

UNIVERSITÄT  
LUZERN

# Annual Report 2022

Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems



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## 1 Summary

The Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems (CRGHS) was established in October 2017. The CRGHS is affiliated to the former Department of Health Sciences and Medicine, which became a Faculty of Health Sciences and medicine in 2023. The Center is led by three co-directors, who are supported by a coordinator and an administrative assistant. In 2022 the Center included 17 members and a scientific advisory board of 4 people.

The year 2022 unfolded as a year of consolidation. The CRGHS's regulations were updated and approved. The first four-year period (2018-2022) as a WHO collaborating center was completed and at the same time the next four-year period (2022-2026) was applied for and approved by WHO. Within this collaboration, new Terms of Reference (TORs) were agreed upon with WHO including work on the WHO's Rehabilitation 2030 initiative, the "Make Listening safe" initiative and the healthy ageing agenda. In addition, the CRGHS successfully applied for membership in the newly established World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA) under WHO.

As a core project in 2022, the CRHGS worked out a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) about Standardized Assessment and Reporting for functioning information (StARS) based on the ICF in close cooperation with Swiss Paraplegic Research, to be launched in spring 2023 on the Swiss MOOC platform.

Eighteen publications including articles, editorials and comments were published with the affiliation of the CRGHS in 2022. Members of the CRGHS attended four conferences and WHO meetings and one symposium. The latter symposium was attended online but as keynote speaker. In addition, CRGHS members participated in five consultation and working groups. Furthermore, the CRGHS held three events in 2022.

## 2 Introduction

Health systems across the world are facing major challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: the population ageing and the increased prevalence of chronic conditions, such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, mental or musculoskeletal disorders, are leading to a significant rise in disability at the population level. Evidence-informed policies and public health interventions to lower the prevalence of disability in countries are necessary and should be directed at optimizing functioning of individuals or lowering environmental macro-level determinants of disability. Optimizing functioning can be achieved through accessible and good-quality rehabilitation, the fourth health strategy besides prevention, promotion and cure.

In 2017, responding to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the "Rehabilitation 2030: A Call for Action" initiative to raise the profile of rehabilitation as a health strategy relevant to the entire population, across the lifespan and the continuum of care. "Rehabilitation 2030" calls for coordinated and collaborative global action towards strengthening rehabilitation in health systems worldwide.

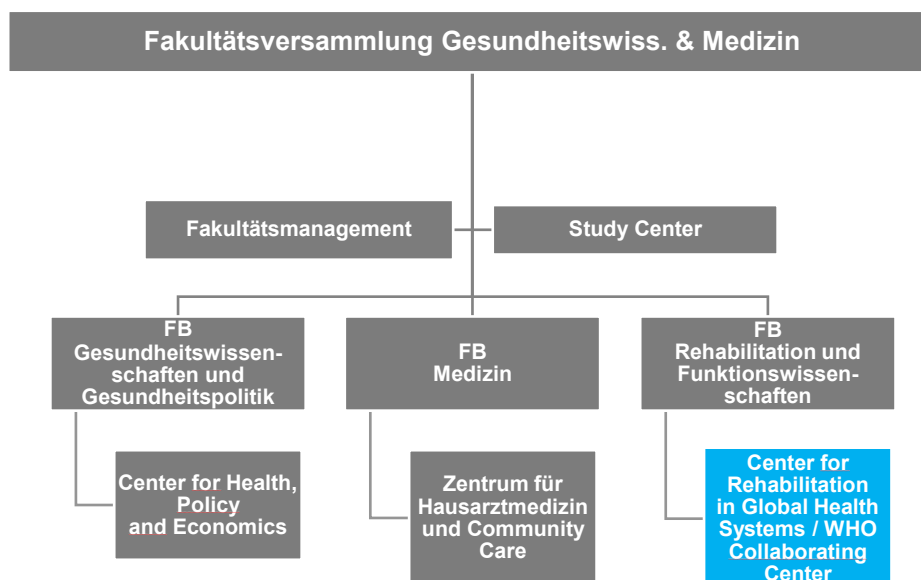
On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Lucerne unanimously decided to establish a **Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems**, with the goal of developing a thematic focus in line with WHO's "Rehabilitation 2030: A Call for Action". The application of the Faculty was approved by the Senate and soon thereafter by the University Council. Participating in the Centre are, first of all, professors and organizational units from the faculties at the University of Lucerne and, secondly, external partners.

