

DHERN January 2024 Newsletter

DHERN Announcements

1. Mark your calendar for **presentations from the DHERN Paper Award winners!** Tuesday, January 23rd, 2-3pm Eastern. CART will be available, email dhern@jhu.edu for additional access requests. [Register here.](#) Thank you to all who nominated papers! We enjoyed reading each of the papers and are excited that so many early career scholars are engaged in disability health equity research. **Congratulations to our winners, listed below!**
 - a. Amber Davis, "[Intersectionality and Social Security Age-18 Redetermination: Reducing the Stress and Trauma of Transition for Black Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities](#)" in Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal.
 - b. Robert B. Manning III, "[Barriers to Mental Health Service Use Among People With Disabilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)" in Rehabilitation Psychology.
2. Share your recent publications, upcoming events, job opportunities with the DHERN community! To contribute to the next newsletter, please send the following details to us at ccerill1@jhu.edu by the 28th.
 - Name:
 - Email address for contact:
 - Twitter handle for contact and/or organization:
 - Details (for event or opportunity, include a brief description no more than 3 lines with dates and necessary links; for publication, include the full citation and an abstract):
 - Link for more information/publication:

Opportunities

- **GRANTS**
 - a. Please see attached RFP from Special Olympics: Pilot Evaluation of the HSE Health Passport for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Response date is January 31st, 2024.
- **POLICY**
 - a. [Letter](#) from the National Council on Disability regarding the Census' proposal to change the disability questions and undercount the disabled population in the US available now. It offers a thorough and clear summary of what is at stake and how this proposal is contrary to US disability rights laws.
- **MEDIA**
 - a. The Providence "Health Equity in Action" Podcast is a new podcast focused on healthcare experiences in underserved and/or marginalized communities. An upcoming series will focus on disability and will explore the challenges people

with disabilities face in healthcare. To better understand disability health equity, and to hear directly from people with lived experience, [we've designed a 1-question survey](#). If you opt in, we may reach out for more information and/or to ask if we can record the story for our podcast. If recorded, participants will receive compensation for their time. Recordings will be conducted and edited in collaboration with people with disabilities.

- **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

- a. **[Executive Director](#)**: Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), founded in 1979, is one of the nation's preeminent civil rights law and policy centers. Key responsibilities relate to strategy and planning, management, board partnership and stewardship, and communications, fundraising, and programming. DREDF and Vetted Solutions are committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation to candidates interested in applying for the position. To request an accommodation please contact Ari Benjamin at +1.703.220.7242 or ari@vettedolutions.com. For confidential consideration, please send a cover letter and resume to DREDFEDSearch@vettedolutions.com or call +1.202.544.4749.
- b. **[Director of Research – Application Deadline Extended](#)**: The American Association on Health and Disability is accepting applications for a Director of Research until January 29, 2024. A primary function of this position would be to serve as the Principal Investigator/Program Director for the Disability Community Engagement Partner Project (DCEPP). AAHD is currently engaged in adult and pediatric engagement through the DCEPP, which is aimed at recruiting people with disabilities to participate in the NIH All of Us Research Program. All of Us is inviting one million or more people from across the U.S. to participate in building one of the largest health databases to improve individualized health care. This position would also play a strategic role in advancing the AAHD research agenda. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, CV, salary requirements, and a writing sample to AAHD Executive Director Karl Cooper at kcooper@aahd.us.
- c. **Post-doctoral training program**: The goal of this ARRT postdoctoral training program is to increase the number of researchers-especially researchers with disabilities-who are prepared to conduct high-quality rehabilitation research to improve community living and participation outcomes of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Project objectives focus on providing trainees from underrepresented populations the opportunity to: (1) develop and refine their research skills in both qualitative and quantitative research projects in areas with a paucity of research (i.e., community living and participation in IDD); (2) train and engage in stakeholder-engaged research in collaboration with individuals with disabilities; and (3) assume increasingly independent leadership roles that will prepare them for careers as independent researchers and help to remove barriers for future researchers from underrepresented populations.

