



RRTCDD

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center
on Developmental Disabilities and Health

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[RRTCDD Mission Statement](#)

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Developmental Disabilities and Health (RRTCDD) will promote the health and function of adults with I/DD through a coordinated set of research, training in evidence-based practice, and dissemination and utilization activities. The activities of the RRTC are all designed to promote involvement of people with I/DD within the fabric of their community, enable them to access the health and long-term services and supports they require throughout their lifespan, and help them attain a healthy, personally meaningful and socially relevant life.

[EVENTS RESEARCH AWARDS MEDIA](#)

RRTCDD News Summer 2015

EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Developmental Disabilities and Health ([RRTCDD](#)) and the Family Support Research and Training Center ([FSRTC](#)) organized and co-hosted a White House Conference on Aging Watch party (open to the public) on July 13, 2015 at UIC.

[Beth Marks, PhD](#), [Jasmina Sisirak, PhD](#), [James Rimmer, PhD](#), and [David Ervin, PhD](#) presented their work at the [American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry Global Summit on Innovations in Health and IDD](#), July 27-29, 2015 in Los Angeles, CA.

1. **Health and Lifestyle Interventions for People with IDD**
Angela Hassiotis, PhD, [Beth Marks, PhD, RN](#), Amanda Reichard, PhD, Sarah Ailey PhD, APHN
2. **HealthMatters, Scale Up!: A Multi-Level Approach for Building Health Promotion Capacity** Lindsey Mullis, MS, [Beth Marks, PhD, RN](#), Kathy Sheppard-Jones, PhD, & [Jasmina Sisirak, PhD, MPH](#)
3. **Using Technology to Customize Health Promotion for Adults with Intellectual Disability**
[James, Rimmer, PhD](#)
4. **Institutional Research Barriers and IDD**
Justin Gentry, Carleton Rivers, MS RDN, LD, [David Ervin, PhD](#), and [James Rimmer, PhD](#)

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

[HealthMatters Statewide Scale-Up](#) is a health promotion initiative aimed at improving the health status and health

behaviors of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DDs). This research study is currently working with Community-Based Organizations in several states, including Illinois. [HealthMatters, Illinois!](#) has partnered with Northpointe Resources and the [Illinois Disability and Health Program](#) at the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) to assist provider organizations with promoting healthy lifestyles to people with I/DD while meeting the requirements of the [National Core Indicators](#). Currently, seven Community-Based Organizations in IL, from five counties, are involved in this initiative.

The National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices, co-chaired by [Matthew Janicki, PhD](#) has recently developed and had published an article on the need for practice guidelines in the journal, ***Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Management***. For advance print version, please visit: ["Why do we need national guidelines for adults with intellectual disability and dementia?"](#)

AWARDS AND HONORS

DHD professor and head [Tamar Heller, PhD](#) has been named a UIC Distinguished Professor. The appointment, which will endure throughout Tamar's full-time tenure at UIC, is among the highest honors conferred on faculty at UIC; it recognizes an honoree for having made a truly significant impact on his/her field through scholarship, creativity and leadership.

[Heller, PhD](#) also received the 2015 International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity [G. Lawrence Rarick Memorial Scholar award](#) in honor of her research in Israel, June 2015.

MEDIA

Fox News quoted [Matthew Janicki, PhD](#), associate research professor in the Institute on Disability and Human Development in the College of Applied Health Sciences, on the need for assistance to parents of children with intellectual disabilities as they move into adulthood. Janicki recommends group homes, supported apartments, and programs in which parents pool their resources. For article, please visit: [Parents of special needs children face waitlist, scarce information for long-term care](#)

[Tia Nelis](#), [RRTC](#) self-advocate and President of the [Self-](#)

[Advocates Becoming Empowered](#), was mentioned by President Obama at the White House reception for the ADA25 celebration on July 20, 2015. For the video, please visit: [The President Speaks on the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

Tia Nelis, [RRTC](#) self-advocate and President of the [Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered](#), was interviewed by Google regarding the ADA and self-advocacy. For the video, please visit:

[Tia Nelis | Google Impact Challenge: Disabilities | ADA 25th Anniversary](#)

[TOP](#)