

# DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH COALITION

1501 M STREET, N.W. SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

September 23, 2020

Theresa Hayes Cruz, Ph.D.  
Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research  
Building 6710B, Room 2107  
6710B Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda MD 20817

Dear Director Cruz,

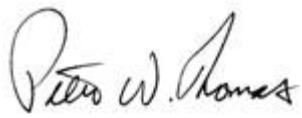
On behalf of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC), we write to congratulate you on your recent appointment as the permanent Director of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR). As a key leader in the federal government's efforts to advance the science of disability, rehabilitation, and independent living, we look forward to continuing to work with you in your new role and to deepening the DRRC's longstanding relationship with the Center and other Institutes and Centers involved in rehabilitation science.

We had the pleasure of meeting with you in October of last year along with representatives of the DRRC Steering Committee members and enjoyed the opportunity to discuss your goals for rehabilitation science at the National Institutes of Health. Of course, since you took on the role of Acting NCMRR Director, the landscape of federal research and policy has changed dramatically with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we appreciate the steady leadership you have provided through the year thus far and applaud your continued efforts to advance key NCMRR priorities, including the planning of the upcoming Rehabilitation Research conference and the update of the NIH Research Plan on Rehabilitation.

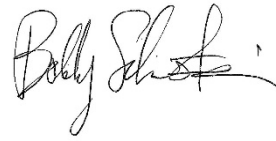
As you settle into your new role as Director, we look forward to meeting with you to discuss the direction of NCMRR and the critical work the Center performs. We know that you will continue to demonstrate a commitment to accessibility and integration of the perspectives of the disability and rehabilitation community into your work and to advancing collaboration across federal research agencies. Additionally, we hope you will take on an active leadership role in reinvigorating the efforts of the Interagency Committee on Disability Research and the Medical Rehabilitation Research Coordinating Committee.

Once more, we congratulate you on your new role and welcome your voice in the disability and rehabilitation community. The DRRC stands ready to act as a resource, and we hope you will consider us a partner in the Center's ongoing and critical work. Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to improve the lives of Americans with disabilities and chronic conditions and to enhance the field of medical rehabilitation and disability research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter W. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" and "T".

Peter W. Thomas, J.D.  
DRRC Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Silverstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" and "S".

Bobby Silverstein, J.D.  
DRRC Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Nahra". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "N".

Joseph Nahra  
DRRC Coordinator

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The DRRC is a coalition of 25 national non-profit organizations committed to improving the science of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation. The DRRC seeks to maximize the return on the federal investment in disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research and development with the goal of improving the ability of Americans with disabilities to live and function as independently as possible. The coalition plays a leadership role in increasing and leveraging federal resources devoted to disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

## **DRRC Members**

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals  
American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists  
**American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation\***  
American Association on Health and Disability  
**American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine\***  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
**American Occupational Therapy Association\***  
**American Physical Therapy Association\***  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Amputee Coalition of America  
**Association of Academic Physiatrists\***  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
**Brain Injury Association of America\***  
Child Neurology Society  
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics & Prosthetics  
**National Association of Rehabilitation Research Training Centers\***  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America  
United Spinal Association

***\*DRRC Steering Committee Member***

### **For more information:**

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