Can You Hear Us Now?
RRTC Year 3 Summit

Susan Havercamp, PhD, FAAIDD, NADD-CC

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Susan.Havercamp@osumc.edu

Welcome Everyone To This Year's Summit!

Welcome And Summit Goals

1) **To learn from each other.**
2) **To discuss where we have been and where we would like to go as a project.**
3) **To figure out how to make our project more inclusive.**
   a) One way we are trying to do that is to have DEEP, REEP, and OSU staff to stay together as a large group all day.
   b) Another way is to think about the best ways to work together on research papers.

Housekeeping

- Summit materials are available on the Summit 2026 Website.

  (URL: **https://go.osu.edu/RRTC2026**)

- Please see handouts on tables.
  - Copies of meeting agenda to share
  - List of official publications
  - Impact magazine articles
  - Products from *RRTC Website > What Have We Learned So Far?*.

  (URL: https://rrtcnisonger.org/what-we-do/what-have-we-learned-so-far/)

Housekeeping

- In the morning, we will stay in this room (Olentangy & Buckeye room).
- In the afternoon, we will breakout into small groups. One group will go next door to the Scarlet & Gray room.
- All food (breakfast, lunch, and snacks) will be served next door in the Scarlet & Gray room.
- Restrooms are down the hallway.

Summit Website: https://go.osu.edu/RRTC2026

Housekeeping

- Everyone should have a device (computer, phone).
  - If you do not have a device, please ask someone to share with you.
  - We also should have extra devices available that you can borrow.
- If you need to charge your device, we have some power strips available on the floor around the room.
- **How to access hotel WiFi**:
  - Look for Hilton honors network
  - Choose promotion code option
  - Type in Cmhua2026

Summit Website: https://go.osu.edu/RRTC2026

Housekeeping

Virtual Participants

- Please use Zoom RRTC Meeting Line to join

Small Groups (Breakouts)

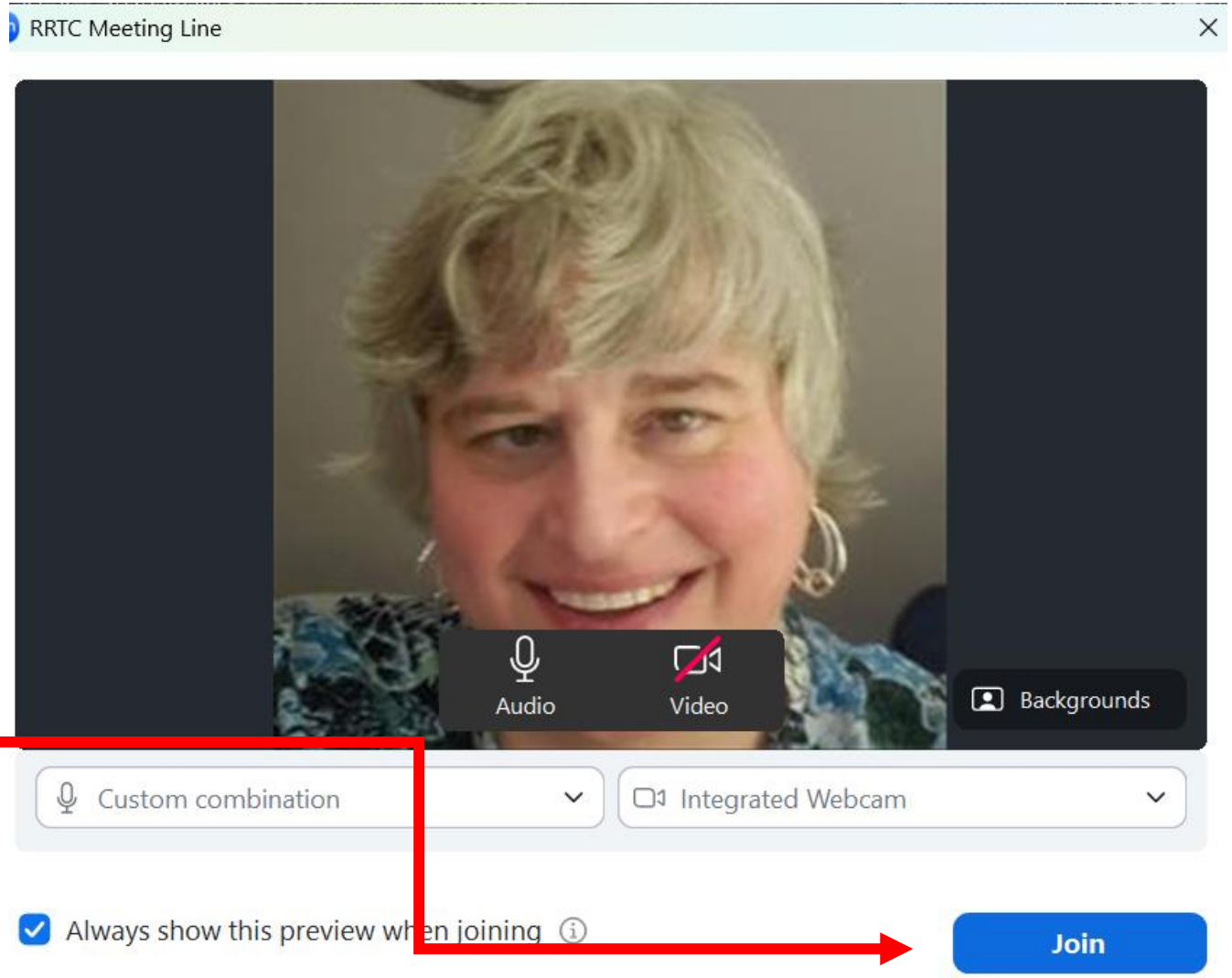
- Small group will have their own meeting line; see Summit 2026 Website.
- Please turn off Zoom audio to avoid echo.

