

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY AND REHABILITATION
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FOR APPLICATION YEAR: 2025

PROJECT TITLE: Adults with CP Database

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Project Description

Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common cause of childhood-onset physical disability and due to an increased life expectancy, most individuals with CP are adults. Many individuals with CP experience long-term consequences that require health care services to support their functioning throughout their lifespan. As adults with CP age, they experience deterioration of functioning and health. Recent research has highlighted how a comprehensive approach to functioning and disability can be used in clinical practice. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) provides a biopsychosocial model from the interactions among body structures, activities, participation, personal and environmental factors. These interactions suggest that prevention, assessment, and intervention efforts in any of these five areas are likely to affect the other areas and contribute to a person's health. The aim of this project is to develop individualized, functional profiles for adults with CP based on the biopsychosocial model of the ICF which will be used in clinical care for goal setting and intervention planning. An additional objective will be to establish and maintain a prospective, longitudinal, database of adults with CP that will provide data to support hypothesis generation and future studies. The ideal student should have knowledge of research methodologies and ethics or open to learning. Strong communication skills, knowledge of data collection through surveys, and being able to critically evaluate existing literature and identify gaps in knowledge will help a student be successful in this project. Over time, the student will gain a deeper understanding of the specific challenges faced by adults with CP, develop interpersonal skills by working with a diverse set of people, including patients, caregivers and medical professionals. Finally, students will be able to collaborate and build professional relationships. I will provide training on Cerebral Palsy and clinic etiquette. There are no requirements for participation.