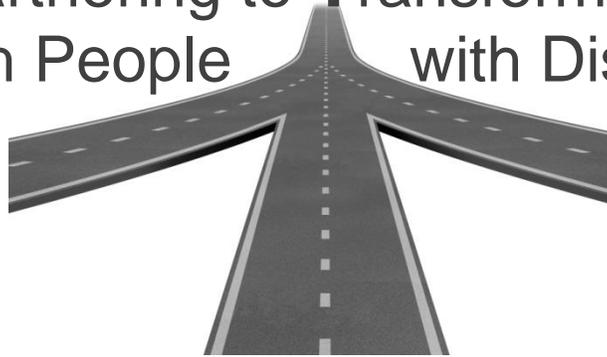


# Partnering to Transform Healthcare with People with Disabilities



PATH-PWD Conference



**DISABILITY AND  
HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
COLLEGE OF  
APPLIED HEALTH  
SCIENCES**



## Invited Conference

**March 23-24** at Rush University

People with disabilities receive primary, acute and transitional health care services at lower rates and with poorer outcomes than the non-disabled population. Barriers to equitable care include physical access to care (accessible transportation), space and equipment to accommodate specific disability conditions, communication barriers, lack of knowledge of health care providers in adapting health services for disability conditions and poor coordination of care. The unequal treatment of people with disabilities leads to increased health care costs, decreased quality of life, and increased morbidity and mortality for individuals with disabilities. The Partnering to Transform Health care with People with Disabilities (PATH-PWD) conference will bring together advocates across disability communities (intellectual, physical, sensory and mental) with health care stakeholders (providers and policy makers, executives, insurers, regulators and others). Participants will review and synthesize best practices and innovations in health care for people with disabilities, develop partnerships between stakeholders to implement best practices and innovations and improve quality and access, propose needed research, and recommend policies for improved health and health care.

### **PATH Vision**

End health care disparities facing people with disabilities by transforming health systems.

### **PATH Mission**

Bring together people with disabilities, advocates, researchers, providers, and healthcare experts to

1. Develop a thorough research and training agenda for future work advancing our vision
2. Reach consensus on best practices and how to bring them into reality in current healthcare systems

### **PATH Values**

**Partnership** -- we work together as partners during this conference and beyond

**Accountability** -- we hold ourselves accountable for engaging in effective dialogue and for making those changes we can in our own work

**Trust** -- we trust each other to further our understanding of what needs to change

**Honor** -- we honor the work already done while examining what we have left to do

PATH-PWD@rush.edu

[Lodging information](#)

Funding for this conference was made possible [in part] by grant HS24842-01 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Support for this conference was also made possible by The Special Hope Foundation, an organization that advocates for accessible healthcare delivery designed to meet the needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## Conference Hosts



**Sarah Ailey, PhD, RN, CDDN, APHN-BC**, is a nurse researcher and clinician who works to improve the health and health care of people with disabilities, concentrating on intellectual disabilities. Her research and scholarly practice are concentrated on translating research to community and inpatient hospital settings to improve the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities. She is investigating the effect of the Steps to Effective Problem-solving (STEPS) program in group homes, funded by an R01 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Institute. Ailey has been a member of the Americans with Disabilities Act Task Force at Rush University Medical Center since 2003. She also co-chairs (with Robyn Hart) the Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Committee at Rush since 2007; the collective work at Rush to improve patient care for this population has been described as the “gold standard” in *The Hospitalist*, a publication of the American College of Physicians.



**Molly Bathje, PhD, OTR/L**, is an assistant professor and the academic coordinator in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Rush University. She has been an occupational therapist for 18 years, with experience in inpatient and outpatient mental health, pediatrics, acute care medicine, long term care and academics. Her scholarship focuses on young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



**Tamar Heller, PhD**, is a distinguished professor and heads the Department of Disability and Human Development and its University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She also directs the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Developmental Disabilities and Health and is Co-PI of two other national centers concerned with disability policies: the RRTC on Community Living Disability Policy and the Family Support RTC. Heller is past president of the board of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and served as President Obama’s delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. A few of her awards include the 2009 Autism Ally for Public Policy Award of The Arc and the 2008 Lifetime Research Achievement Award, International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities, Special Interest Group on Aging and Intellectual Disabilities. Heller’s research focuses on health and long term services and the impact of family support and health promotion interventions on adults with disabilities and their families across the lifespan.