**The Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems' major goals are to pursue educational, research and implementation activities leading to the development of expertise and the know-how necessary to strengthen rehabilitation in global health systems.**

### 3 Governance, members, advisory board

#### 3.1 Governance

The CRGHS is located in the Section of Rehabilitation and Functioning Sciences in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine (as of February 2023) as is demonstrated in the following organigram:



#### 3.2 Co-Directors

| Name   | Affiliation  | E-Mail Address               |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Gerold Stucki<br>Director Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems<br>Head of WHO Collaborating Center         | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division of Rehabilitation and Functioning Sciences | gerold.stucki@unilu.ch       |
| Peter Kirchschräger<br>Co-Director Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems                                    | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Theology,<br>Institute of Social Ethics  | peter.kirchschrager@unilu.ch |
| Carla Sabariego<br>Co-Director Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems<br>Co-Head of WHO Collaborating Center | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division of Rehabilitation and Functioning Sciences | carla.sabariego@unilu.ch     |

#### 3.3 Administration

| Name  | Affiliation  | E-Mail Address              |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Roxanne Maritz<br>Coordinator<br>(Maternity leave from June 2022) | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division of Rehabilitation and Functioning Sciences | roxanne.maritz@unilu.ch     |
| Daniela Dombrowski<br>Coordinator<br>(Maternity replacement)      | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division of Rehabilitation and Functioning Sciences | daniela.dombrowski@unilu.ch |
| Colette Lenherr<br>Administrative Assistant                       | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division of Rehabilitation and Functioning Sciences | colette.lenherr@unilu.ch    |

### 3.4 Members

| <b>Name</b>            | <b>Affiliation</b>   |
|------------------------|--|
| Jerome Bickenbach      | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division of Rehabilitation and Functioning Sciences |
| Diana Pacheco Barzallo | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division of Rehabilitation and Functioning Sciences |
| Vanessa Seijas         | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division of Rehabilitation and Functioning Sciences |
| Sara Rubinelli         | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division Health Sciences and Health Policy          |
| Stefan Boes            | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division Health Sciences and Health Policy          |
| Sarah Mantwill         | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division Health Sciences and Health Policy          |
| Nicola Diviani         | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine,<br>Division Health Sciences and Health Policy          |
| Antonius Liedhegener   | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,<br>Department for the Study of Religions             |
| Bernhard Rüttsche      | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Law  |
| Mira Burri             | University of Lucerne<br>Faculty of Law  |
| Oliver Stoller         | ETH Zürich<br>Competence Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering and Science   |
| Urban Schwegler        | Swiss Paraplegic Research, Nottwil<br>Arbeit und soziale Integration   |
| Anke Scheel-Sailer     | Swiss Paraplegic Center, Nottwil<br>Paraplegiologie  |
| Claudio Perret         | Swiss Paraplegic Center, Nottwil<br>Sportmedizin   |
| Thomas Nyffeler        | Lucerne Cantonal Hospital<br>Neurorehabilitation/Research  |
| Christian Sturzenegger | SUVA<br>Chief Medical Officer, Rehaklinik Bellikon   |
| Jan Reinhardt          | Sichuan University, Chengdu, China<br>Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction                               |
| Birgit Prodingler      | Technical University of Rosenheim<br>Fakultät für Angewandte Gesundheits- und Sozialwissenschaften                       |
| Reuben Escorpizo       | University of Vermont  |

### 3.5 Advisory Board

| Name                | Affiliation   |
|---------------------|---|
| Mirjam Brach        | Swiss Paraplegic Research, Nottwil  |
| Dorothee Guggisberg | Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Art<br>Division Social Work            |
| Luise Menzi         | ANQ Section Rehabilitation (until January 2023)                                   |
| Robert Riener       | ETH Zurich<br>Competence Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering and Science (RESC) |

### 3.6 Regulations

The CRGHS members and former Department of Health Sciences and Medicine of the University of Lucerne approved the new regulations. Changes to the original version of 11 November 2019 were approved by the Departmental Assembly on 07 March 2022. The complete updated version can be found in Appendix 1.

