

# All About the NIH Strategic Plan for Disability Health Research

Adam Politis

Laurin Bixby

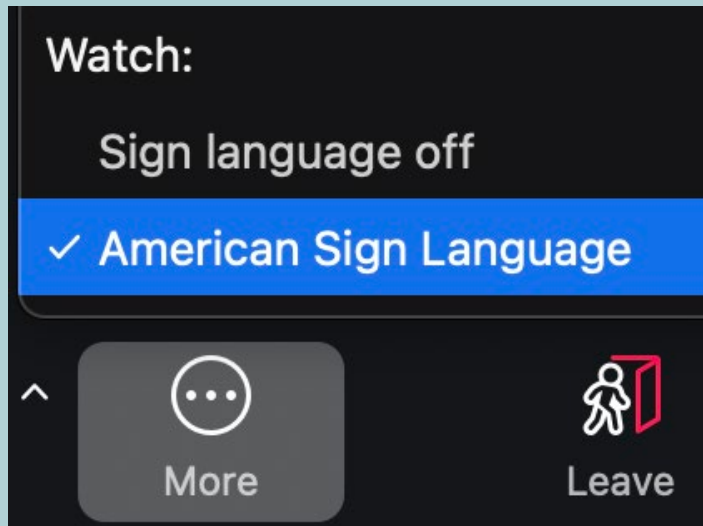
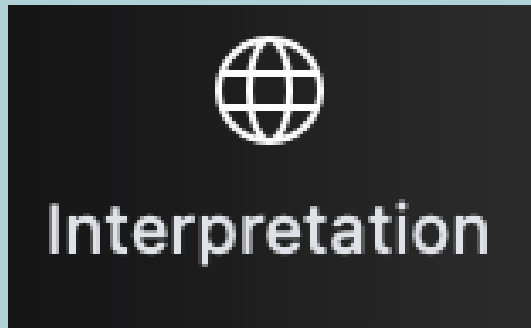
June 9, 2026

**Brandeis**

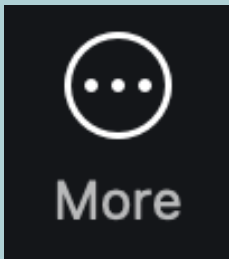
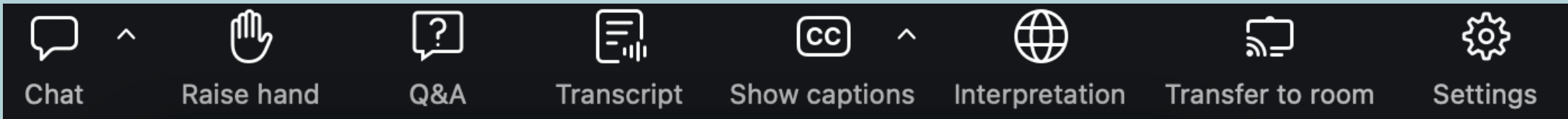
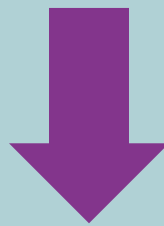
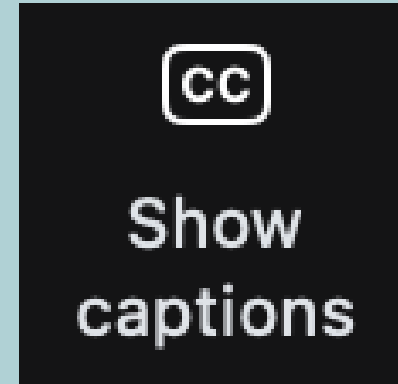
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# ASL & Captions

## ASL

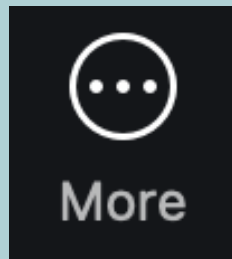
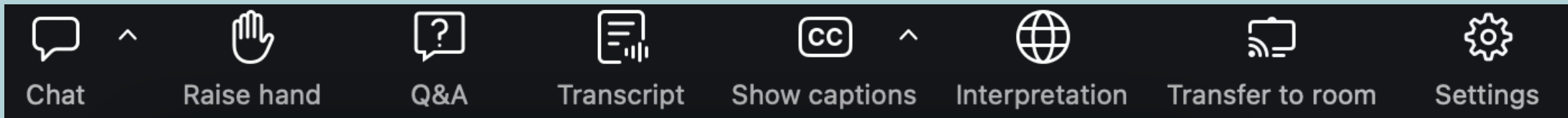
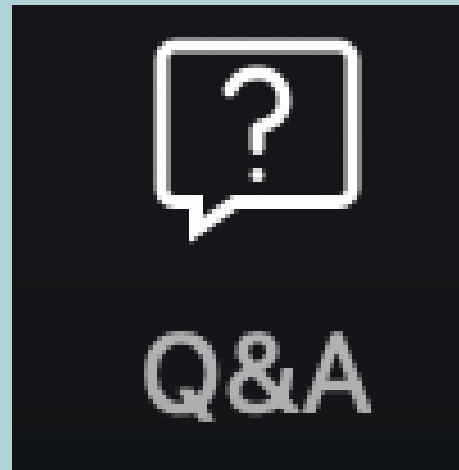