## Keynote Speaker



**Lisa I. Iezzoni, MD, MSc**, is professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and a director at the Mongan Institute Health Policy Center at Massachusetts General Hospital. Her research focuses on health care quality and delivery system concerns relating to persons with disability. Iezzoni is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

## Day One: March 23, 2017

Time	Event
8:00-8:30	Continental Breakfast
8:30-9:00	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Sarah Ailey, PhD, APHN, Professor, College of Nursing, Rush University            Larry Goodman, MD, Chief Executive Officer of Rush            Tamar Heller, PhD, Distinguished Professor /Head of Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago            Robert Barish, MD, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago            Anne Gunter, Independent Living Advocate, The Progress Center for Independent Living</p>
9:00-10:00	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Lisa Iezzoni, MD, MSc, Professor, School of Medicine, Harvard University</p>
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-11:15	<p>Advocate Panel</p> <p><u>Facilitator:</u> Lisa Iezzoni, MD, MSc  <u>Panelists:</u> June Isaacson Kailes; Karen McCulloh, BS, RN; Daphne Ron</p>
11:15-11:55	Audience Talk Back
11:55-1:30	Lunch with Vendor Fair
1:30-2:45	<p>Exploring Key Content Areas (Your choice of one)</p> <p><b>Transitions</b>  <u>Facilitator:</u> Tamar Heller, PhD  <u>Panelists:</u> David Ervin, BSc, MA; Nancy Hodgson, PhD, RN, FAAN; Amy Houtrow, MD, PhD, MPH, FAAP; Sheri LaVela, PhD, MPH, MBA; Tim Sullivan</p> <p><b>Primary Care</b>  <u>Facilitator:</u> Molly Bathje, PhD  <u>Panelists:</u> David Fray, DDS, MBA; Barbara Kornblau, JD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Susan Magasi, PhD; Suzanne Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN</p>
2:45-3:15	Break
3:15-4:30	<p>Exploring key content areas continued (Your choice of one)</p> <p><b>Health Promotion</b>  <u>Facilitator:</u> Jasmina Sisirak, PhD  <u>Panelists:</u> Larry Biondi; Adriane Griffen, DrPH, MPH, MCES; Susan Havercamp, PhD; Meg Traci, PhD; Phillip McCallion, PhD</p> <p><b>Acute Care</b>  <u>Facilitator:</u> Sarah Ailey, PhD, RN, CDDN, APHN-BC  <u>Panelists:</u> Andres Gallegos, Esq.; Kristi Kirschner, MD; Seth Keller, MD; Elizabeth Madigan, PhD, RN, FAAN; Gloria Nichols; Peter Scal, MD, MPH</p>
4:40-5:00	Large Group Call Out
	<b>Evening Events</b>
5:00-5:35	Small Group Tours of Rush University Medical Center "Tower"
5:45-7:00	"Bodies of Work" and Cocktail Reception (Performance is 6-7PM)

