The working group of rehabilitation professionals working in medical faculties consisted of 12 members\(^1\) and was working on the following the following four questions:

1. What are the three things rehabilitation professionals working at medical faculties can do in a coordinated effort to raise awareness about rehabilitation in medical faculties?
2. What are the three things rehabilitation professionals working at medical faculties can do in a coordinated effort to raise awareness among policy makers of the need for rehabilitation?
3. What are the three things rehabilitation professionals working at medical faculties can do in a coordinated effort to raise awareness among civil society of the need for rehabilitation?
4. What are the three things rehabilitation professionals working at medical faculties can do in a coordinated effort to raise awareness among the private sector of the need for rehabilitation?

Three main principles of awareness raising in rehabilitation at academic level (including dissemination and advocacy) were identified. These are:

- provision concepts and data
- information and public relations
- collaboration in projects and networking

Summarizing the input of each single working group members the main aspects of awareness rising at the academic level or answers to the abovementioned questions were the following:

**Question 1:** What are the three things rehabilitation professionals working at medical faculties can do in a coordinated effort to raise awareness about rehabilitation in medical faculties?

A) **Do scientific work on conceptualisation of rehabilitation as a health strategy and perform scientific studies on the need for rehabilitation and on rehabilitation outcomes** *(and make the results available in the scientific community including faculty level)*, this includes establishing centres of functioning sciences *(including all areas of rehabilitation research)* and providing guidance to other fields to include functioning assessment in clinical trials

B) **Ensure that every health professional has (basic) knowledge on rehabilitation principles,**
rehabilitation needs as well as on assignment to rehabilitation services (including skills to communicate with persons with disabilities), this includes undergraduate education, postgraduate training and continuous professional development

C) **Disseminate information and give advocacy in academic activities at national and faculty level** (including influencing curricula, research priority setting, clinical care pathways and quality management; involve in clinical centres)

**Question 2:** What are the three things rehabilitation professionals working at medical faculties can do in a coordinated effort to raise awareness among policy makers of the need for rehabilitation?

A) **Support decision makers with concepts and data** (including health systems development, rehabilitation needs, rehabilitation outcomes, payment systems/funding mechanism, CBR/CBI)

B) **Mainstreaming functioning information in health reporting** and inclusion of rehabilitation in national health quality management

C) **Provide expertise and advocacy to support learning health systems** (including social security system) for rehabilitation service implementation projects (e.g. Advisory teams for the implementation of rehabilitation services in national health systems, stakeholder dialogues)

**Question 3:** What are the three things rehabilitation professionals working at medical faculties can do in a coordinated effort to raise awareness among civil society of the need for rehabilitation?

A) **Include persons with disabilities and chronic health conditions into research activities**, e.g. in selecting research topics and methods

B) **Disseminating information and establish dialogue with civil society institutions** (in particular with the organizations of persons with disabilities and chronic health conditions), also by using social media, press release and others

C) **Develop joint activities and projects with civil society institutions and organisations of persons with disabilities and chronic health conditions** (e.g. public events, international day of disability, empowerment activities, and others)

**Question 4:** What are the three things rehabilitation professionals working at medical faculties can do in a coordinated effort to raise awareness among the private sector of the need for rehabilitation?

A) **Provide information on rehabilitation issues**, e.g. by disseminating information on economic aspects of disability, rehabilitation and assistive devices as market

B) **Collaborate in joint projects** e.g. for quality management, rehabilitation for employees (of course avoiding conflicts of interest)

C) **Do research with private funding** (e.g. testing assistive devices, implementation of services)

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Christoph Gutenbrunner, MD, PhD, FRCP
Professor and Head of Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Hanover Medical School, Germany

Representing rehabilitation professionals working in medical faculties at the WHO meeting “Rehabilitation 2030 – a call for action”