## Zoom Closed Captions



# Asking Questions

Please use the Q&A to submit questions for our panelists



# Meet our Speakers

**Adam Politis, NIH Senior  
Advisor for Disability  
Health Research**



**Laurin Bixby, Lurie Insitute  
Research Scientist**

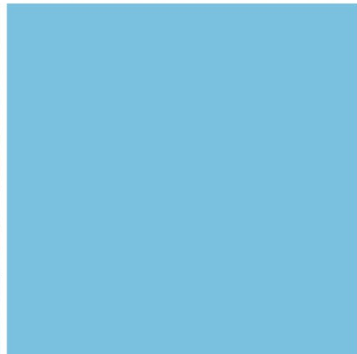
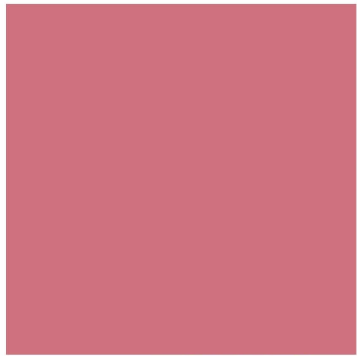
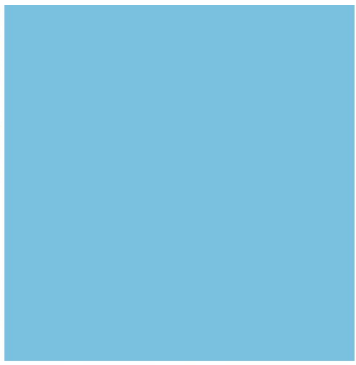
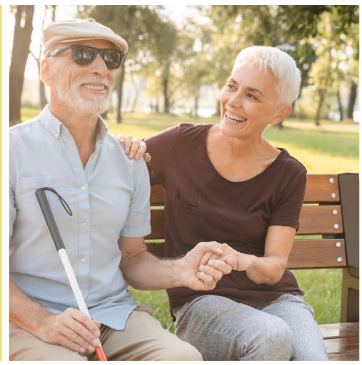