## 4 CRGHS activities and projects

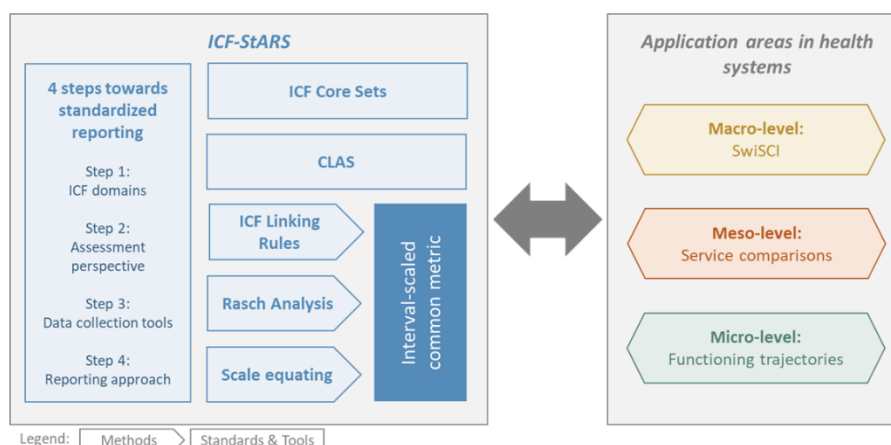
### 4.1 MOOC ICF-StARS

In 2022, the Swiss National Science Foundation granted additional funding for a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) intended to further disseminate the results and methodology used in the NRP 74 StARS project, which had been completed in July 2021. Based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and a combination of innovative statistical methods, the former NRP 74 StARS project demonstrated the development of a Standardized Assessment and Reporting System (StARS) for functioning information in rehabilitation. The combination of qualitative and quantitative methods such as ICF-linking and Rasch analysis (in the following called ICF-StARS methodology) that enables the harmonization and standardization of functioning information across different data sets and assessment instruments is the essential knowledge transfer product of the StARS project.

A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) seemed an appropriate knowledge transfer tool to sustainably disseminate the results of the NRP 74StARS project and the developed ICF-StARS methodology to a broad national and international audience across the health care system. The objective of the ICF-StARS MOOC is to briefly demonstrate the importance of standardized assessment and reporting of functioning information in the health system, how a StARS can be developed, and to highlight possible application areas. As an audience it targets stakeholders working with or assessing functioning information (health care professionals, quality managers, clinic management, governmental actors, health insurance officers, health science researchers and students, etc.).

The MOOC was developed by the Swiss Paraplegic Research in close collaboration with the CRGHS and will be provided through the *Swiss MOOC Service* platform (<https://www.swissmooc.ch/>) starting in May 2023.

#### 4.1.1 Structure of contents



## 4.2 WRA

The World Rehabilitation Alliance is part of the WHO Rehabilitation 2030 initiative. The initiative called for coordinated global action amongst all stakeholders on several fronts, including: improving leadership and governance, expanding the rehabilitation workforce, and improving rehabilitation data collection in countries.



The World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA) is a WHO informal network for stakeholders to promote rehabilitation, expand their professional network and share experiences. The World Health Organization (WHO) serves as the Secretariat of the WRA. WRA membership consists of representatives from: Member States and State bodies, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions.

In 2022 the CRGHS applied for membership of the WRA and was accepted as a member for the period 2022-2024 and will be contributing to the WRA working group designated to the topic of research. The certificate is attached in Appendix 2a.

## 5 Current activities and projects WHO CC

In October 2018, the Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems had been appointed as an official Collaborating Center of the World Health Organization (WHO) Department for Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, Unit for Disability and Rehabilitation. Collaborating centers are appointed for a period of four years and report annually to the WHO. In agreement with WHO, three Terms of Reference (TORs) had been defined for the Collaborating Center for the period 2018-2022. In October 2022 the last annual report of the period 2018-2022 was submitted to the WHO.

Simultaneously the CRGHS applied successfully for redesignation for the next four-year-period (17.10.2022-17.10.2026). The following workplan consisting of three Terms of Reference (TORs) for the new period was agreed upon:

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| TOR 1: | to contribute, under WHO's leadership, to the implementation of the WHO "Rehabilitation 2030: A Call for Action".            |
| TOR 2: | At WHO's request, provide input towards the development of health communications for WHO's "Make Listening Safe" initiative. |
| TOR 3: | Contribute, in agreement with WHO's healthy ageing agenda in the scope of the "2021-2030 UN Decade of Healthy Ageing"        |

The certificate of the redesignation is attached to Appendix 2b.

