

What is the IDDRC?

The **IDDRC** at the University of Washington is part of a national network of centers funded by the **Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)**.

Our mission is to support and advance innovative research to improve the lives of people with **intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)**.

Housed within the UW IHDD, the IDDRC provides expert consultation, shared research infrastructure, and access to core scientific services for researchers across disciplines.

We empower investigators by supporting:

- Grant development and experimental design
- Access to research equipment and space
- Data analysis and core services
- Staff training and career development
- Coordination of IDD research across UW

Core Facilities

- Animal Behavior Core
- Brain Imaging Core
- Clinical Translational Core
- Genetics Core

Our Vision

Inclusive communities where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live, learn, work, and thrive.

IHDD Mission

To support our vision through...

- Scientific Discovery
- Education and Training
- Leadership Development
- Clinical Services
- Community Engagement
- Policy Change
- Advocacy Activities

Research Affiliate Program

The **University of Washington IDDRC's Research Affiliate Program** fosters collaboration among scientists conducting research in intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Affiliates receive:

- Access to IDDRC core services
- Networking and collaboration opportunities
- Promotion of interdisciplinary research
- Support with research infrastructure

The University of Washington IDDRC

In 1960, a Washington state committee called for a center to support children with developmental disabilities. In 1963, state law established “a center for research and training in intellectual and developmental disabilities” at the University of Washington.

Explore Our Core Facilities

The UW IDDRC supports cutting-edge research through four scientific cores that provide tools, training, and expertise for investigators studying intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). These services are available at no cost to Research Affiliates.

Animal Behavior Core

Supports studies using rodent and gyrified animal models to understand how genetic and environmental factors affect behavior. Offers equipment, protocols, and training for preclinical intervention studies. Located in a specialized facility within UW’s T-wing.

Director: Toby Cole, PhD

Brain Imaging Core

Provides technical and scientific support for researchers using MRI, PET, and electrophysiology to study brain development. Helps design studies, prepare participants (including children with IDD), analyze data, and navigate IRB processes.

Director: Thomas J. Grabowski, MD

Clinical Translational Core

Helps researchers translate scientific discoveries into clinical care. Offers behavioral evaluation labs, human subject support (e.g., IRB navigation, recruitment), and training opportunities. Focuses on collaboration and inclusion of early-career scientists.

Director: Sara Jane Webb, PhD

Genetics Core

Facilitates gene discovery and functional genomics using patient-derived and genome-edited models. Offers access to sequencing, stem cell modeling, and bioinformatics support to understand the genetic foundations of IDDs.

Co-Directors: Kimberly Aldinger, PhD & Jessica Chong, PhD

Support Our Work



Learn more: ihdd.org