



Center for Disability Health and Wellness



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Ensuring access to quality health care personalized to all background, strengths, and needs



Welcome to the Center for Disability Health and Wellness (CDHW) at the University of Michigan School of Medicine.



The CDHW was established in 2019. Its members come from diverse departments, schools, and campuses within the **University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Flint**. The CDHW, in partnership with the IDEAL RRTC (Investigating Disability factors and promoting Environmental Access for healthy Living Rehabilitation Research and Training Center), has worked this year to explore **ableism and racism in health care settings**.

Individuals with disabilities are more likely than the general population to be **female** and to **live in poverty** in **racial and ethnically marginalized communities**. Too often, these factors are not adequately addressed in clinical research and practice. It is our belief that together we can work to bring forth research-backed policies that can support all patient populations. **The solution starts with us – clinical researchers and physicians.**



2021

**CREATING A MORE
ACCESSIBLE FUTURE**



MISSION

Develop and apply innovative research, clinical, and educational strategies to address inequities in health care access, quality, and outcomes experienced by individuals with physical, sensory, and developmental disabilities across the lifespan.

VISION

To work in partnership with members of the disability community to ensure that all people, regardless of type or severity of disability, have full access to quality health care and to wellness activities personalized according to their background, strengths, and needs.

KEY ACTIVITIES



CDHW members published three articles designed to enhance awareness of the **impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals with disabilities** and to provide recommendations to physicians interacting with them. These include an article in *JAMA Otolaryngology* discussing how health care institutions can keep **deaf and hard of hearing patients and health care workers safe while maintaining accessible and effective communication**. Our center championed the use of clear masks, which are now utilized in Michigan Medicine health care settings as well.



The CDHW assisted in the development and implementation of the **University of Michigan Medical School disability health elective**. This course incorporates a core curriculum of didactic, clinical, and community experiences that can be further tailored to an individual student's career goals and address any disability health training gap. This elective also provides students with the opportunity to interact with **community organizations serving individuals with disabilities** outside of the health care setting.



We developed a **Disability and Accommodations Field** in Michigan Medicine's Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system to proactively capture the disability type and accommodations that patients with disabilities may need at medical appointments. A similar **paper-based patient questionnaire** is being distributed to new patients and to those participating in wellness visits. Please see page six for more information.



We are creating a training module focused on orientation and mobility skills to enable **HOPE (Helping Our Patients Everyday) Ambassadors to serve as human guides for individuals who are Blind/Visually Impaired (B/VI)**. This project will leverage interinstitutional and community-based partnerships to provide B/VI awareness and human guide skills training to HOPE Ambassadors.

BY THE NUMBERS

From Michigan Medicine



1 in 4
People in the USA
have a disability



2.6M/year
Patient Clinic Visits
at Michigan Medicine
=
650,000*
potential interactions with
patients with disabilities