## 6 Outreach activities

### 6.1 Publications (CRGHS members displayed in bold)

- Bernard RM, Toppo C, Raggi A, de Mul M, de Miquel C, Pugliese MT, van der Feltz-Cornelis CM, Ortiz-Tallo A, Salvador-Carulla L, Lukersmith S, Hakkaart-van Roijen L, Merez-Kot D, Staszewska K, **Sabariego C**. Strategies for Implementing Occupational eMental Health Interventions: Scoping Review. *J Med Internet Res*. 2022;24(6):e34479.
- **Bickenbach J, Stucki G**, van Ginneken E, Busse R. Editorial: Strengthening Rehabilitation in Europe. *Health Policy*. 2022;126(3):151.
- Cieza A, Kwamie A, Magaqa Q, Paichadze N, **Sabariego C**, Blanchet K, Zia N, Bachani A, Ghaffar A and Mikkelsen B. Framing rehabilitation through health policy and systems research: priorities for strengthening rehabilitation. *Health Research Policy and Systems*. 2022;20:101.

- Frontera W, **Stucki G**, Engkasan J, Francisco G, Gutenbrunner C, Hasnan N, et al. Advancing academic capacity in physical and rehabilitation medicine to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems worldwide: A joint effort by the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Association of Academic Physiatrists, and the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. *The Journal of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*. 2022;5(3):105-13.
- Gimigliano F, Francisco GE, Khan F, Li L, Schiappacasse C, Laffont I, Melvin J, **Stucki G**, Lains J, Frontera WR. Comment on: "Fostering a uniform global name for the specialty of physicians working in rehabilitation". *Eur J Phys Rehabil Med*. 2022;58(6):793-795.
- **Gosling J**, Golyk V, Mishra S, Skelton P. We must not neglect rehabilitation in Ukraine. *EClinicalMedicine*. 2022;50:101537.
- Kleinitz P, **Sabariego C**, Cieza A. Development of the WHO STARS: A Tool for the Systematic Assessment of Rehabilitation Situation. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*. 2022 ;103(1):29-43.
- Lee L, Kamenov K, Fellinghauer C, **Sabariego C**, Chatterji S, Cieza A. WHO Functioning and Disability Disaggregation (FDD11) tool: a reliable approach for disaggregating data by disability. *Arch Public Health*. 2022;80, 249.
- **Maritz R**, Fellinghauer C, Brach M, Curt A, Gmünder HP, Hopfe M, et al. A Rasch-Based Comparison of the Functional Independence Measure and Spinal Cord Independence Measure for Outcome and Quality in the Rehabilitation of Persons with Spinal Cord Injury. *J Rehabil Med*. 2022;54:jrm00262.
- Mishra S, **Gosling J**, Laplante-Lévesque A, Zapata T, Azzopardi Muscat N. The need for rehabilitation services in the WHO European Region is substantial and growing. *Lancet Reg Health Eur*. 2022;24:100550.
- Negrini S, Selb M, Kiekens C, Todhunter-Brown A, Arienti C, **Stucki G**, et al. Rehabilitation Definition for Research Purposes: A Global Stakeholders' Initiative by Cochrane Rehabilitation. *Am J Phys Med Rehabil*. 2022;101(7):e100-e7.
- Olaya B, Van der Feltz-Cornelis CM, Hakkaart-van Roijen L, Merecz-Kot D, Sinokki M, Naumanen P, Shepherd J, van Krugten F, de Mul M, Staszewska K, Vorstenbosch E, de Miquel C, Lima RA, Ayuso-Mateos JL, Salvador-Carulla L, Borrega O, **Sabariego C**, Bernard RM, Vanroelen C, Gevaert J, Van Aerden K, Raggi A, Seghezzi F; EMPOWER Consortium; Haro JM. Study protocol of EMPOWER: A cluster randomized trial of a multimodal eHealth intervention for promoting mental health in the workplace following a stepped wedge trial design. *Digit Health*. 2022 Oct 19;8:20552076221131145.
- **Pacheco Barzallo D**, Hernandez R, Brach M, Gemperli A. The economic value of long-term family caregiving. The situation of caregivers of persons with spinal cord injury in Switzerland. *Health Soc Care Community*. 2022;30(5):e2297-e2307.
- **Sabariego C**, **Bickenbach J**, **Stucki G**. Supporting evidence-informed policy making in rehabilitation: A logic framework for continuous improvement of rehabilitation programs. *Health Policy*. 2022;126(3):152-7.
- **Sabariego C**, Fellinghauer C, Lee L, Kamenov K, Posarac A, **Bickenbach J**, Kostanjsek N, Chatterji S, Cieza A. Generating comprehensive functioning and disability data worldwide: development process, data analyses strategy and reliability of the WHO and World Bank Model Disability Survey. *Arch Public Health*. 2022;80(1):6.
- Skempes D, Kiekens C, Malmivaara A, Michail X, **Bickenbach J**, **Stucki G**. Supporting government policies to embed and expand rehabilitation in health systems in Europe: A framework for action. *Health Policy*. 2022;126(3):158-72.
- Spiess AAF, Skempes D, **Bickenbach J**, **Stucki G**. Exploration of current challenges in rehabilitation from the perspective of healthcare professionals: Switzerland as a case in point. *Health Policy*. 2022;126(3):173-82.
- Zampolini M, Selb M, Boldrini P, Branco CA, Golyk V, Hu X, Kiekens C, Negrini S, Nulle A, Oral A, Sgantzios M, Shmonin A, Treger I, **Stucki G**, UEMS-PRM Section and Board. The Individual Rehabilitation Project as the core of person-centered rehabilitation: The Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Section and Board of the European Union of Medical Specialists Framework for Rehabilitation in Europe. *Eur J Phys Rehabil Med*. 2022;58(4):503-10.