Project outcomes are individualized and based on the career and training goals each postdoctoral scholar sets through their Individualized Development Plans (IDPs). As a part of their IDPs, trainees set specific and attainable goals to develop scientific work products by the end of their fellowship, including at least three publications submitted (≥ 1 first author) to peer-reviewed scientific journals; at least two scientific presentations to be submitted to professional conferences; a clear language community-facing product based upon their research findings; and a grant application to be submitted by the end of the postdoctoral training period. Candidates should contact Katherine Walton PhD for more information at Katherine.walton@osumc.edu. Applications can be sent to Manisha Khatiwada at Manisha.khatiwada@osumc.edu. See attached PDF for more.

- **DATA COLLECTION**

- a. The fifth and most recent wave of the [National Survey Health and Disability](#) is NOW OPEN. We are looking for members of the disability community to [take the survey](#). Data from the fifth wave of NSHD will be available to researchers in the Spring of 2024. Learn more from this [video about the survey](#) and this [press release](#).

- **CALL FOR PAPERS**

- a. A team of Disability Advocacy and Research Network (DARN) members are editing a special issue of Teaching of Psychology on [Creating an Anti-Ableist Psychology Curriculum and Teaching Environment](#). Deadline: February 1st, 2024.
 - People with disability represent roughly 1 in 6 of the population and comprise a large, yet understudied and underrepresented, minority group in psychology. There is an urgent need for pedagogical methods and techniques which challenge ableist systems and biases. Likewise, approaches to enhance the educational experience for both students and faculty with disabilities is an important topic for consideration.
- b. [Special Issue on Autism and Aging: A Lifespan Approach](#) in [Autism in Adulthood](#). This special issue will address the dearth of published research on older Autistic adults by focusing on autism and aging. Authors are encouraged to explore Autistic experience in adulthood and later life from a variety of frameworks and approaches, including those that use a biopsychosocial perspective or build upon social or social relational models of disability, rights-based models, the neurodiversity paradigm, or models of social inclusion.
 - Submission deadline for this special issue is January 15, 2024, through the Autism in Adulthood online submission system. Visit the journal website to view more on information for authors including manuscript guidelines, information on available author services, and publication costs.

- c. [Topical Collection on Disability and Women’s Mental Health*](#). Co-Guest Editors Dr. Hilary Brown and Dr. Lesley Tarasoff are leading a call for papers for Archives of Women's Mental Health on disability and women’s mental health. We are looking for original research, systematic reviews, and short communications investigating mental health outcomes and mental health care experiences among women with disabilities. We will consider quantitative study designs on populations with physical, vision, hearing, cognitive, and intellectual or developmental disabilities. We encourage the submission of studies that examine sex/gender differences in mental health in populations with disabilities; studies that examine mental health across the reproductive life course (e.g., related to pregnancy and parenting, the menstrual cycle, and the menopausal transition); studies that examine the intersecting impacts of ableism and other forms of oppression (e.g., racism) on disabled women’s mental health; and studies from all global contexts. Submission deadline: September 30, 2024.
 - *Note that this is a revised call for the topical collection on Disability and Mental Health Across the Reproductive Life Course, which now has an expanded focus and extended submission deadline.
- **OTHER**
 - a. In response to the announcement that [people with disabilities have been designated as an NIH population that experiences health disparities](#), the [Office of Global Health and Health Disparities](#) at the National Institute of Neurological Disease & Stroke (NINDS) is working to expand our portfolio to include studies of neurological health disparities in people with disabilities, including research that focuses on the intersection with [other NIH Defined population\(s\) that experience health disparities](#). We are eager to extend our relationships with experts and leaders who study health equity, health care access, and neurological health outcomes in people with disabilities. Our office identified the recipients of this email as community-based organizations, leaders, or research experts with a connection to studying health disparities among people with disabilities. We currently have two funding opportunities of interest. Please read the below funding opportunity information, [sign up for our office list-serv](#) to receive regular updates about open funding opportunities related to neurological health equity, and share with your colleagues who may be interested in studying [neurological](#) health disparities among people living with disability. Visit our website: [Office of Global Health & Health Disparities \(OGHHD\)](#)

[Disability and Health Journal](#) Featured Article

- Landes SD, Swenor BK, Vaitsiakhovich N. [Counting disability in the National Health Interview Survey and its consequence: Comparing the American Community Survey to the Washington Group disability measures](#). Disabil Health J. 2023 Nov 14:101553. doi: 10.1016/j.dhjo.2023.101553. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37981492.

