

The University of Michigan Center for Disability Health & Wellness Nexus Award

Prize: \$1,000

Nomination Process: *Recipients are identified and nominated exclusively by University of Michigan academic research partners and presented at the virtual CDHW Disability Health Research Symposium in October.*

Award Description

Presented annually by the [University of Michigan Center for Disability Health and Wellness \(CDHW\)](#), this award recognizes a disability advocate who has demonstrated outstanding partnership with academic researchers. The **\$1,000 prize** honors an individual whose collaboration has bridged the gap between lived experience and scientific inquiry to advance health, equity, and wellness for people with disabilities.

Evaluation Criteria

Nominees will be evaluated by the CDHW selection committee based on the following three criteria:

1. Meaningful Research Co-Design

- **Active Leadership:** The advocate served as a true co-investigator or core partner, directly shaping research questions, study designs, or data collection methods.
- **Bi-Directional Learning:** The advocate successfully integrated the perspectives of the disability community into the academic framework while helping researchers navigate community dynamics with cultural humility.

2. Translational Health & Wellness Impact

- **Concrete Outcomes:** The partnership resulted in tangible changes that advance disability health equity, such as accessible clinical toolkits, updated healthcare policies, community health programs, presentations, or peer-reviewed publications with co-authorship.
- **Systemic Change:** The collaborative work addresses systemic barriers to healthcare access, independent living, or overall well-being for individuals with disabilities.

3. Commitment to Accessible Science

- **Inclusive Practices:** The advocate ensured that the research process, environments, and communications were universally accessible to diverse cross-disability populations.
- **Community Dissemination:** The advocate led or significantly aided efforts to translate complex scientific data into plain language, accessible formats, or public-facing tools for the community.