Disabilities—Hope Through Discovery
Research, Service, Training, and Dissemination

Elisabeth Dykens, Ph.D., VKC Director
Karoly Mirnics, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Director
1 in 5 children has a developmental disability

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (VKC) can help
What do the 1 in 5 have?

Troubles thinking, learning, growing, behaving, communicating, feeling, relating

– Learning disabilities
– Language delays
– Autism spectrum disorder
– Down syndrome
– Rare syndromes
– ADHD
– Cancer survivors

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How does the VKC help?

- Research: causes, treatments
- Dissemination: information to others
- Supports, services: clinics, programs
- Training: students and professionals
- Partners: families, communities, state
- Policy: local, state, federal

Disabilities—Hope through Discovery
Mission

• To facilitate discoveries and best practices that make positive differences in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families
What is the VKC?

- A national *Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center*, one of 14 supported by the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development*. Founded 1965.
What is the VKC?

- A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, part of a national network of 67 such centers supported by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Health & Human Services.
What is the VKC?

- Administratively, a transinstitutional interdisciplinary center within Vanderbilt University.

- Includes the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorder (TRIAD) and the Vanderbilt LEND Training Program, supported by the Bureau of Maternal & Child Health, U. S. Health and Human Services.
VKC is part of national DD Network

and among few centers to have IDDRC, UCEDD, and LEND programs
Interdisciplinary Research, Training, and Service

- 220+ faculty
- Medicine, Nursing, Peabody, Arts & Science, Engineering, Divinity, Blair
- 26 departments

- From Genes...
- to Brain...
- to Behavior...
- to Intervention...
- to Family Supports...
- to Communities...
- to Public Policies
IDDRC Objectives

- Translate basic discoveries into new interventions and treatments
- Communicate scientific discoveries to the public
- Prepare the next generation of researchers
IDDRC Grant (NICHD) supports Research Core Services of VU Faculty who are VKC Members or Investigators

- **Administrative Services**
  Administrative, Fiscal, Communications, Graphics, Technical Support Services (Elisabeth Dykens, PhD)

- **Clinical Translational Services**
  Recruitment, Behavioral Phenotyping, Research Registries and Databases (Elisabeth Dykens, PhD)

- **Translational Neuroimaging**
  MRI, Psychophysiology Measures (EEG, ERP, eye-tracking) (Laurie Cutting, PhD)

- **Neuroscience Services**
  Mouse Behavioral Phenotyping, Neurochemistry, Molecular Neurobiology, Genomics, Scientific Instrumentation (Karoly Mirnics, PhD)

- **Biostatistics and Bioinformatics**
  Statistical consultation and development, training, accessing resources and tools (Frank Harrell, PhD)
StudyFinder and Research Match

- vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/
  StudyFinder
- www.researchmatch.org
- Lynnette Henderson, PhD,
  Recruitment Coordinator
VKC-Affiliated Research Training

- Development of Psychopathology: From Brain and Behavioral Science to Intervention
- Graduate Neuroscience Training
- Vision Research Training
- Neurogenomics Research Training
- Training in Biomedical MRI & MRS
- Special Education Graduate Programs
VKC UCEDD

• 2005 designation as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

• Four core functions of all UCEDDs
  – Training
  – Research
  – Service/Technical Assistance
  – Dissemination

• Co-Directors
  – Elisabeth Dykens, PhD
  – Elise McMillan, JD

“Disabilities—Hope through Discovery”
VKC UCEDD

- Focus on systems change
- One of only few centers in country to be both an IDDRC and a UCEDD and to have a LEND program
- Community Advisory Council
VKC UCEDD Areas of Emphasis

- Education and Early Education
- Employment
- Health and Mental Health
- Quality of Life
Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Network Partners

- Vanderbilt Kennedy Center UCEDD (Nashville)
- University of Tennessee Boling Center UCEDD (Memphis)
- Disability Rights Tennessee (Nashville)
- Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities (Nashville)

VKC UCEDD Preservice Training

- Undergraduate, master’s, doctoral, postdoctoral or residency representing disciplines across Vanderbilt
- UCEDD Trainees work with VKC-affiliated faculty member mentors
- Individualized program in disabilities
- Evon Lee, PhD
  Director of Training
VKC UCEDD Preservice Training