Summit Website: https://go.osu.edu/RRTC2026

Turning Off Sound in Zoom (Before Joining Zoom)

Please do not click on Audio.

Just click on the Join button.



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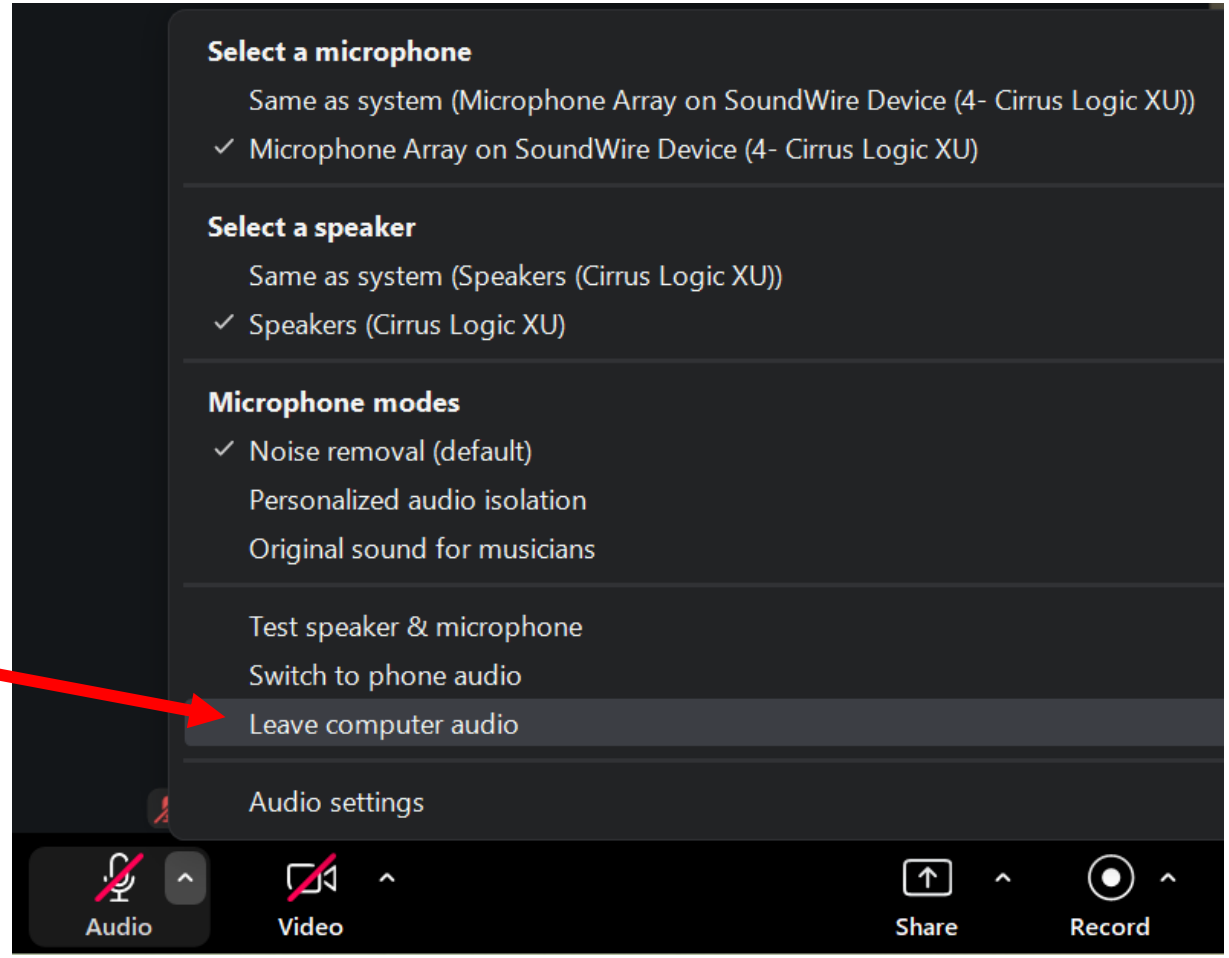

