

**OUTCOME EVALUATION: The challenge of conducting outcome evaluation studies for interventions with survivors of torture and other gross violations of human rights**

**(Practical Solutions to overcome the challenges of outcome evaluations)**

Evaluating treatment outcome of torture survivors cared for by rehabilitation centers has made slow progress (1) despite the rapid expansion to at least 235 treatment programs worldwide (2).

Funders increasingly require documentation that services work, while centers and their staff strive to provide the best, most effective, and most efficient services. However, conflicting priorities, concerns about confidentiality, inadequate time and financial resources, lack of research expertise, and the complexity of the rehabilitation process itself have hindered completion of outcome studies. The relatively few outcome studies have severe methodological limitations (2), which will be reviewed in this workshop. General principles for measuring outcome as well as clinical and design issues, including possible outcomes to evaluate, indicators, and instrument selection, will be presented. Discussion of participant research proposals or projects will conclude the workshop.

1. Basoglu M. Rehabilitation of traumatised refugees and survivors of torture, *BMJ*, 2006; 333:1230-1231

2. Quiroga J, Jaranson JM. Politically-motivated torture and its survivors: A desk study review of the literature, *Torture (Thematic Issue)*, 2005; 15(2-3):1-111.

## **OUTLINE:**

### *Background*

Why Do Outcome Studies?

The Complexity of Rehabilitation

What's Been Done?: Literature Review and Critique of Studies

Where Do We Go From Here?

### *Designing Outcome Studies*

What Should be Evaluated: Efficacy vs. Effectiveness

Indicators

Research Design Options

### *Selecting Instruments to Assess Outcome*

Review and Critique of Instruments

Symptoms

Function or Disability

Quality of Life

Consumer Satisfaction

Consumer Empowerment

Family Burden

### *Case discussions*