## Day Two: March 24, 2017

Time	Event
8:00-8:30	Continental Breakfast
8:30-8:45	Welcome and Summation
8:45-9:00	Challenge to Conference Participants June Isaacson Kailes, Disability Policy Consultant and Adjunct Associate Professor, Western University of Health Sciences
9:00-9:10	Work Group Breakout Session Instructions
9:20-10:40	Breakout Work Groups <b>Session A: <i>Research and Training Agenda</i></b> <u>Facilitators:</u> Health Promotion: Tamar Heller, PhD Primary Care: Elizabeth Madigan, , PhD, RN, FAAN Acute Care: Kathleen Delaney, PhD, PMH-NP, FAAN Transitions: Amy Eisenstein, PhD <b>Session B: <i>Best Practices Consensus</i></b> <u>Facilitators:</u> Health Promotion: David Ervin, BSc, MA Primary Care: Amy Houtrow, MD, PhD, MPH, FAAP Acute Care: Seth Keller, MD Transitions: Karl Cooper, Esq.
10:40-11:10	Break
11:10-12:30	Breakout Work Groups <b>Session C: <i>Research Agenda</i></b> <u>Facilitators:</u> Health Promotion: Adriane Griffen, DrPH, MPH, MCES Primary Care: TBD Acute Care: Melanie Dreher, PhD, RN, FAAN Transitions: Wanda Mahoney, PhD, OTR/L <b>Session D: <i>Best Practices Consensus</i></b> <u>Facilitators:</u> Health Promotion: Susan Haverkamp, PhD Primary Care: Carl Tyler, MD Acute Care: Kristi Kirschner, MD Transitions: Andy Imparato, JD
12:30-1:30	Lunch with Advocate Panel
1:30-2:15	Work Group Sessions Written Summations to 4 groups
2:15-2:45	Break
2:45-3:30	Four Affinity Groups
3:30-3:50	Report Out from Affinity Groups
3:50-4:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b> June Isaacson Kailes Sarah Ailey, PhD, APHN Tamar Heller, PhD

# Guest Speakers



**Karl D. Cooper, Esq.,** has spent most of his professional career addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities. Since October 2013, he has been the project manager for the National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative (NDNRC) at the American Association on Health and Disability. Before that, he was a policy assistant at the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) and a policy associate at the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) in Washington, DC. Prior to moving to DC in 2012, he practiced law for 14 years in the greater Philadelphia area, opening his own firm in 2006 where he was able to devote time to pro-bono advocacy for those affected by physical and developmental disabilities. As part of that work, he helped consumers navigate the opportunities available in employment and education, drawing on his own personal experiences as a person with physical disabilities.



**Kathleen R. Delaney, PhD, PMH-NP, FAAN,** has been involved in establishing models for APN training models, particularly for underserved populations, in her role as graduate nursing education project director in the College of Nursing at Rush. Over the course of her career, she has been interested in inpatient psychiatric treatment environments, particularly assuring safe environments by proactive approaches, engagement and creating patient-centered cultures of care. Delaney is a member of the Center for Mental Health Services Technical Advisory Panel for the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility (IPF) Outcome and Process Measure Development and Maintenance Project. She recently completed a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) study that focused on building a tool (the Combined Assessment of Psychiatric Environments) that gauges the patient and staff experience on inpatient psychiatric units. She is the co-chair of the Illinois Center for Nursing, where she focuses on RN and APN workforce surveys. She is a board member of Community Care Alliance of Illinois (a not-for-profit, wholly-owned subsidiary of Family Health Network), which is designed to provide comprehensive, person-centered care locally for the Medicare and Medicaid population in Illinois.



**Amy Eisenstein, PhD,** is the director of the Leonard Schanfield Research Institute at CJE Senior Life in Chicago and an adjunct assistant professor at Northwestern University in the Feinberg School of Medicine. She completed her PhD at the University of Illinois at Chicago, in the School of Public Health, with a focus on aging in 2011. Eisenstein has presented her work at local, national and international venues. Her research interests include issues related to aging, health and disease with a focus on measuring outcomes associated with long term care and community-based living.



**David A. Ervin** is CEO of The Resource Exchange, a Colorado-based nonprofit serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). He has extensive professional experience in the IDD industry, having worked in and consulted to organizations in the U.S. and abroad. He is a published author and speaks internationally on health care for people with IDD and other areas of expertise. Ervin's research interests include health promotion and disease prevention for people with IDD, as well as cross-systems care integration.



**David Fray, DDS, MBA,** is an associate professor in the Department of General Practice and Dental Public Health at the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston. As past chief of the Developmental Disabilities Division in the Hawaii Department of Health, he administered statewide comprehensive health and community support services to persons with disabilities, including developmental medicine outreach clinics, and administered the Hospital and Community Dentistry Branch, including the five dental clinics on Oahu. He is board certified in long term care from the National Association of Boards and is a licensed nursing facility administrator with more than 25 years of experience working as a special needs and geriatric dentist. Fray is the president of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry.