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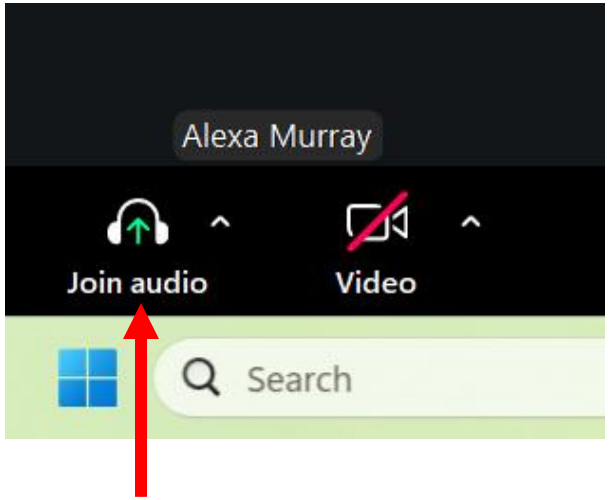

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Agenda Walk Through

Summit Website: https://go.osu.edu/RRTC2026

Please see: https://go.osu.edu/RRTC2026

The Ohio State University

Nisonger RRTC Summit 2026

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
NISONGER CENTER

Join Online: Zoom Meeting Link

Scroll down the page for an **Agenda** with **Material Links** and **Study Update Videos**

Agenda and Material Links

RRTC Studies: Where Are We Going?

We hope that you watched the background videos on the Summit 2026 Website. Today we will learn about plans for next year.

Study 1: The Measure Study: Katherine Walton

Make and test clear language measures for adults with ID.

Study 2: The Count Study: Marc Tassé

Count how many adults with ID have health and mental health concerns.

Study 3: The Therapy Study: Andrea Witwer

Make and test a mental health therapy for adults with ID who have anxiety.

Study 4: **NEW:** The Lifespan Study: Alecia Mercier

Design plan for data across the lifespan on health, work, and community.

Refreshment Break

Count Study: Recruitment Discussion

1. Setting the Stage
   - Recruitment after RRTC 1.0
   - Now in Year 3 of RRTC 2.0
2. Update on Spanish Translation
3. Recruitment Strategies Report Out
   - REEP
   - DEEP

DEEP Going Above and Beyond

- We are proud of all our DEEP members for their great accomplishments this past year.

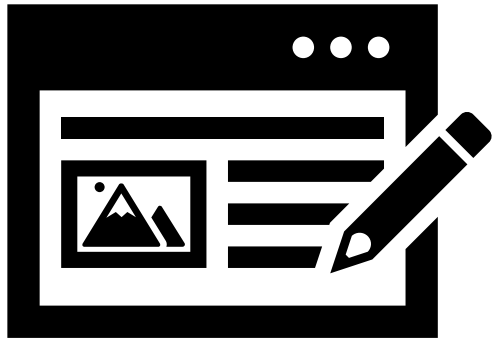
- Some DEEP members will share highlights of their project-related work.