Training Opportunities include
• ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp
• Disabilities, Religion and Spirituality
• Next Steps at Vanderbilt
• Next Steps at Vanderbilt Summer Institute
• Reading Clinic
• Tennessee Disability Pathfinder
• TRIAD Autism Training
• Volunteer Advocacy Project
VKC UCEDD Community Training

- Developed collaboratively with community organizations, practicing professionals, and individuals with disabilities and their families
- Examples: Tennessee Disability Pathfinder Series, Britt Henderson Training Series for Educators, Volunteer Advocacy Project

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Examples of UCEDD Research

• Next Steps at Vanderbilt – longitudinal study to examine employment and other outcomes for graduates of this postsecondary education program for young adults with IDD

• Tennessee Administrative Database – using Vanderbilt’s “synthetic derivative” database system to examine the many health issues of individuals with Down syndrome

• Autism
  – Study examining the ways in which specific characteristics of individuals with ASD relate to the services they receive
  – Study looking at the effects of where a family lives (rural vs. urban

• Robert Hodapp, PhD, Director of Research
TennesseeWorks

• AIDD Systems Change Project to increase access to meaningful employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
• Partners with state and local departments, parent support organizations, disability non-profits and employment-related agencies
• Erik Carter, PhD, Faculty
• Elise McMillan, JD, Faculty

Disabilities—Hope through Discovery
Social Work Services

- Provides services to individuals with disabilities and families through:
  - Person Centered Planning
  - Brief counseling
  - Referral services
Reading Clinic

• Provides individualized assessment and tutoring for elementary-school children, including students with intellectual or other developmental disabilities
• Tests new research approaches for best ways to teach children to read and to assess reading
• Trains future teachers and community professionals
• **Laurie Cutting**, PhD, Faculty Director
Learning Assessment Clinic

- Academic assessments for students, ages 5-25 years, with learning challenges
- Assessment provided by a developmental pediatrician, a reading and language specialist, and a psychologist
- Goal is understanding learning differences in order to support effective learning
- Sheryl Rimrodt, MD, Faculty Director
Next Steps at Vanderbilt

- Individualized 2-year certificate program of postsecondary study for persons ages 18-26 with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- VU classes and life skills training
- Career training at Tennessee Technology Center
- Internships on and off campus
- Participation in Vanderbilt Best Buddies activities
- Support in transition to employment
- Ambassades
- **Tammy Day**, MEd, Program Director
VKC Affiliated with VUMC Clinics

- Center for Child Development Clinics—Developmental Medicine, Department of Pediatrics
  - Autism, Down Syndrome, Fragile X, Neurogenetics, Spasticity
- Genetics Clinic
- Down Syndrome Adults Clinic—Internal Medicine
VKC Summer Programs

• Next Steps at Vanderbilt Summer Institute
  Intellectual and developmental disabilities

• SENSE Theatre
  Autism spectrum disorder

• Academy of County Music Lifting Lives Music Camp
  Williams syndrome
Arts and Disabilities Program

- Arts exhibits by persons with disabilities at Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and in the community
- Art workshops for persons with disabilities
- **Laurie Fleming**, Project Coordinator
Tennessee Disability Pathfinder

• Statewide Information and Assistance Helpline:
  o (615) 322-8529 (local)
  o 1-800-640-4636 (toll-free)
• Disability information specialists serve individuals of all ages, all types of disabilities and all nationalities
• Megan Hart, M.Ed., Program Director
• www.familypathfinder.org includes database searchable by TN county and service type, plus national resources
• Regional training and technical assistance
Multicultural Outreach Program

- Mission: To help alleviate barriers to accessing disabilities, provide cultural awareness training, information and assistance to families with diverse cultural backgrounds
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) staff and interpreter services available
- Camino Seguro (www.caminoseguro.org): database available in English and Spanish
- Spanish-speaking Support Group for parents of children with disabilities and technical support for other groups
- 2009 AUCD Multicultural Council Award for Leadership in Diversity
- Alexander Santnata, Project Coordinator

Disabilities—Hope through Discovery
Disabilities, Religion, and Spirituality

- Provides disability-related training to current and future religious leaders and educators *(VDS Field Education site, workshops, presentations)*
- Develops practical materials to equip congregations with supports they need to meaningfully include pwd and families *(Visual supports, manuals)*
- Conducts research *(Flourishing, Disability Ministries)*
- Collaborates nationally with network of UCEDDs *(National Collaborative on Faith and Disability faithanddisability.org, Putting Faith to Work)*
- Erik Carter, PhD, and Courtney Taylor, Mdiv
Communication and Dissemination

