



Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Departement Health Sciences and Health Policy

LECTURE SERIES SPRING 2014

## Functioning in health information systems



WEDNESDAYS AT 5.15 PM, HS 5

UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE, FROHBURGSTRASSE 3, 6002 LUCERNE

# Introduction

Health information provides the foundation for evidence-based decision-making in health systems and comprises information about an individuals' biological and lived health. Such information is collected routinely in clinical and rehabilitation practice to decide upon the most adequate intervention or treatment program for a person, to track patients' health over time, to compile service or institution specific statistics and to calculate reimbursement. Furthermore, health information is gathered to investigate effectiveness of interventions, to identify determinants of health conditions, to track the health of populations, and to develop and evaluate policies and related programs. To facilitate interpretation and comparison of information within and between populations, as well as over time and across settings and countries, not only standards regarding the structure and content of information are important, but also meaningful measures of health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released in 2001 the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF). The ICF constitutes the international standard for describing functioning and disability and is recommended for complimentary use with its fellow classifications within WHO's family of classifications. Functioning is the operationalization of health. As a classification, the ICF facilitates standardization in the reporting of health information, offers a comprehensive and comprehensible common language to describe functioning and disability, and thus, permits comparability of health information between and within (sub-)populations on local, national and international level.

In this lecture series\*, speakers with great expertise regarding health information, and in particular functioning information, will share their experiences and insights on the topic to gain a broad picture about the potentialities and practicalities of implementing the ICF into health information systems. The key theme of all talks will be health information based on the ICF as a building block for health information systems.

Coordinators of the lecture series:



Dr. Birgit Prodingler



Prof. Dr. Gerold Stucki

\*The lectures are public and free of charge. Medical doctors can earn one credit per lecture for further education from the Swiss Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. For more information see our website: [www.unilu.ch/healthsem](http://www.unilu.ch/healthsem)

# Program

March 5, 2014 at 5.15 pm, HS 5

**What is health information? Perspectives from WHO**



*Dr. T. Bedirhan Üstün*

*Classification, Terminology and Standards Unit at the World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland*

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released classifications that capture population's health based on parameters such as death, diseases, functioning, disability, and interventions. The international endorsement of these classifications facilitates the comparability of health information within and between populations, nationally and internationally, and across time points. This lecture offers an understanding of health information from the perspective of WHO.

March 19, 2014 at 5.15 pm, HS 5

**Toward standardization of health information: Relevance and value of the ICF**



*Dr. Birgit Prodinger*

*Swiss Paraplegic Research, Switzerland*

*Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy, University of Lucerne, Switzerland*

Standardization of health information is important for enhancing efficiency and transparency of evidence-based decision making. Standards for structure and content of health information facilitate overcoming fragmentation and redundancy in data collection and strengthens the cohesive flow of information. This lecture addresses the potentialities and challenges in using WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) to facilitate standardization of health information.

April 30, 2014 at 5.15 pm, HS 5

**Reliable and valid health information: A measurement perspective**



*Prof. Dr. Alan Tennant*

*Academic Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Leeds, UK*

*Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy, University of Lucerne, Switzerland*

*Swiss Paraplegic Research, Switzerland*

The ability to make comparison of health information across conditions and through all levels of the health systems, reflects an aspiration towards a unified and inclusive reporting mechanism for the functioning aspects of health. In this lecture the requirements and methodological procedures to operationalize these requirements based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) are presented from a measurement perspective.

May 14, 2014 at 5.15 pm, HS 5

Functioning information in health services management and research: Experiences from Australia



*Prof. Dr. Friedbert Kohler*

*University of New South Wales, Australia*

The joint use of WHO's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) has been promoted to gain a more accurate and comprehensive picture of individuals' and population's health. When jointly used, the ICD and ICF capture not only disease-specific information but also information on how health plays out in their daily lives. This lecture will address challenges of implementing the ICF in routine clinical practice and potential application of the joint use of these classifications from the perspective of health services management and research by drawing upon experiences within the Australian context.

May 28, 2014 at 5.15 pm, HS 5

Reflections on the potentialities of the ICF



*Prof. Dr. Jerome Bickenbach*

*Swiss Paraplegic Research, Switzerland*

*Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy, University of Lucerne, Switzerland*

Based on a retrospective look at the aims and visions that inspired the development of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF), Prof. Bickenbach explores the extent to which the potentials of the ICF have been currently exploited, potential future areas of implementation, and related challenges. The focus of this lecture is in particular on the relevance of health information for evidence-based decision making in disability policy.

