

Seattle is excited to host the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games, and the University of Washington is proud to serve as a primary venue.

The UW has a long history of researching intellectual disabilities, and of serving members of the community with Down syndrome, autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and rarer conditions.

## UW EXPERTS

### Annette Estes, [estesa@uw.edu](mailto:estesa@uw.edu)

- Director, UW Autism Center; Diagnosing and supporting children with autism

### Jennifer Fung, [jschleif@uw.edu](mailto:jschleif@uw.edu)

- Inclusive education for children with and without disabilities

### Kathleen Meeker, [kameeker@uw.edu](mailto:kameeker@uw.edu)

- Inclusive education, teacher training

### Ilene Schwartz, [ilene@uw.edu](mailto:ilene@uw.edu)

- Director, Haring Center; Educating children with autism

### Wendy Stone, [stonew@uw.edu](mailto:stonew@uw.edu)

- Interventions for children with autism

For medical experts, contact Leila Gray at [UW Medicine, mediarelations@uw.edu](mailto:mediarelations@uw.edu)

## STORIES

### Pilot program at UW offers on-the-job training for young adults with autism

» [Read more](#)

### With autism diagnoses on the rise, UW establishes clinic for babies

» [Read more](#)

### Predicting autism: Researchers find autism biomarkers in infancy

» [Read more](#)

### Project DATA helps children with ASD succeed

» [Read more](#)

### Connecting grandparents and grandchildren with special needs

» [Read more](#)

## QUICK FACTS



### Intellectual disabilities

- The UW Center on Human Development and Disability is among the nation's largest interdisciplinary facilities of its kind, with research programs, clinics, advocacy initiatives and services for special needs children and adults.
- UW Medicine researchers explore numerous causes of intellectual disabilities: genetics, injuries, toxin and drug exposures, prenatal and childhood infections, seizures, brain malformations, prematurity, neonatal strokes, metabolic problems and more.
- For more than 45 years, the UW Fetal Alcohol and Drug Unit has led the nation in public education on fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and their symptoms across the lifespan.
- UW Medicine is a leader in research and clinical care for fragile X syndrome, one of the most common inherited causes of intellectual disability in males.

### Autism

- The [UW Autism Center](#) is known for its pioneering efforts in diagnosing autism and providing intervention strategies for young children. Last year, the center opened an infant clinic, one of few in the United States.
- This year, the UW was one of only a handful of sites in the country to pilot a jobs program for young adults with autism.

### Special/inclusive education

- At the UW, the [Haring Center's](#) Experimental Education Unit provides inclusive classroom experiences for more than 200 children with and without disabilities.
- The center's ongoing Project DATA – Developmentally Appropriate Treatment for Autism – has served as a model for programs in school districts throughout the state and the nation.