**Andrés J. Gallegos, Esq.**, is a shareholder with the law firm of Robbins, Salomon and Patt, Ltd., in Chicago, Illinois, where he focuses his practice on disability rights and health care law. He founded and spearheads the law firm's initiative to improve access to health care and wellness programs for persons across all types of disabilities. Gallegos is the 2015 recipient of the Paul G. Hearne Leadership Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities. He has written numerous articles for national and state professional health care and legal organizations on matters relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act's application to health care providers and is a frequent lecturer on that subject.



**Adriane K. Griffen, DrPH, MPH, MCHES**, serves as the senior director of public health and leadership at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). She has over 17 years of experience in the disability and health field, with specialty areas in health promotion, social marketing, qualitative research and health education. Her activities focus on capacity building, systems change to include people with disabilities and health promotion for people with disabilities across the age span. Griffen earned her Doctor of Public Health in Leadership at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where her dissertation efforts focused on understanding state-level readiness, capacity and capacity-building factors necessary to include people living with a disability in public health programs.



**Susan M. Havercamp, PhD**, is an associate professor of psychiatry and psychology at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, where she continues her work on health and health care for children and adults with disabilities. She received her doctorate at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center in the area of clinical and MRDD psychology. Havercamp's research and clinical work focuses on physical and mental health issues in persons with developmental disabilities. She conducted research and provided direct clinical services to children and adults with developmental disabilities while on the faculty of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in the Division for Prevention and Treatment of Developmental Disorders and at the Center for Development and Learning, a Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At the University of South Florida, she focused on improving the health of persons with disabilities through educating health care providers and health promotion activities for children and adults with disabilities.



**Nancy A. Hodgson, PhD, RN, FAAN**, is associate professor in the Department of Biobehavioral Health and the Anthony Buividas Endowed Term Chair in Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Hodgson is involved in developing, evaluating, disseminating and implementing innovative programs to improve the lives of cognitively and physically disabled adults and their families. As a well-funded researcher, she has received continuous funding from federal agencies and private foundations to test and translate nonpharmacological interventions to promote an individual's dignity, function and quality of life and to reduce symptoms that pose the greatest burden to older adults and their family caregivers. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and the Gerontological Society of America.



**Amy Houtrow, MD, PhD, MPH, FAAP**, is a pediatric rehabilitation medicine physician and health services researcher. She is an associate professor and vice chair in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She directs the Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Fellowship and is the chief of pediatric rehabilitation medicine services and the medical director of the Rehabilitation Institute at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Houtrow's main clinical focus is caring for children with disabling conditions to help to improve functioning and quality of life to the greatest degree possible. Her research focuses on improving how children with disabilities and their families access health care to optimize health care delivery.



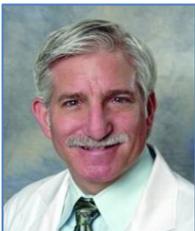
**Andrew J. Imparato** has served as executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) since September 2013. As a disability rights lawyer and policy professional with more than two decades of experience in government and advocacy roles, he has worked with bipartisan policymakers to advance disability policy at the national level in the areas of civil rights, workforce development and disability benefits. Prior to joining AUCD, he was senior counsel and disability policy director for Senator Tom Harkin on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Before that, he spent 11 years as president and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities, a national membership organization working to grow the political and economic power of the disability community. Imparato's perspective is informed by his personal experience with bipolar disorder.