## 6.2 Conferences and WHO Meetings

- NRP74 Smarter Health Care Synthesis Conference in Lucerne. April 11 – 12, 2022: Maritz R, Role: Poster Presentation
- World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, May 22-28, 2022. Stucki G, Role: Participation
- WHO rehabilitation workforce technical meeting for professional associations in Geneva, June 13-14, 2022. Stucki G, Role: Participation
- WHO-FIC (Family of International Classifications) Annual Network Meeting in Geneva, October 17-21. Stucki G, Role: Participation
- Symposium on International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) - Actualization of ICF in Rehabilitation and Social Service: from Theory to Application. November 18<sup>th</sup> 2022, Hong Kong. Sabariego C, Role: key note (virtual participation). Title: The WHO and World Bank Model Disability Survey Using the ICF to structure the collection and analyses of population data

## 6.3 Technical consultations and working groups

- Member of the ISPO Outcome Measures Consensus Meeting (International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics), Virtual zoom meetings, May 2021 – February 2022. CRGHS representative: Roxanne Maritz
- Meeting member: High level European Regional Disability Summit on international cooperation Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2022. CRGHS representative: Roxanne Maritz
- Technical expert of the Interim Strategic Group meeting of the WHO hosted World Rehabilitation Alliance, March 24<sup>th</sup> 2022, online meeting. CRGHS representative: Carla Sabariego
- Member of the WHO Consortium on Metrics and Evidence for Healthy Ageing. March 30<sup>th</sup> 2022, Annual Meeting, online meeting. CRGHS representative: Carla Sabariego
- Expert Review of WHO 'Rehabilitation Indicator Menu, Second Edition', a tool that accompanies the WHO Rehabilitation in Health Systems: Guide for Action. Role: 1. Provide feedback and technical input on a draft of the RIM Second Edition in writing, mid- December 2022 to mid-February 2023; 2. Attend a two-hour online consensus meeting to discuss areas where further consensus. CRGHS representative: Carla Sabariego

## 6.4 Events held by the CRGHS

- CRGHS Member Assembly, February 8<sup>th</sup> 2022, online event (minutes attached in Appendix 3)
- ICF-StARS Consortium Kick-off: Standardized Assessment and Reporting System for functioning information, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2022, online event
- Learning Rehabilitation System: Meeting on research cooperation for learning systems in rehabilitation, in collaboration with ETHZ-SPZ&SPF-UNILU, June 21<sup>st</sup> 2022, Zurich.

## **7 Appendix**

- 1) Updated CRGHS Regulations 2022
- 2) WHO documents:
  - a) Accreditation as member of WRA
  - b) Redesignation WHO CC 2022-2026
- 3) Minutes CRGHS Member Assembly 2022