Lunch

Photos

Please see Julia in the Scarlet & Gray room for photos.

Focus On Inclusive Authorship



- Creating a Welcoming Climate Presentation
- Results of Pre-Summit Survey
- Discussion

Goals of Small Groups (Breakouts)

1) To figure out the best ways for researchers and DEEP members to work together to write research (scientific) papers. How can we support each other?

2) To move these papers forward.

We would like to send these papers to journals this year.

Publishing can be a very long process. Several rounds of editing may be needed.

Paper 1 - Jill

1) Lack of awareness about feelings (Alexithymia). Lead author: Jill Hollway.

Alexithymia is when people are not aware of their feelings. They may not understand them or feel connected to them.

During the Count Study, we gave a survey to study partners to see whether they thought the adult with lived experience was in touch with their feelings.

- **Why this matters:** When someone is not in touch with their feelings, it may impact how they respond to mental health questions.
- The lead author and her writing team analyzed the survey data. They are now writing up the results.

Paper 2 - Derrick

2) Trust-Distrust in Research. Lead authors: Derrick Willis and Marian Ofonedu.

Focus on how people feel towards research (attitudes).

Some groups, including people with disabilities, have not always been included in research. When included, they may not have been treated fairly.

- **Why this matters:** Understanding why someone would not want to be a part of research is important. It is a call to researchers to change what they do (recruit, make surveys).
- The lead authors and their writing team drafted an outline. They are reviewing the literature.

Paper 3 - Richard

3) Process Addictions (e.g., Substance Abuse). Lead authors: Richard Chapman and Robert Fletcher.

Focus on people with IDD and addiction. Addiction is when someone has a very unhealthy attachment to something. The person will do almost anything or give up almost everything to get more of what they think they need.

- Why this matters: There is little research on addictions among adults with IDD. Addictions can ruin lives. Better understanding of addictions can mean better treatment.
- The lead authors and their writing team drafted an outline. They are reviewing the literature.

Refreshment Break

Small Group Discussion

- Please find your group.
- Jill's (Group 1) and Richard's (Group 3) will stay here in the Olentangy & Buckeye room.
- If you are interested in the Trust paper, follow Derrick's (Group 2) to the Scarlet & Gray room.
- Meet in small groups for about an hour.
- At 3:35pm, return to the Olentangy & Buckeye room. Then each group will share highlights of their discussion, including next steps.