• Website – vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu
• Discovery – newsletter, 2/yr – Notables monthly e-news
• Monday Morning Message – weekly e-newsletter
• Products (e.g., Tips and Resources fact sheets, manuals) and other support for research and outreach projects
• Research seminars, conferences, workshops, and outreach events (60-70 annually)
• Social Media – FaceBook, Twitter

• Jan Rosemergy, PhD, Director of Communication & Dissemination, and Courtney Taylor, M.Div., Associate Director

Disabilities—Hope through Discovery
Website: vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu
Discovery newsletter and weekly Monday Morning Message
Introducing the New Notables

Welcome to the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center’s new paperless version of Notables—a monthly e-newsletter to share stories about discoveries and best practices that are opening doors and transforming lives for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
Products

(e.g., Tips fact sheets, manuals) and other support for research and outreach projects
Events

Research seminars, conferences, workshops, and outreach events (60-70 academic year)
Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders—TRIAD

Zachary Warren, Ph.D., Director

A. Pablo Juárez, M.Ed., BCBA, Associate Director
Cassandra Newsom, Psy.D., Director of Psychological Education
Kevin Sanders, MD, Medical Director
TRIAD Mission

- **TRIAD** is dedicated to improving assessment, intervention, and educational services for children with autism spectrum disorder and their families while advancing knowledge and training.
- Email: **TRIAD@vanderbilt.edu**
- Website: TRIAD.vanderbilt.edu
TRIAD Services for Families

- Diagnostic and Evaluation Services
  - Provided through Child Development Center, Division of Developmental Medicine, Vanderbilt Pediatrics

- Families First
  Free workshops for parents of young children with autism.
  - Free childcare available

Disabilities—Hope through Discovery
Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line

- Toll-free 1-877-ASD-VUMC [273-8826]
- Local 322-7565

- Offers free intake and referral services
- Provides information about Vanderbilt behavioral and medical clinics, and current clinical research projects
- Nina Harris, Autism Family Services Coordinator
TRIAD Professional Training and Consultation

- School Consultation Services
  - Collaborative Child-Focused Consultations
  - Program Consultations

- TRIAD professional development opportunities for educators, psychologists, and other community professionals
  - Online (5-min to 1-hr)
  - Onsite, presented statewide and regionally (3-hr to 4 days)
TRIAD Professional Training

- Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers and Young Children (STAT) Test Kit, Online Tutorial, and STAT Workshops
- STAT-MD training for community pediatricians and related health professionals - in collaboration with Tennessee Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics and VKC LEND Training Program
TRIAD Research Projects

- Identification of early behavioral and biomedical markers
- Early social and communication development
- Sleep behavior and biology
- Early intervention for core deficits
- Sensory and perceptual processes
- Neural correlates of restricted behavior and interests
- Social skills intervention delivered via humanoid robots
- Effective professional development practices
- Behavior assessment in medical settings
Autism Treatment Network (ATN)
Funded by Autism Speaks

• Offers coordinated medical care between pediatricians and other medical specialists in neurology, metabolics, genetics, and gastroenterology
• Forms a repository of clinical data used to develop standards of care with 17 other universities across North America
• Beth Malow, MD (Neurology) is the Principal Investigator of the Vanderbilt ATN
• Zachary Warren, Ph.D. (TRIAD Director) and Kevin Sanders, MD (TRIAD Medical Director) are co-investigators

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TRIAD Clinical & Research Networks

- Autism Treatment Network
- Baby Siblings Research Consortium
- Toddler Treatment Network
- Simons Simplex Collection
Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities—Vanderbilt LEND

Tyler Reimschisel, M.D., Director

Evon Batey Lee, Ph.D., Associate Director
Vanderbilt LEND

- Training Program funded by HHS Maternal & Child Health Bureau
- Prepares health professionals to meet complex needs of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities by providing family-centered, community-based, culturally competent, interprofessional services
- Prepares health professionals to assume leadership roles and to develop interprofessional team collaboration and advanced clinical and research skills
Vanderbilt LEND Partners
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (grantee)

- Vanderbilt University
  - Vanderbilt School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Developmental Medicine
  - Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences
  - School of Nursing
  - Vanderbilt Hospital Nutrition Internship Program

