pdf http://www.caregiving.org/data/2009Caregiving_Appendix_B_Detailed_Methodology.pdf
3/4/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	Center on Aging and Community-Indiana University http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2978 Summary: Visit the website for this center that works in partnership with adults who are aging with disabilities to promote their well-being, community-participation, self-determination and leadership. As one of seven centers at the University's Institute on Disability and Community, it conducts research and provides training, assistance and information to individuals, families, professionals and communities. http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/index.php?pageId=31 http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/
3/4/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	Nurse Delegation Webinar http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2997 Summary: Explore this webinar which provided an overview of nurse delegation in HCBS, including information on how it can support Money Follows the Person initiatives, overcoming barriers in laws and nurse practice acts, and getting buy-in from nurses. Review slides from the discussion of a pilot program in NJ and changes in ND to support nurse delegation. Susan Reinhard, RN, PhD, of AARP and a national expert on this topic

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
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		<p>moderated the webinar. http://dswresourcecenter.org/pdfs/2-17-10_NurseDelegation.wmv http://dswresourcecenter.org/tiki-index.php http://www.hcbs.org/files/177/8809/Susan_Reinhard_Nurse_delegation_webinar.pdf http://www.hcbs.org/files/177/8806/NJ_Pilot_Webinar_February_2010.pdf http://www.hcbs.org/files/177/8808/Connie_Kalanek_DSW_Nurse_Delegation_Webinar.pdf</p>
<p>3/4/10</p>	<p>e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips</p>	<p>The State of Housing in America in the 21st Century: A Disability Perspective http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2977 Summary: This report provides a comprehensive overview of the state of housing in the 21st century and answers important questions about current housing needs and options for people with disabilities in the U.S. It provides evidence of what can be effective in meeting the range of housing needs, including promising practices drawn from real examples, and lessons learned from experts working on housing issues and policy. http://www.hcbs.org/files/175/8746/NCD_Housing_Report508.pdf http://www.ncd.gov/</p>
<p>3/8/10</p>	<p>http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/09/health/09memory.html?_r=1</p>	<p>...an experiment intended to help people with Alzheimer's and other memory disorders. The concept was simple: using digital pictures and audio to archive an experience like a weekend visit from the grandchildren, creating a summary of the resulting content by picking crucial images, and reviewing them periodically to awaken and strengthen the memory of the event. The hardware is a little black box called the SenseCam, which contains a digital camera and an accelerometer to measure movement. Worn like a pendant around the neck, it was developed at Microsoft's research lab in Cambridge, England. Vicon*, a British company that has licensed the technology, is selling its version of the SenseCam** only to researchers. For the elderly, though, it could herald a new kind of relationship between mind and machine: even as plaque gets deposited on the brain, everyday experience is deposited on silicon, then retrieved...</p> <p>The SenseCam takes hundreds of pictures in a short period. When researchers began exploring it as a memory aid a few years ago, they had patients and caregivers look at all the pictures together.</p> <p>Although the exercise helped improve retention of an experience, it was evident that a better way would be to focus on a few key images that might unlock the memories related to it. The interactive nature of that approach would give patients a greater sense of control over their recollections, and allow them to revisit past experiences rather than simply know they had happened... the researchers came up with some broad rules for identifying</p>

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		<p>and retrieving images likely to serve as memory triggers. For a people-based experience like a family reunion, the system selects photographs in which faces are clearly discernible; for a location-based experience like a visit to a museum, it uses geographical positions provided by GPS and accelerometer data to judge what images might be most salient — for example, when a subject might be hovering at one spot, like in front of a painting. Research groups elsewhere are experimenting with other techniques to summarize and make use of SenseCam data. Alan Smeaton and colleagues at Dublin City University in Ireland are comparing images to categorize them by activity — shopping, for example — so the system can put together a visual summary of the day. At the University of Toronto, a group led by Ronald M. Baecker is investigating the usefulness of complementing SenseCam images with an audio narrative created by a loved one. Once the system selects some photos from the hundreds taken, the caregiver winnows down the candidates, adding cues like audio from the voice recorder, verbal narration and brief text captions. The final product is a multimedia slide show on a tablet computer that allows the patient to dig deeper into highlighted parts of some images by tapping on the screen. The first tap plays audio, the second shows captions...</p> <p>Other SenseCam studies*** — also financed by Microsoft — have produced encouraging results, but plans to market the device as a memory aid have not been announced.</p> <p>* http://www.vicon.com/ http://www.viconrevue.com/home.html</p> <p>** http://www.slashgear.com/sensecam-lifeloggng-camera-hitting-production-1960844/ http://www.clarity-centre.org/sensecam2010/</p> <p>*** http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/cambridge/projects/sensecam/publications.htm</p>
3/14/10	<p>Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities update http://www.mnddc.org/</p>	<p>Meet the Future Face of Employment Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Technology Fields</p> <p>A new web site section, Meet the Future Face of Employment, introduces the WOW people, those individuals on the autism spectrum who have achieved national and international status in their chosen fields. This section offers a broad range of information and resources to help anyone interested in supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorder to be employed in technology fields. http://www.mnddc.org/asd-employment/index.html</p> <p>Milestones in Disability History Since the Enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act: On this 20th Anniversary of the ADA, this timeline includes significant court rulings, federal and state legislation, and events that have advanced the civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. http://www.mnddc.org/news/newsitems/ada_20th_anniversary_timeline.htm</p>

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
(March, 2010) (Note: Changed format)**

3/17/10	The eCast, Mental Health & Rehabilitation Newsletter March 2010 from the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Boston University http://www.bu.edu/cpr	Report Examines Best Practices in Consumer-Led Evaluation Teams Consumer Quality Initiatives, Inc (http://www.cqi-mass.org/) has prepared an exploratory examination of consumer-led evaluation teams in order to identify best practices in consumer-run evaluation. A report entitled “Consumer Led Evaluation Teams: A Peer Led Approach to Assessing Consumer Experiences with Mental Health Services discusses the methodology used to conduct this examination, the findings, and identified best practices for approaching this work. To learn more about this report, go to the following web page: http://www.power2u.org/downloads/CET-ReportByCOI.pdf
3/18/10	hcbs.org > Clearinghouse Clips	National Directory of Home Modifications Resources http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3024 Summary: Home modifications can make performing tasks easier, reduce accidents and support independent living. Examples include lever door handles that operate easily with a push, handrails on both sides of staircase and outside steps, and ramps for accessible entry and exit. Check out this directory of state resources on home modification to find resources in your state. Also note the link to Disability.gov, where you can find more information on accessible housing options. http://www.usc.edu/dept/gero/nrcshhm/directory/ http://www.disability.gov/housing

Other International

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>