*This is an estimate

From the Center



230+
Papers
Published



16
Community
Partners



6
Center Staff



40
Members



400+
Event
Registrants



12
Speakers



3
Community
Grantees

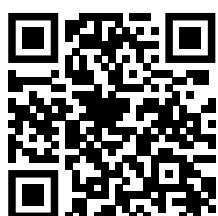


\$36,000
Disbursed to
Community Orgs

ACCESSIBILITY UPDATES

It's Easy to Document and Review Patient Disabilities in MiChart

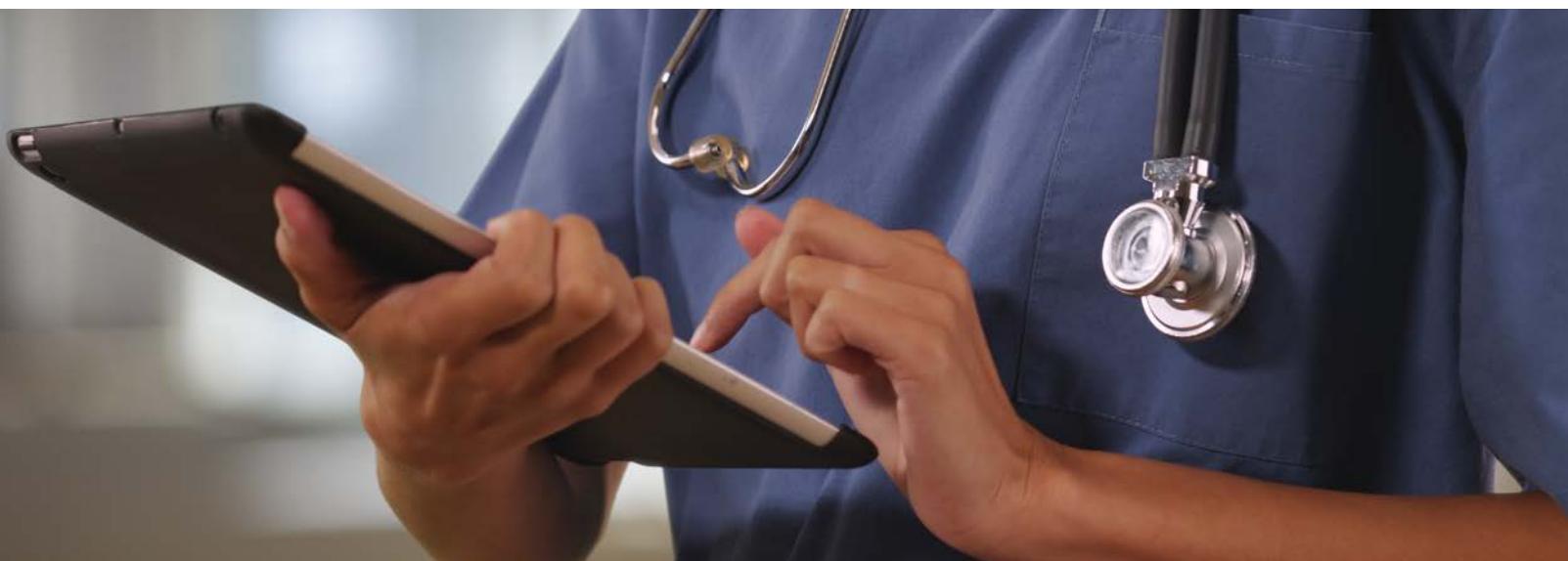
All clinical practitioners can now make use of this helpful tool developed by the Center for Disability Health and Wellness



The CDHW is working to develop **new clinical strategies** to make quality health care more accessible for individuals of all ages and all abilities. One of our clinical innovations is the creation of a **new EMR field** that allows clinical practitioners to easily collect disability information on their patients, which is then displayed on the patient's storyboard, like the example on the left.

We paired this innovation with **expertly curated clinical resources** to help practitioners provide their patients with all the accommodations required to build a positive and inclusive clinical experience.

Please visit bit.ly/MiChartDisabilityTab or scan the QR code on the left to learn more and to access our clinical resource guides.



LOOKING AHEAD ...

The CDHW continues to grow. Our objectives include:

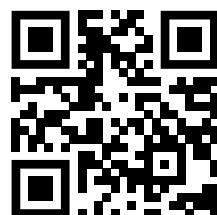
- Commence sponsorships of interdepartmental events and investment in other departments.
- Expand postdoctoral fellowship on disability health research.
 - Continue advocacy within Michigan Medicine for accessibility and patients with disability through leadership and participation in key initiatives (Disability Resource Group and more).
 - Provide support and training for community organizations in their grant applications, research, and program development activities.
 - Implement regular virtual educational series for individuals with disabilities (Facebook Live or YouTube) and health care providers (webinars offering CMEs).
 - Continue hosting the annual Disability Health Research Symposium and the Panel for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January.

... AND MORE

We have recently developed a **video** that highlights our **accomplishments and our vision for the future**.

“Introducing the Center for Disability Health and Wellness” is hosted on the Michigan Medicine YouTube channel and is now live.

Please visit bit.ly/CDHWvideo or scan the QR code on the right to watch the video.





Center for Disability Health and Wellness

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