

Nisonger Center

A UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center has existed since 1966, one of the first federally-funded University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). The Nisonger Center earned an enviable reputation for its interdisciplinary research, education and training, clinical services, and dissemination activities. With a strong and dynamic interdisciplinary team of researchers, clinicians, teachers, staff and trainees, the Nisonger Center strives to improve the lives of people with intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities across their lifespan.

Nisonger Center is proud to be part of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, College of Medicine, Office of Health Sciences, and Ohio State's Neurological Institute. We have approximately 120 faculty and staff from more than 15 professional disciplines across six Ohio State University colleges (Medicine, Public Health, Dentistry, Nursing, Arts & Sciences, and Education & Human Ecology). In addition, Nisonger closely collaborates with Nationwide Children's Hospital and has a strong community engagement within Central Ohio and across the state.

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Our mission is to improve the lives of people with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. We accomplish our mission with a vision of developing and providing the highest quality interdisciplinary care, education, and research to support the inclusion of people with neurodevelopmental disabilities in all aspects of community life. The Nisonger Center values are the commitments made by our faculty, staff, and students regarding how we will carry out our work. Our values include: Person/Family-centered; Excellence; Compassion; Cultural Competence; Self-determination; Innovation; and Hope.

BY-THE-NUMBERS (ANNUALLY):

Patient care:	We served more than 42,000 people with disabilities and their families.
Teaching/training:	Almost 17,000 students, direct service providers, professionals participated in Nisonger trainings. Including: 91 OSU dental students, fellows, residents, dental hygiene students.
Research:	\$4,000,000 in extramural grant funding. 90 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and books published. 70+ conferences and scientific presentations.

CLINICAL SERVICES & COMMUNITY CONTRACTS

The Early Learning Program is a regular, full-day child care program offering early learning services for neurotypical children between the ages of 6 weeks and 5 years old. This inclusive setting provides high quality child care services to the staff of the University and Wexner Medical Center while also providing an enriched educational environment for our early intervention program for children with, or at risk of developing, a neurodevelopmental disorder.

Interdisciplinary Developmental Clinic is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary (developmental behavioral pediatrics, psychology, genetics counseling, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, audiology, social work, special education, and medical dietetics) developmental clinic that provides families with a comprehensive evaluation of their child's (ages 1-5 years) developmental strengths, skills, and needs (including a medical diagnosis and comprehensive developmental assessment of the child).

School-Aged Autism and Developmental Clinic is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary (developmental behavioral pediatrics, psychology, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy) clinic that provides diagnostic evaluations, reevaluations and/or behavioral consultations to school-aged youth (5-22 years old).

Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry Dual Diagnosis Clinic provides outpatient psychiatric services to children and adults who have co-occurring intellectual/neurodevelopmental disorders and psychiatric disorder/behavioral health needs.

Adult Down Syndrome Clinic is a comprehensive and multidisciplinary (primary care, genetics, psychology) clinic serving adults with Down syndrome and their families.

Dental Services consists of two separate dental clinics (pediatrics & adults) with a total of 9 dental operatories providing complete oral health services (cleanings, fillings, crowns, partials, dentures, oral surgery, etc.) to people with intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities and other special health care needs across the lifespan.

GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

Nisonger research has sustained extramural funding for more than five decades from a wide range of federal, state, industry, and foundation sources. With between 20-25 active programs/projects, Nisonger Center's research continues to focus on issues that improve health, behavior, learning, social participation and employment of people with disabilities of all ages. Below are some examples of currently funded projects:

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Marc J. Tassé, PhD) - Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Core grant supporting research, training, and patient care of people with neurodevelopmental disorders across the life span.

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disorders (LEND; Paula Rabidou, PhD) - Maternal & Child Health Bureau. The purpose of the LEND grant is to address disparities in the availability and quality of health services that impact health care and community systems for people with neurodevelopmental disabilities through inter-professional training in leadership, scholarship and community partnerships.

PDI-AID - Diagnostic Interview of Psychiatric Disorders in People with ID (Jill Hollway, PhD) - R01 NIH. Refine and validate a standardized clinical interview procedure to accurately diagnose psychiatric disorders using the DSM-5 criteria in adolescents and adults with intellectual disability.

Double-blind Randomized Clinical Trial of EEG Neurofeedback for ADHD (L. Eugene Arnold, MD) - R01 NIH. This is an empirical study of the treatment efficacy of an EEG neurofeedback intervention to resolve ADHD symptoms in children by retraining their brain waves to permanently increase the power of the beta (faster) waves, which control levels of attention, alertness and concentration.

Repetitive Behavior in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Luc Lecavalier, PhD) - R01 NIH. This research study is focused on developing and validating a novel outcome measure targeting behavioral inflexibility in children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and ASD.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on health and human function (Susan M. Havercamp, PhD) - NIDILRR. This 5-year grant will establish a national rehabilitation research and training center (RRTC) to improve the health and function of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), with a focus on psychiatric and behavioral health.

Measurement of Social Communication Outcomes in Autism Spectrum Disorder (Katie Walton, PhD) - R21 NIH. This research study will develop and validate novel parent- and teacher-report assessments to more reliably measure social communication outcomes in 2 to 6 year-olds with ASD.

Train Early Childhood Professionals About the Opioid Crisis (Andrea Witwer, PhD) - Administration on Community Living. This grant will fund the development and piloting of a training curriculum for early intervention professionals, focusing on brain development, developmental outcomes of prenatal exposure to opioid and other substances, trauma-informed care, provider secondary trauma stress, and strategies to support caregivers.