

Summer 2022

The mission of the UCLA Tarjan Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, is to advance the self-determination, inclusion, and quality of life among the diversity of people with disabilities and their families. We accomplish our mission through collaborative leadership in training, community education, research, service, and information sharing. We serve as a bridge between the resources of the University and local, state, and international organizations, agencies, policymakers, people with disabilities and their families.

As the new Director of the UCLA Tarjan Center, I have worked to expand and unify our clinical, research, training and dissemination activities within the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Behavior and UCLA departments such as public health, social work, developmental behavioral pediatrics, neurology, and dentistry. Over the past year, we have hired four new faculty and four Associate Directors who oversee our core functions including a Director of Training (Jasper Estabillo, Ph.D.), Director of Research (Rujuta Wilson, M.D.), Director of Outreach and Dissemination (Reina Factor, Ph.D.), and Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI; Brandon Ito, M.D.). These nationally and internationally recognized faculty and staff will work to deepen relationships across disciplines and support our efforts to enhance the lives of those with disabilities and their families.

The UCLA Tarjan Center will continue elevating the values of JEDI as central facets of our work. We are committed to ensuring that our services and supports are inclusive of individuals with developmental disabilities from diverse cultural backgrounds.

In keeping with our mission, over the next five years we look forward to:

- increasing the knowledge and skills of undergraduate, pre-service, and postdoctoral trainees in the provision of services, supports, and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- expanding the professional workforce capacity to deliver high quality, evidence-based services and supports.
- expanding community capacity to provide equitable, quality, inclusive, and accessible postsecondary education, employment, and health services and supports.
- increasing access to high quality multi-disciplinary clinical services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.
- conducting research activities that positively impact the health and wellbeing of people with developmental disabilities.
- facilitating the widespread usage of research-supported practices, policies, clinical services, resources, and public awareness materials that positively impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

We are grateful for the collaborative support of the Tarjan Advisory Committee, as well as our other community and federal partners, in helping us to achieve these goals as we strive to enhance and expand the self-determination, inclusion, and quality of life for people with disabilities and their families.

Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson
Director, UCLA Tarjan Center