



Disability Health Symposium 2026



UAB
The University of
Alabama at Birmingham.
Center for Engagement in Disability Health
& Rehabilitation Sciences



8:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast
8:30 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks Andrew Butler, PhD, MBA Vu Nguyen, MD, MBA
8:45 AM	Keynote Address- R. James Cotton, MD, PhD How AI- Enabled Biomechanics in Clinical Care can Enable Precision Rehabilitation
Session 1	Immersive Technology & Digital Health
9:30 AM	Speaker 1- Delia West, PhD The Evolution of a Digital Approach to Engage Underserved Populations in Lifestyle Weight Control Interventions: The Empirical Evidence and Practical Lessons Learned
9:50 AM	Speaker 2- Kimberly Garza, PharmD, MBA, PhD From Empathy to Empowerment: Using Immersive Technology to Advance Disability Health
10:10 AM	Q&A Session- Drs. West & Garza
10:25 AM	Personal Voice- Disability Advisory Board Member: Scott Crawford, PhD Rebuilding a Life with Meaning Using the “Bricks” You Have Left
10:45 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM	CEDHARS Awardee Flash Presentations Meghan Mills, PhD Tyler Wright, PhD and Christine Loyd, PhD (Co-PIs) Byron Lai, PhD Fedora Biney, PhD Christen Mendonca, PhD
12:00 PM	Flash Talk Q&A
12:15PM	Lunch and Networking

Session 2

National Forum (LIVESTREAM)

1:30 PM

Moving Past the Plateau: Can AI and Digital Health Truly Improve Health and Participation for People with Disabilities

Panel Moderator: Susan Magasi, PhD, FACRM (UIC)
Andrew Boyd MD, (UIC), David Victorson, PhD (Northwestern),
Jereme Wilroy, PhD (UAB)

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Poster Session and Networking

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

8:00 AM

Registration & Breakfast

8:30 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mark Merrick, PhD, Dean of School of Health Professions
Tapan Mehta, PhD

8:45 AM

Keynote Address- Shiv Hiremath, PhD

From Wearables to Real-Time Engagement:
Advancing Disability Health

Session 3

Wearable Technology

9:30 AM

Speaker 1- Brad Willingham, PhD

Translating Innovation to Impact: Improving Access and Precision in Disability Health Through Community-Led Co-Development, Digital Health Integration, and AI-Enabled Decision Support

9:50 AM

Speaker 2- Yumi Kim, PhD

Show Me Your Trade-offs: Discrete Choice Experiments for Personalized Programming

10:10 AM

Q&A Session- Drs. Willingham & Kim

10:25 AM

Personal Voice- Disability Advisory Board Member: Amelito Andaya, MD

Your Voice is Your Power: A Young Doctor's Journey

11:00 AM	Closing Keynote Address- Simon Driver, PhD Addressing Obesity After Brain Injury Through an Evidence-Based Lifestyle Intervention: What We've Learned and What We Still Need to Do
11:45 AM	Awards Presentation & Closing Remarks
12:00 PM	Lunch and Networking
1:00 PM	Disability Advisory Board Meetings with Cores