**Additional lecture:**

April 2, 2014 at 5.15 pm, HS 5

Rehabilitation and older people



*Prof. Dr. Ian Cameron*

*Rehabilitation Studies Unit, Sydney Medical School Northern, University of Sydney*

*Medical Services, Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, Australia*

Transition to a world population with much larger number of older people is occurring globally. Ageing is universally associated with an increasing prevalence of disability. Rehabilitation provides an approach for older people to lessen the burden of disability. Older people commonly experience health conditions, such as stroke and hip fracture, which cause activity limitation and are responsive to rehabilitation interventions. At a population level identification of older people who may benefit from rehabilitation may be more efficiently achieved through recognition of limitations in functioning, or presence of the frailty syndrome, or when sentinel events, such as falls or confusion, occur that indicate a failure of homeostasis.

# Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy

The lecture series is organized by the Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy of the University of Lucerne. The department promotes research and prepares scientists to work in the field of health and disability from a biopsychosocial perspective. The theoretical framework of the department is rooted in the concept of human functioning, as codified by the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.

## Master in Health Sciences

This innovative educational program launched by the Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy of the University of Lucerne is the ideal preparation for an exciting career in health. Students of the Master program in Health Sciences also attend the lecture series. It is an important part of their curriculum to broaden their interdisciplinary understanding of health.

The program offers a list of majors that will provide students with the unique opportunity to closely work with their supervisors. Students will be able to work in small groups to further develop expertise in their chosen area of interest. After completion of the first semester, students can then choose from the following majors:

*Human Functioning Sciences:* Developing and testing theories and models of health, functioning and disability to conduct innovative research in health sciences, and to plan and manage comprehensive care programs in the health sector.

*Research Methods:* Developing skills that aid decision making processes in health sciences using biostatistics and state of the art research methodology.

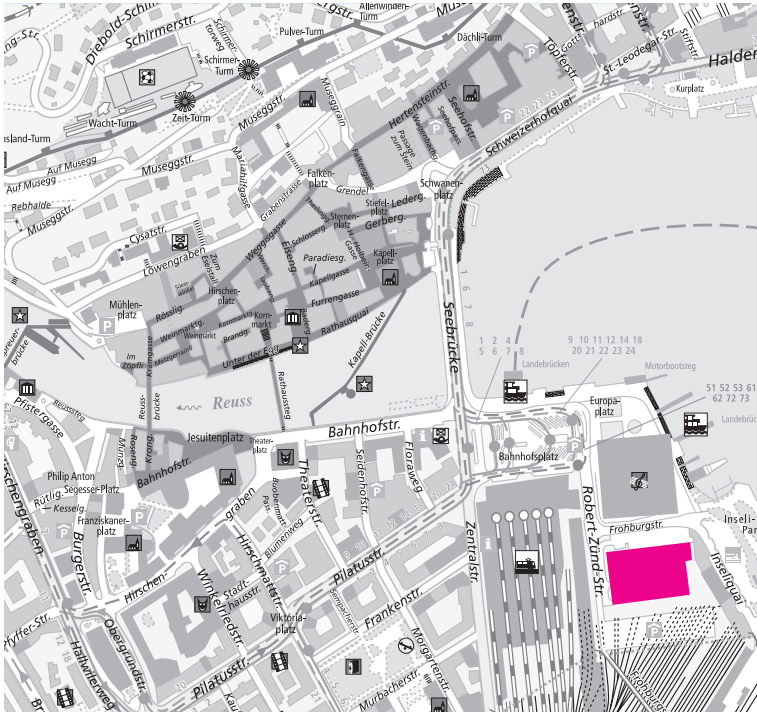
*Health Economics & Health Policy:* Providing the basic foundation and principles of economic evaluation including the methodology and study of relevance and application to health care decision making at all levels of the health care sector.

*Health and Social Behavior:* Facilitate learning on how health behaviors and health experiences can be addressed and changed with appropriate interventions or changes to the health system.

*Health Communication:* Studying how health information is produced and exchanged through communication, and its impact on individuals, community groups, institution and public policy.

The Master in Health Sciences aims to bring a new dimension into research, health service provision, and healthcare management by pioneering the development and application of a comprehensive approach in the field of health.





## Information

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## Venue

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