

## **Editor's Introduction to First Issue: Contemporary Research in Disability and Rehabilitation**

Veronica I. Umeasiegbu  
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

On behalf of my co-founders and Associate Editors, Dr. Roy Chen and Dr. Saara Grizzell, and the Editorial Board, I am pleased to announce the publication of the inaugural issue of *Contemporary Research in Disability and Rehabilitation* (CRDR).

CRDR is a peer-reviewed and open access journal designed to facilitate innovative interdisciplinary research publications with a focus on disability and health, disability and well-being, disability and rehabilitation, and disability studies. CRDR seeks to explore the multifaceted challenges that confront individuals with disabilities and to support and promote a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to idea sharing, problem solving, and service delivery.

In this inaugural issue of CRDR, there are two articles. The first article by Benson Kinyanjui, and colleagues, examines the barriers and unmet healthcare and rehabilitation needs of persons with multiple sclerosis (MS). The needs identified in this study include emotional and psychological support, educational support, social and care-giver support, healthcare, and financial support. The authors recommend that the perspectives of individuals with MS be

considered and explored in future research. In the second article of this issue, Euchay N. Horsman examines the relationship of underage drinking with concomitant alcohol use disorder and poor educational attainment. This study highlights the long-time negative impacts of underage drinking on mental health and human capital acquisition of the youths.

I would like to thank the following people for making this first issue a reality: Dr. Roy Chen (Co-founder and Associate Editor) for the vision of CRDR, Dr. Saara Grizzell (Co-founder and Associate Editor) for her problem-solving skills throughout this publication's editing stage, Michael Herold for his assistance with initial setup, Elise Grizzell for creating the journal logo, Justin White, Librarian of scholarly communications at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). Finally, I would like to thank the following UTRGV administrators for their support and encouragement: Dr. Bruce Reed, Director of the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling, and Dr. Michael Lehker, Dean of the College of Health Professions. Thank you all.

Sincerely,

Veronica I. Umeasiegbu, Ph.D., CRC  
Editor, CRDR