**June Isaacson Kailes** is a disability policy consultant and the associate director and adjunct associate professor at Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California. Her breadth and depth of experience in disability and access and functional needs issues as a writer, trainer, researcher, policy analyst, subject matter expert and advocate is widely known and respected. Her focuses encompass working as a contractor with a variety of health facilities, health plans, government projects and other consulting firms to build actionable disability competencies into the world of health care. These projects include work with Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers on aging with a disability; managed care and disability; and health and wellness and disability. Isaacson Kailes has also worked with the National Center of Physical Activity and Disability, the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Accessible Medical Instrumentation and the Access Board where, as a presidential appointee, she served as its chair and vice chair. Recognized nationally and internationally, she is one of the original national leaders in the Independent Living Movement. She publishes extensively on health issues related to people with disabilities and others with access and functional need.



**Kristi L. Kirschner, MD**, is a Clinical Professor in the University of Illinois College of Medicine (UICOM) Department of Medical Education, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago. She is currently the subtheme leader for Health Humanities for the UICOM curriculum taskforce and overseeing the development and enhancement of Health Humanities Programs within the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Kirschner's academic interests include medical humanities and bioethics with a particular focus on disability issues and marginalized populations; the training of health care professionals about health humanities, bioethics and disability; and health care access for people with disabilities including reproductive health services. She is a specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and has a clinical practice at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital, a safety net hospital on the westside of Chicago, where she care for patients with complex neurological disabilities, including adults with spina bifida, neuromuscular diseases and cerebral palsy.



**Seth M. Keller, MD**, is a board certified neurologist in private practice with Advocare Neurology of South Jersey. He earned his medical degree from The George Washington University School of Medicine in 1989 and completed his neurology internship and residency at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He also served as a Navy neurologist at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan. Keller specializes in the evaluation and care of adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) with neurologic complications. He cares for individuals with IDD both in the community as well in New Jersey's ICF/DD centers. He is on the executive board of the Arc of Burlington County and on the Arc of New Jersey Mainstreaming Medical Care Board. Keller is the co-chair of the National Task Group (NTG) on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices as well as the director of the Adults with IDD Special Interest Group in the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). He is actively involved in national and international IDD health education as a speaker.



**Barbara L. Kornblau, JD, OTR/L, FAOTA, FASPE, FNAP, CCM, CDMS, CPE**, is an attorney, an occupational therapist, a certified case manager, a certified disability management specialist and a certified pain educator. She is an adjunct professor in the Division of Occupational Therapy at Florida A&M University and serves as the policy chair for the Disability Section of the American Public Health Association. Kornblau also served as a government relations and health policy consultant to Special Olympics International and the American Association of People with Disabilities. She developed the blueprint for the disability public health provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and organized and led the coalition whose successful advocacy efforts resulted in the inclusion of these provisions in the final ACA bill. She represented disability health disparities at the White House Roundtable on Health Disparities in preparation for the ACA. Because of her work on the ACA, she was appointed to represent the health care needs of people with disabilities on HRSA's Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Health Profession Shortage Areas (HPSA) and Medically Underserve Populations (MUPs). She founded the Coalition for Disability Health Equity to pursue this work.



**Sherri L. LaVela, PhD, MPH, MBA**, is a senior research health scientist at the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D) and Spinal Cord Injury Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (SCI QUERI). Her research spans several areas, including: rehabilitation, disability studies, health promotion/disease prevention, chronic disease prevalence and multiple-morbidity in persons with disabilities, gerontology/aging, aging with a disability, patient-reported outcomes, functional health outcomes, health disparities and informal caregiving/family support. LaVela has conducted research across several fields and believes that the most desirable and sustainable outcomes are accomplished through research and interventions across multiple levels (patient/person, informal caregiver/family, health care provider/staff, facility/organization and community) and multiple disciplines.



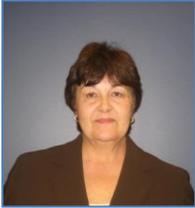
**Liz Madigan, PhD, RN**, is the Independence Foundation Professor of Nursing at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. She has worked as a nurse, home health care nurse, agency administrator and researcher since 1981. She has participated in multiple federally- and foundation-funded studies examining patient outcomes in home health care. As part of her position at Case Western, she leads the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Home Care Nursing, a technical arm of the WHO. Madigan is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and provides consultation and expertise nationally and internationally on home care nursing. She is an alumna of Wright State University (BSN), The Ohio State University (MS) and Case Western Reserve University (PhD).