# NIH Strategic Plan for Disability Health Research FY26-FY30

Adam Politis  
National Institutes of Health

Lurie Institute Webinar  
June 9, 2026

# Introduction



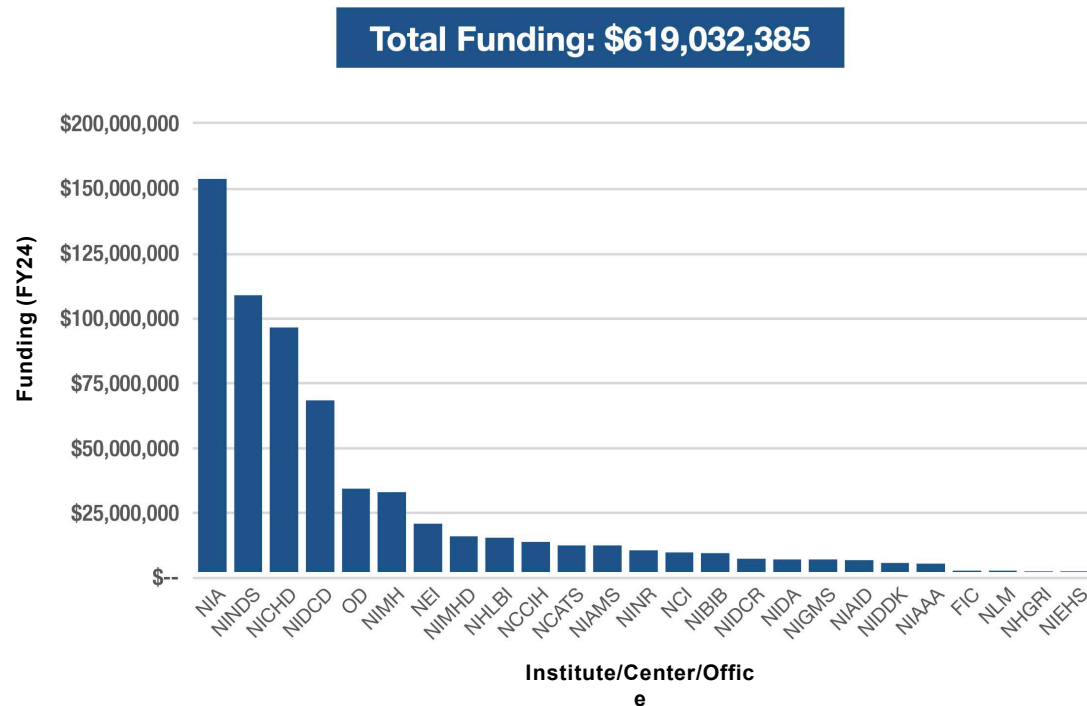
# Disability Health Research

Disability health research seeks to understand and address the effects of **medical conditions, nonmedical factors, and their interaction** on the health and well-being of people with disabilities.

It **centers the *person* rather than the *disability***, and emphasizes that disabled people have health needs and goals both related and unrelated to their disabilities.