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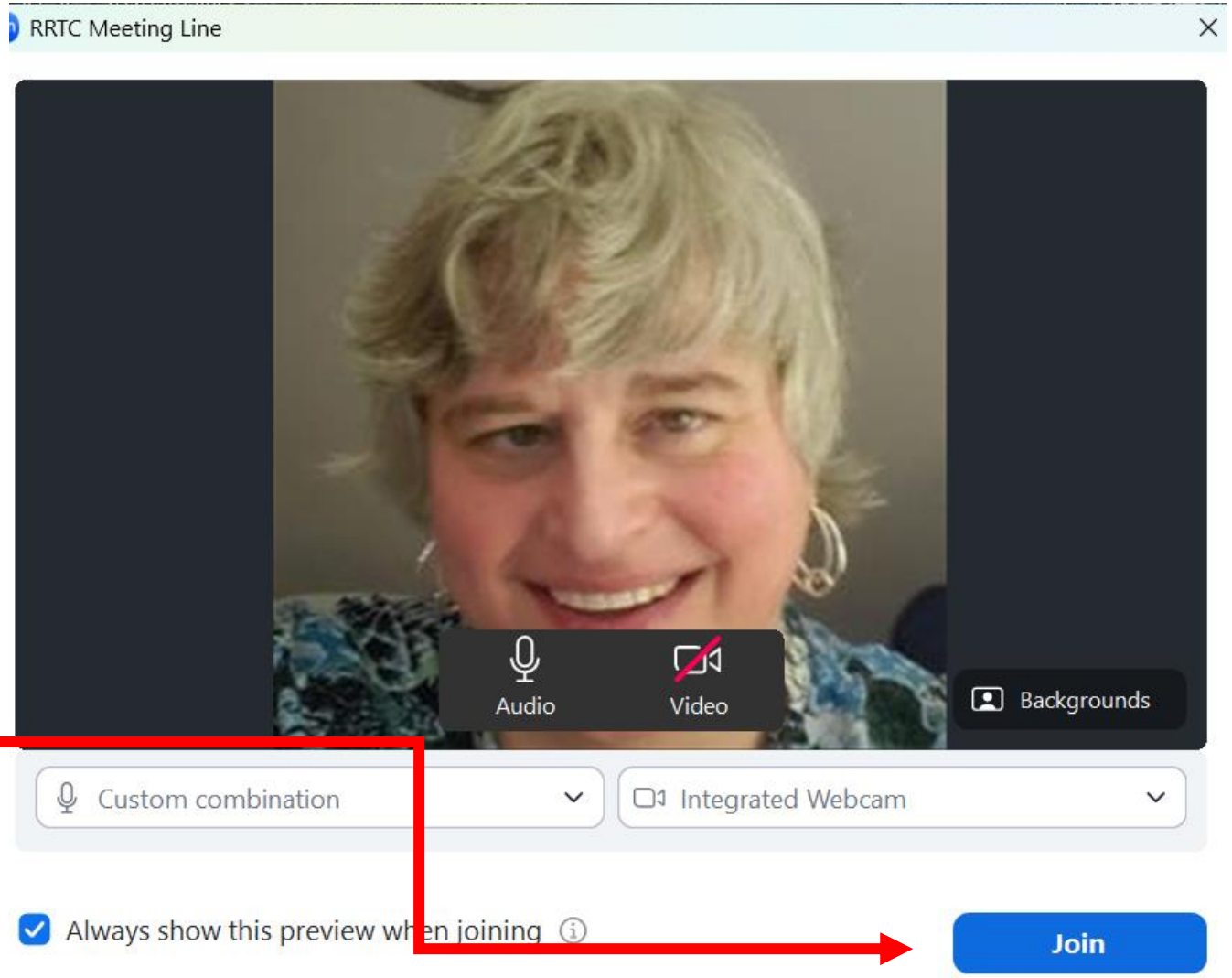

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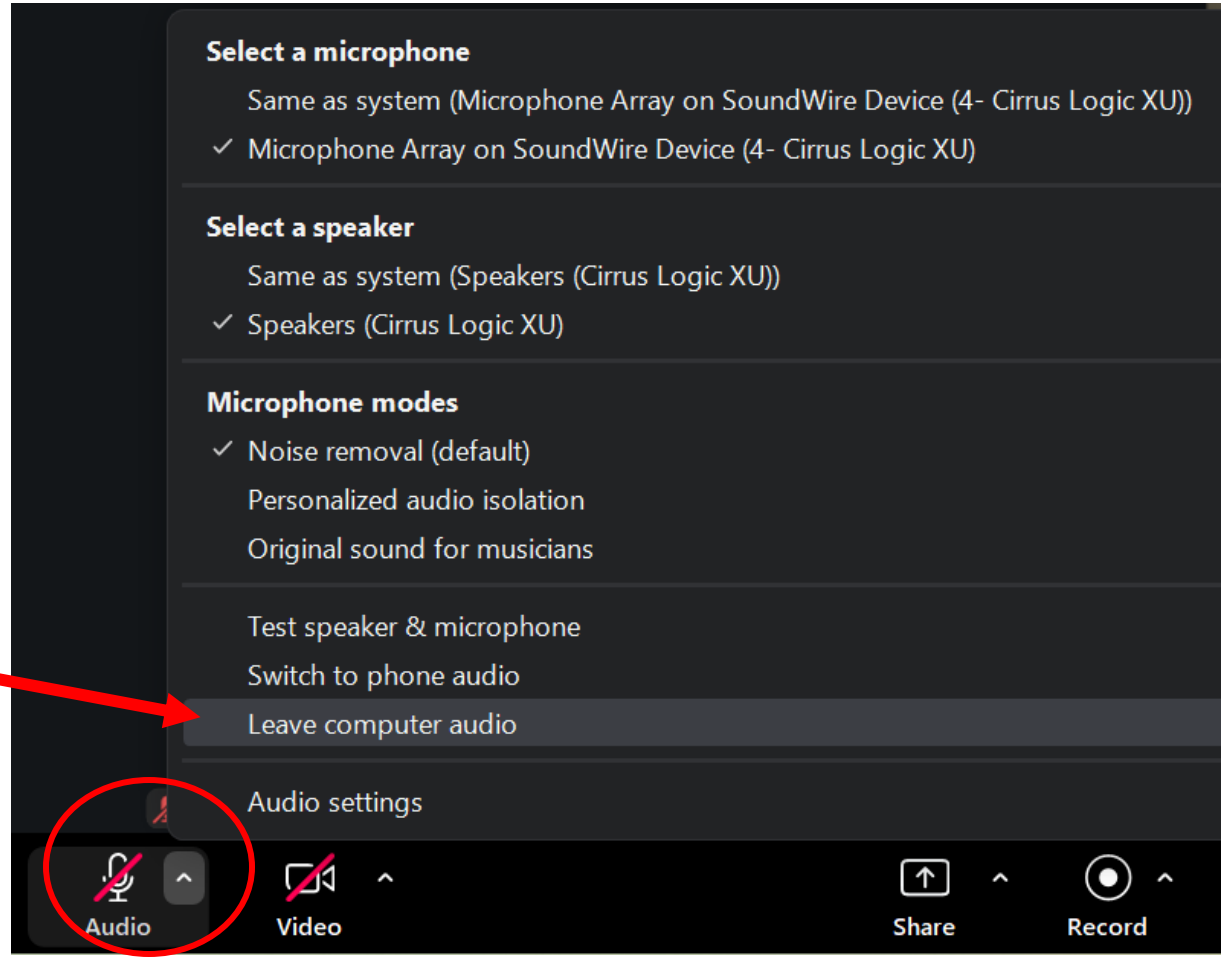