- Belmont University
- Meharry Medical College
- Tennessee State University
- University of Tennessee
- Tennessee Disability Coalition
  - Family Voices of Tennessee

Disabilities—Hope through Discovery
LEND Interprofessional Training

- Audiology
- Deaf Education
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Parent/Family Resources
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Pediatrics

- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Special Education
- Speech/Language Pathology
LEND Curriculum

Key Concepts:
- Interprofessional
- Family centered, community coordinated care
- Vulnerable populations
- Cultural and linguistic competency
- Research
- Advanced (clinical) practice
- Life course
- Special focus on autism and pediatric audiology

Core Seminar Series
- Weekly online learning modules include asynchronous team work
- In person evening sessions with cases, simulations, role-playing to apply content from modules

Monthly Leadership Seminars
- Monthly evening sessions
- Small group work
- Develop leadership knowledge, skills and attitudes

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Other Activities

- Individual Training Plan
- Group Project
- Family Mentor Experience
- Advocacy and Policy Meetings
- Teaching Experience
- Independent Project

- Community Agency Visits
- Advanced Clinical or Practicum
- Clinic Observations
- Research
- Attend Disability-Related Presentations
Community-Based Training

- *Screening Tool for Autism in Two-Year-Olds (STAT)* - training for health professionals
- *Screening Tools And Referral Training Evaluation and Diagnosis (STAT-MD)* - training for community physicians and other behavioral providers
- *Coordination with Title V Agencies (Tennessee Dept. of Health)* - monthly videoconferences recorded and provided online for viewing by staff across the state
- *Community Education in collaboration with Dept. of Hearing and Speech Sciences*
- *Educate to Advocate*
Educational Materials

Developed in collaboration with VKC Communications, LEND, UCEDD and TRIAD
Tennessee Autism Summit Team

Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Tennesse Autism Summit Team

- Initiation by AUCD, MCHB and CDC (Learn the Signs: Act Early Campaign)
- Coordination by VKC and the UT Boling Center UCEDDs and LENDs
- Goals: Public awareness, family support, training and coordinated system of care
- 2009 multi-state conference and follow-up statewide meetings with wide range of stakeholders
- Mini-grants
- State planning grant for coordination of services for children and youth with ASD and related disabilities

Disabilities—Hope through Discovery
The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

Working together with individuals with disabilities, families and communities for better tomorrows
Additional slides follow
Include depending on audience
A Developmental Disability Is

- Significant and lifelong
- Begins before age 22
- Affects learning and thinking
- Affects skills of daily living

Persons with developmental disabilities are people first, with strengths and strengths. They have hopes and dreams, and can be self-directed and self-advocates. They are part of families and communities.
Disability Terminology Tips

• Use “people first” language (a person with a disability, not the disabled)
• Use “disability” rather than “handicap”
• Refer to a person’s disability only when relevant
• Avoid “victim” language, e.g., “suffers from...”
• Avoid “hero” language, e.g., “brave”
• Use “typical” rather than “normal”
• Consult “disability etiquette” guides
• Ask an individual whether assistance is desired
Multi-Level Partnerships with....

- Vanderbilt University departments, centers, and clinics
- VKC Leadership Council
- VKC Community Advisory Council
- VKC Community Partners
- State of Tennessee agencies
- Other universities in Tennessee and other states
- Individuals with disabilities and their families
By Comparison....

- Childhood cancer 1 in 6,500
- Juvenile diabetes 1 in 500
- H1N1 child death 236 cases
- Pediatric AIDS/HIV <100 cases
- Developmental disabilities 1 in 5

Disabilities—Hope through Discovery
VKC Services and Outreach

- Arts and Disabilities
- Disabilities, Religion, and Spirituality
- Britt Henderson Training Series for Educators
- Learning Assessment Clinic
- Next Steps at Vanderbilt (Postsecondary Education 2-Year Certificate)
- Reading Clinic
- Tennessee Adults Brothers and Sisters (TABS) Network
- Summer Programs: ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp (Williams syndrome), Next Steps Summer Institute (intellectual disabilities), SENSE Theatre (autism)
- Tennessee Disability Pathfinder and Multicultural Outreach Program (www.familypathfinder.org)
- TennesseeWorks.org
- Volunteer Advocacy Training Program
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