# Disability Health Research Landscape at NIH

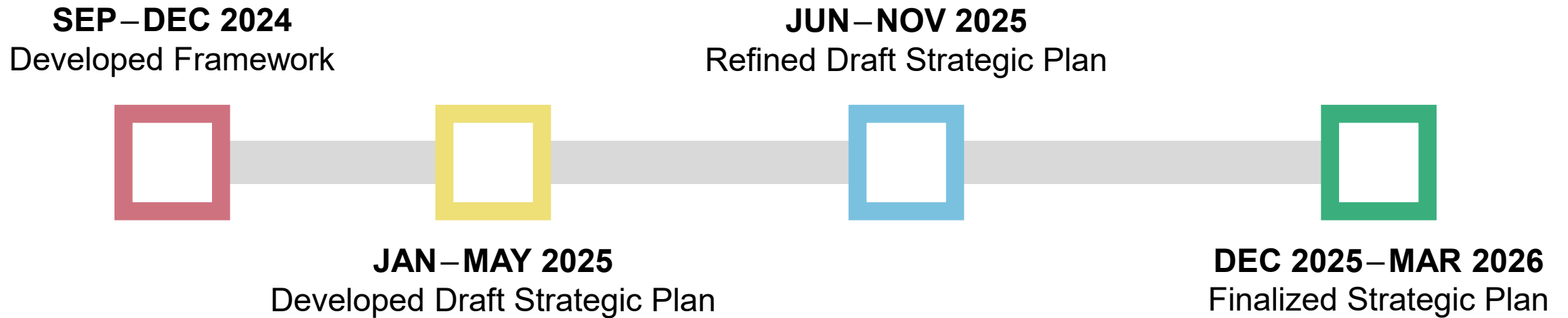
## Funding Landscape



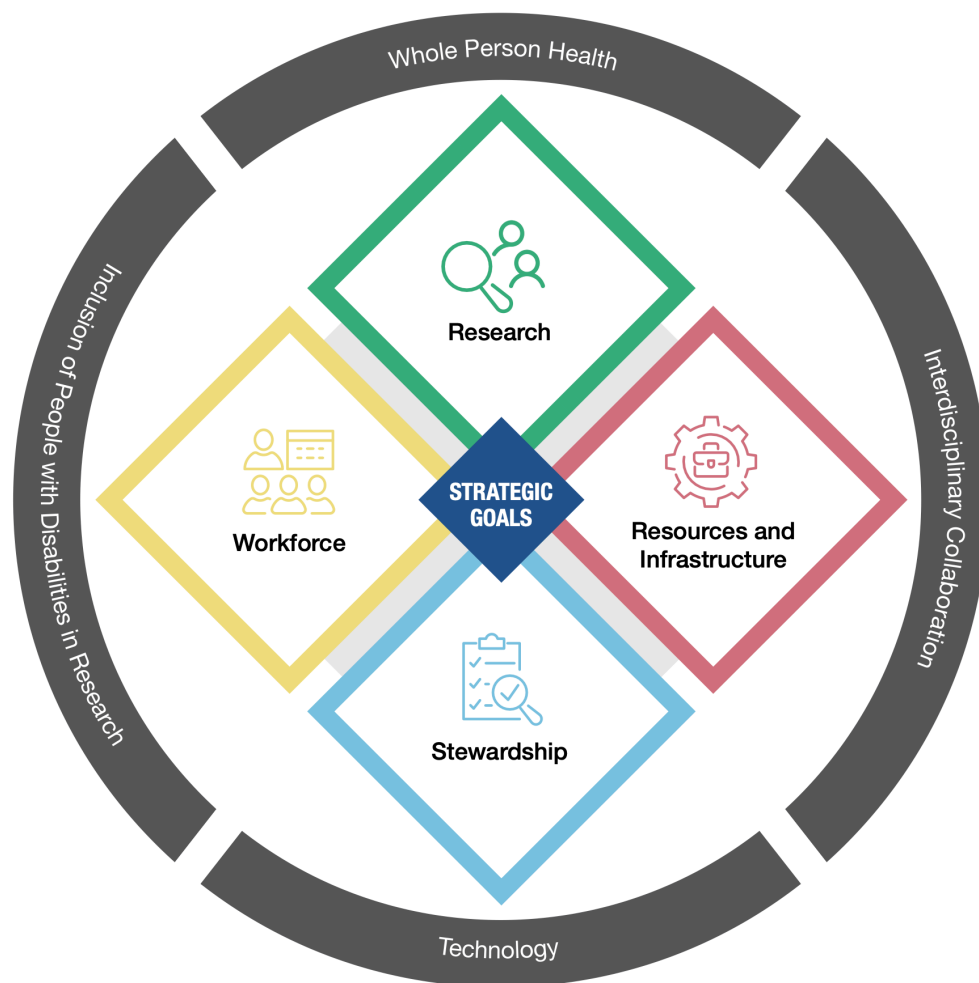
## Major Developments

- **2022:** NIH Advisory Committee to the Director Subgroup on Individuals with Disabilities Report
- **2023:** NIH Health Disparity Designation for People with Disabilities
- **2024-2025:** Establishment of DPCPSI Disability Health Research Program (DHRP), NIH Disability Health Research Coordinating Committee (DHRCC), Council of Councils Disability Health Research Working Group (DHRWG)

# Strategic Planning Process



# Strategic Plan Framework



# Crosscutting Themes

# Crosscutting Themes



Whole Person Health



Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Research



Interdisciplinary Collaboration



Technology

# Goals and Objectives

# Goal 1: Research

Advance the science of disability health by supporting innovative, rigorous, person-centered research

- Objective 1.1:** Catalyze advances in **conceptualizing, defining, and measuring disability** for health research
- Objective 1.2:** Promote research that examines the **biological, behavioral, sociocultural, and environmental factors** that influence the health and well-being of people with disabilities across the lifespan
- Objective 1.3:** Support research to **reduce disparities and optimize health outcomes** for people with disabilities
- Objective 1.4:** Foster research on **health promotion and disease prevention** for people with disabilities

# Goal 2: Workforce

Foster a highly skilled, multidisciplinary, and sustainable disability health research workforce

- Objective 2.1:** Support the development of **training opportunities** in disability health research
- Objective 2.2:** Promote and support **policies, programs, and opportunities to advance the careers** of disability health researchers
- Objective 2.3:** Support the development and implementation of **disability health curricula** in biomedical and behavioral research training

# Goal 3: Resources and Infrastructure

Support accessible, state-of-the-art disability health research resources and infrastructure

- Objective 3.1:** Develop and disseminate resources to help researchers and institutions ensure that their research **facilities, equipment, technology, and information are accessible** per federal laws and regulations
- Objective 3.2:** Develop programs, policies, and resources to **maximize the inclusion of people with disabilities** as participants in clinical research
- Objective 3.3:** Support the development of **collaborative disability health research networks**
- Objective 3.4:** Promote **responsible management and sharing of disability data** in NIH-funded research

# Goal 4: Stewardship

Engage in collaborative, responsible, and ethical management of disability health research activities

**Objective 4.1:** Promote robust **public participation and community engagement** in disability health research activities

**Objective 4.2:** Regularly **evaluate the effectiveness** of disability health research organizational structures and processes

**Objective 4.3:** Ensure disability health research activities are conducted according to the **highest standards of scientific integrity**

# Next Steps

# Upcoming Activities

## Community Engagement Plan

- Develop roadmap for how NIH will work collaboratively with community partners

## Resources for Investigators and NIH Staff

- Identify and share best practices for planning, conducting, communicating, and evaluating disability health research

## Highlighted Topic

- Stimulate disability health research across NIH Institute, Center, and Office mission areas

## Challenge/Prize Competition

- Promote inclusion of people with disabilities in clinical research

# Acknowledgements

## NIH Institute, Center, and Office Partners

- 24 ICs and 18 Offices & Programs

## NIH Disability Health Research Coordinating Committee

- Co-Chairs: Larissa Avilés-Santa (NIH/NIMHD), Theresa Cruz (NIH/NICHHD), Adam Politis (NIH/OD)

## Council of Councils Disability Health Research Working Group

- Co-Chairs: Russell Van Gelder (Univ. of Washington), Adam Politis (NIH/OD)

## External Organizations and Individuals



# Questions?

# Discussion & Audience Questions

**Adam Politis, NIH Senior  
Advisor for Disability  
Health Research**



**Laurin Bixby, Lurie Institute  
Research Scientist**



# Take our Post-Webinar Survey



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