**Susan Magasi, PhD**, is an assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Disability Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is the principal investigator on a line of community-based participatory research aimed at promoting health care justice (including access, quality and outcomes) for people with disabilities. Magasi works closely with the disability community in all aspects of her research. She has over \$1 million of federal and foundation funding from the American Cancer Society, American Occupational Therapy Foundation, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research and the National Institutes of Health. She is also the creator of ScreenABLE Saturday, a day to promote accessible breast cancer screening for women with disabilities in Chicago.



**Wanda Mahoney, PhD, OTR/L**, is an assistant professor of occupational therapy at Midwestern University in Downers Grove, Illinois. She is the chair for the American Occupational Therapy Association's Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section and has 17 years of experience as an occupational therapist working with children and adults with developmental disabilities in school, home, day program and community settings. Her research focuses on participation among adults with moderate to severe developmental disabilities and obtaining the perspective of individuals with severe cognitive impairments. Her recent research consists of assessing and meeting the professional development needs of occupational therapy practitioners to work with adults with developmental disabilities in health care settings.



**Karen McCulloh, BS, RN**, is considered a pioneer in her field as an RN that has worked for the last 26 years in the workforce development arena promoting the full inclusion of people with disabilities in integrated competitive employment across the United States workforce. She is the Co-Founder (2003) and the Director of the National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities (NOND), [www.nond.org](http://www.nond.org). McCulloh was not able to find a job in healthcare when she first became disabled which has driven her passion to keep opening the doors to opportunities in healthcare careers for people with disabilities. McCulloh has worked to influence national disability employment policy and is NOND's liaison to the National Disability Leadership Alliance Steering Committee, a coalition of 15 national cross-disability consumer-driven organizations that work in collaboration to influence federal policy directed to people with disabilities in all aspects of community life. She has written policy and made recommendations to enhance opportunities for qualified people with disabilities to enter nursing and other healthcare professions.



**Lisa Meeks, PhD**, is an assistant professor of medicine and the director of medical student disability services at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. She is the co-founder and president elect of the Coalition for Disability Access in Health Science and Medical Education and co-chair of the Graduate and Professional School Special Interest Group for the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD). Meeks has co-authored two books and several articles on ASD. She is associate editor of *Good Autism Practice* and a reviewer for the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. She served as co-editor and author of the seminal text on disability in health science *The Guide to Assisting Students With Disabilities: Equal Access in Health Science and Professional Education*.

**Gloria Nichols** is a disability activist. She is a Director for ADAPT Productions on CAN TV since its inception more than 15 years ago. The weekly program addresses efforts to achieve for people with disabilities. ADAPT of Chicago Productions airs every Saturday on cable channel CAN TV 19. Most of the members are people with disabilities. They do everything from selecting the topics, to interviewing and producing. She is one of four people who received the Thonar Award in 2016 in recognition of their efforts to educate health care professionals about the personal struggles of people with disabilities.



**Daphne Ron** is an advocate with cerebral palsy who lives in a group home run by Trinity Services. She has experienced living in many settings, including long hospital and nursing home stays. With the help of direct support professionals, she has been able to lose weight and control diabetes. She enjoys participating in social media, being with family and being involved in advocacy. She currently serves on Trinity's human rights committee.



**Jasmina Sisirak, PhD, MPH**, is a research assistant professor in the Department of Disability and Human Development (DHD) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and the associate director of training and dissemination in the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Developmental Disabilities (RRTCDD) in DHD. She received her PhD in Public Health with an emphasis in community health and epidemiology. Her research interests consist of health promotion, nutrition, health literacy, curriculum development, knowledge translation in health research and program evaluation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sisirak has written publications and presented papers in the area of disability, health and nutrition. She has co-authored two books – *Health Matters: The Exercise and Nutrition Health Education Curriculum for People with Developmental Disabilities* and *Health Matters for People with Developmental Disabilities: Creating a Sustainable Health Promotion Program*.



**Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN**, is a professor and the director of the Center for Nursing Research at Villanova University College of Nursing. She has conducted research related to disability, health issues of people with disability, health issues during pregnancy and the status of educational preparation of health care professionals, including nurses, to provide quality care to people with disabilities. Smeltzer has been involved in a number of task forces to address disability. She is a member of a task force to develop curricula for health care providers on health care of women with disabilities. She is a founding member and past-president of the Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education. Smeltzer has published her research widely in nursing and non-nursing journals alike and has given over 200 presentations to disseminate information about health issues of people with disabilities and lack of disability in health care curricula.



**Meg Ann Traci, PhD**, is a senior scientist with expertise in both early childhood and lifespan development. Her research has been committed to improving the health of persons with disabilities. She has extensive experience in grant writing, having developed and sustained a productive program of research, development and systems change in health promotion for over 20 years. She is the principal investigator and project director of the Montana Disability and Health Program, a partnership between the Montana Department of Health and the University of Montana Rural Institute.



**Carl V. Tyler Jr., MD, MSc, CAQ-Geriatrics**, is a physician, medical educator and clinical researcher. He is the director of the Developmental Disabilities-Practice-Based Research Network, a community-based participatory research network whose mission is to improve the health and health care of persons with developmental disabilities throughout the lifespan. This network includes individuals with disabilities, their families, caregivers, residential service providers and health care professionals. He teaches developmental disabilities and geriatric medicine to medical students and resident physicians at the Cleveland Clinic's Family Medicine Residency Program in Cleveland, Ohio. He is co-author of *Intellectual Disabilities at Your Fingertips: A Health Care Resource*.

# Travel Information

**Airports** - Attendees can fly into either of the Chicago airports, O'Hare International or Midway

**Public Transportation** - Attendees can take the [Metra](#) Commuter rail into Chicago from the surrounding suburbs. Train stations are less than 2 miles from Rush's campus. Attendees can also utilize the Chicago Transit Authority ([CTA](#)) bus and "L" trains. Several bus lines, the Blue line "L" train and the Pink Line "L" train all stop on or near Rush's campus. Service from the O'Hare International Airport is available on a continuous basis with Blue line trains. Service from Midway is available a continuous basis using the Orange line train and transferring to the Blue or Pink lines to reach Rush's campus.

**Taxi Service** - Taxis are readily available at the airport. The airport is about 30 miles from downtown and taxi fare from the airport is around \$60-70.

**Lyft and Uber** - Download the Lyft and Uber apps to get around Chicago.

**Parking** - Daily parking is available at Rush for \$20 (8-24 hours) and valet parking is available for \$25 (5-10 hours).

**Accessible Travel Information** - Accessible transportation is available through the [CTA](#) and [Metra](#). A discounted parking rate of \$10 for valet parking is available to people with disabilities. Wheelchair assistance is available at the valet parking entrances. Designated parking for people with disabilities is available on the fourth and fifth floor levels of Section A in Rush's parking garage.

## Lodging

Discounted lodging for conference participants has been arranged. Please use the links below to make your lodging reservations and receive the discounted rates.

Chicago Marriott at Medical District/UIC  
625 South Ashland Avenue at Harrison Street  
Main Phone: (312) 491-1234  
Start Date: March 22  
End Date: March 25  
Rate: \$169/night plus tax

Reservation Website: [Book your group rate for Rush University Department of Occupational Therapy Room Block](#)

The Hotel Chicago  
1622 W Jackson Blvd  
Main Phone: (312) 243-2900  
Start Date: March 22  
End Date: March 24  
Rate: \$119/night plus tax  
Reservations: Please Contact Melissa Bisch at 312-702-1712 or [mbisch@hotelchicago1622.com](mailto:mbisch@hotelchicago1622.com)

Requests for accommodations need to be submitted prior to March 20, 2017.

Please contact Molly Bathje (312) 942-2262 or email [PATH-PWD@Rush.edu](mailto:PATH-PWD@Rush.edu) with questions.

PATH-PWD@rush.edu