ABSTRACT

“When you can measure what you are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it; when you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meager and unsatisfactory kind; it may be the beginning of knowledge, but you have scarcely, in your thoughts, advanced to the stage of science.” - Lord Kelvin

The last 40 years has seen a revolution in the rehabilitation and treatment of diseases, conditions and injuries afflicting society. From their humble beginnings as Reconstruction Aides ministering to the wounded from the trenches of WW I to the polytrauma survivors of the US’s current Global War on Terror; the physical therapy profession, supported by science has evolved the continuum of care into an era of “best evidence.” Integral to this paradigm shift has been the evolution of rehabilitation science and engineering fostered by the seminal IOM Report, “Enabling America” and the emphasis on the Nagi enablement-disablement model and population health.

This presentation, by a physical therapist, will discuss the synergistic and complementary roles that the basic and applied sciences, social sciences and engineering play in the determination of “best evidence” that supports the contemporary delivery of evidence informed rehabilitation services. The impact that the Global War on Terror has had on rehabilitation science will be presented with a vision towards the future frontiers of research.

ABOUT DR. Quillen

Dr. Quillen is a Professor and Associate Dean at the University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine and Executive Director of the Center for Neuromusculoskeletal Research. His research interests are in low back injury risk reduction and musculoskeletal injury prevention. He has a background in physical therapy, sports medicine, health services management, and developmental and adapted physical education.