

Advancing Global Rehabilitation: A New Era for Healthcare Professionals

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The field of rehabilitation is experiencing a profound shift as healthcare systems work to manage the growing prevalence of chronic diseases, disabilities, and age-related declines in function. Today, rehabilitation is acknowledged as an essential pillar of healthcare and a major factor influencing long-term independence and quality of life (1). This evolution reflects a broader change in how communities perceive health, participation, and overall well-being.

Much of this progress is being propelled by rapid technological advancement. Tools such as artificial intelligence, robotic rehabilitation systems, wearable biosensors, and immersive virtual reality are redefining how clinicians evaluate and treat patients. These innovations support more personalized, data-informed, and contextually appropriate interventions (2). As a result, rehabilitation practitioners must now develop new skill sets, including competence in digital technologies, collaborative clinical reasoning, and critical evaluation of emerging evidence.

Global health data further emphasizes the need to strengthen rehabilitation services. The Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 reports that 2.41 billion individuals are living with conditions that would benefit from rehabilitation — a 63% rise since 1990 (3). Musculoskeletal disorders continue to be the most significant contributors to disability, with low back pain remaining the top cause of years lived with disability worldwide (4). With populations aging, the incidence of neurological, cardiovascular, and functional decline is expected to escalate, making it crucial to expand the rehabilitation workforce, enhance standardized training, and promote high-quality research that supports sustainable service development.

This journal remains dedicated to supporting these global priorities by disseminating rigorous research, innovative clinical approaches, and forward-thinking educational models. Our vision is to strengthen the global rehabilitation community and foster a healthcare environment where practice is evidence-driven,

digitally supported, and centered on patient needs. Ultimately, the future of rehabilitation extends beyond restoring abilities — it is about unlocking human capacity and contributing to a more inclusive and healthier world.

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