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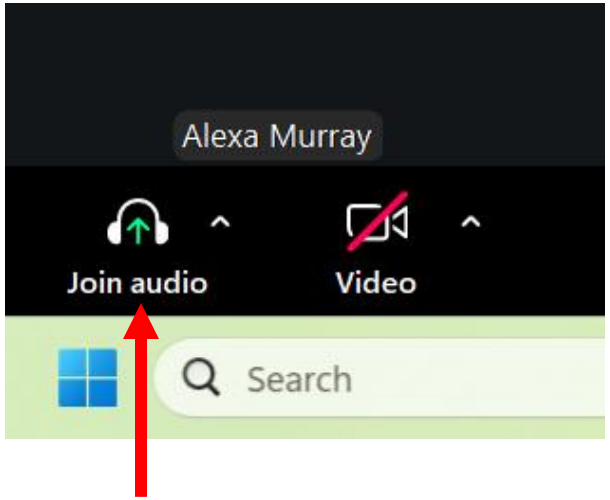

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Updates on Other Four Papers

Other papers are in the works:

1) My Health and Wellbeing Survey

Survey given online or through a tablet that asks about health and quality of life, focus on RRTC 1.0 findings.

2) Social Desirability

Survey that asks about the role of bias, do people choose answers for the approval of others, focus on RRTC 1.0 findings.

3) Count Study

Study of how often intellectual disability and mental health disorders occur together, focus on RRTC 1.0 findings.

4) Social Drivers of Health

Relationship of age, gender, race, ethnicity, etc. to health, focus on RRTC 1.0 findings.

Future Research Ideas

Future Funding: Research Organizations

What do funders want to see?

- NIDILRR
- NIH
- PCORI

We will highlight funding areas.

More information on https://go.osu.edu/RRTC2026.

Future Funding: NIDILRR

(National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research)

Mission:

- To produce and use new knowledge that will help **people with disabilities do what they want to do** in their communities.
- To provide **opportunities and supports** so that people with disabilities can participate fully in society.

2024-2028 Long-Range Plan: **Health and Function Research: Inclusive Health Measurement**

- Work with people with IDD to make health measures that people with IDD can answer for themselves.
- These measures should be tested so we know they work.
- These measures will allow people with IDD to talk about their own health with doctors and researchers instead of others speaking for them.