- In this study, we evaluate whether the disability questions currently used in the NHIS – the Washington Group questions – threaten the ability of this survey to fulfil its stated objective for disabled people. Data were from the 2011–2012 NHIS with linkage to mortality status through 2019. We find that when compared to their predecessor, the American Community Survey disability questions, the Washington Group questions accounted for less than half of disabled people, primarily counting disabled people with more than one disability status, but not counting many disabled people with only one disability status. As a result of this undercount, disability prevalence rates based on the Washington Group questions underestimate the size of the disabled population in the US, and overestimate the comparatively higher mortality risk associated with disability status. These results underscore the need to re-evaluate the disability questions used in the NHIS, and invest in the development of improved and expanded disability questionnaires for use in national surveys.

Health Affairs Featured Article

- **Briefing: Key Challenges Encountered by the Medicare and Medicaid Dually-Eligible Population.** Speakers: Kelli Emans, Senior Strategic Integration Advisor, Department of Social and Health Services, Aging and Long-Term Support Administration, Washington State; Dennis Heaphy, Researcher, Disability Policy Consortium, and Commissioner, MACPAC, author of *Requiring Integrated Care Plans To Offer Spiritual Care To Dually Eligible Individuals* (Forefront, January 31, 2023); Laura Keohane, Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University, author of several rapid-response articles in the series; Olivia Richard, Advocate, Camden Coalition; Kristal Vardaman, Managing Principal, Medicaid Policy & Programs, Aurrera Health Group; Brandon Wilson, Senior Director, Center for Community Engagement in Health Innovation, Community Catalyst, author of *Engaging Dual-Eligible Beneficiaries To Build Effective Integrated Care Programs* (Forefront, May 22, 2023); Alan Weil, editor-in-chief, Health Affairs (moderator)
 - Over the past two years, Health Affairs, in partnership with Arnold Ventures, has published a series of Forefront articles addressing the subject of Medicare and Medicaid integration. A key theme of the series has been the challenges that dual-eligible individuals face around the lack of coordination and alignment between Medicare and Medicaid. This online event explores these and other issues in more detail, and focuses on key challenges encountered by the dually eligible population, as well as potential solutions.

DHERN Member Articles

- Gréaux, M., Moro, M.F., Kamenov, K. et al. **Health equity for persons with disabilities: a global scoping review on barriers and interventions in healthcare services.** Int J Equity Health 22, 236 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-023-02035-w>

- Many of the poor health outcomes experienced by persons with disabilities cannot be explained by the underlying health condition or impairment, but are health inequities driven by unfair societal and health system factors. We conducted a scoping review and included articles published after 2011 with no restriction to geographical location, the type of underlying impairments or healthcare services. Barriers were identified worldwide across different levels of the health system (such as healthcare costs, untrained healthcare workforces, issues of inclusive and coordinated services delivery), and through wider contributing factors of health inequities that expand beyond the health system (such as societal stigma or health literacy). However, the interventions to promote equitable access to healthcare services for persons with disabilities were not readily mapped onto those needs, their sources of funding and projected sustainability were often unclear, and few offered targeted approaches to address issues faced by marginalized groups of persons with disabilities with intersectional identities. Profound systemic changes and action-oriented strategies are warranted to promote health equity for persons with disabilities, and advance global health priorities.
- Twardzik, E., Schrack, J. A., Porter, K. M. P., Coleman, T., Washington, K., & Swenor, B. K. (2024). [TRansit ACcessibility Tool \(TRACT\): Developing a novel scoring system for public transportation system accessibility](#). *Journal of Transport & Health*, 34, 101742.
 - Using a novel scoring system, we found significant variation in the accessibility information presented on public transportation system websites. Websites are a primary mode where users obtain objective information about public transportation systems and are therefore important platforms for communication. Absence of accessibility information creates barriers for the disability community and restricts equal access to public transportation.

From,

The DHERN Team

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