Future Funding: NIDILRR

NIDILRR
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

New research areas include:

- Health:
- **Good health measures that people with IDD can answer**
  - Expanding spinal cord injury research
  - Improving pregnancy and maternal health
  - Devices for improving arm and leg function

Future Funding: NIDILRR

NiDILRR
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

New research areas include:

- Employment:
  - Needs of people with disabilities in day programs (also called sheltered workshops) to help them move toward community integrated employment (CIE)
  - Research on strategies to increase participation in CIE
  - Strengthening knowledge of successful services and supports that promote CIE

Future Funding: NIDILRR

NIDILRR
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

New research areas include:

- Community Living:
  - School experiences among children with disabilities
  - Climate change and disability
  - Preparing for emergencies
  - Accessible travel
  - Accessible housing

Future Funding: NIDILRR

4) Technology:
   a) Involving more people with disabilities in technology research/design teams
   b) Improved and affordable sports, exercise, and recreational technologies
   c) Accessible travel
   d) Smart home technologies
   e) AI and robotics
   f) VR and simulation
   g) Sensor technologies

Future Funding: NIDILRR

5) Disability Statistics:
   a) Using state-of-the-art sampling and data collection approaches
   b) Support use of NIDILRR-funded data
   c) Produce data focused on where people live

Future Funding: NIDILRR

NIDILRR
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

6) Americans with disabilities Action (ADA) Training and Research:
   a) Outreach to underrepresented communities
   b) National Spanish language program
   c) Increase understanding of race and ethnicity across different regions
   d) Continue to serve as an information source for other federal agencies
   e) Continue to analyze data collected during the ADA National Network's delivery of services

Future Funding: NIH
(National Institutes of Health)

- NIH has a plan for disability health research from 2026 to 2030
- NIH spent $619 million in 2024 on disability health research
- Themes:
  1) Whole person health
  2) Including people with disabilities in research
  1) Working together across fields
  2) Technology

NIH Goals

Goal 1: Advance disability health science through strong research **focused on the person**

Goal 2: Build a strong disability health **research workforce**

Goal 3: Promote state-of-the-art **resources**

Goal 4: Manage disability research activities in a **responsible (ethical)** way

Future Funding: NIH

- **Goal 1: Further disability health science through strong research focused on the person**
  a) Improve how disability is defined and measured
  b) Improve health and wellness throughout life
  c) Reduce health inequalities (promote fairness)
  d) Promote good health and prevent disease

Future Funding: NIH

- **Goal 2: Build a strong disability health research workforce**
  a) Support training in disability health research
  b) Increase career opportunities for researchers
  c) Promote disability health content in research training

Future Funding: NIH

- **Goal 3: Promote state-of-the-art resources**
  a) Accessible buildings, equipment, technology
  b) People with disabilities in research doing research
  c) Partner networks
  d) NIH research data sharing

Future Funding: NIH

- **Goal 4: Manage disability research activities in a responsible (ethical) way**
  a) Promote public and community involvement in disability health research
  b) Rate the success of disability health research practices
  c) Make sure that research activities are done the right way (ethics and rules are followed that will try to reduce bias and increase accommodations for people with disabilities)

Future Funding: PCORI

(Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute)

- PCORI has a new disability funding opportunity that will be open on August 4, 2026
- **Focus is on health outcomes for people with IDD and/or Rare Diseases**
- Must include "comparative clinical effectiveness research" – what this means is that research must:
  - Focus on the patient
  - Include the patient as much as possible
  - Compare at least two health treatments, services, or practices
  - Apply to settings across the nation (e.g., clinics, community)

Future Funding: PCORI

Funding opportunity special focus areas:

1) Better health by improving access to care
2) Improving healthcare transitions (moving from one service and/or setting to another)
3) Medical and non-medical approaches to promote health and/or wellness
4) Improving health and wellness of caregivers

Let's Chat

Thinking about NIDILRR, NIH, and PCORI goals, how could we build upon the work we are doing now?

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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The contents of this presentation were developed as part of a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Health and Function awarded to The Ohio State University Nisonger Center through a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant numbers 90RTHF0002-01-00 and 90RTHF0006-01-00). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services. The contents of this presentation do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, the Administration on Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

NIDILRR
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research