



Prof. Tamar Heller

Tamar Heller, PhD, Professor, is Head of the Department of Disability and Human Development (DHD), University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and director of its University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities for the State of Illinois. She also directs the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Developmental Disabilities and Health and is co-principal investigator of the RRTC on Family Support and the RRTC on Community Disability Policy and director of, the Institute's Family Clinics and its TAP autism training program. Her research focuses on health and long term services and supports for individuals with disabilities throughout the lifespan and on bridging disability and aging services. She has active projects on family support and health promotion interventions for individuals with disabilities. Dr. Heller has written over 200 publications and presented numerous papers at major conferences on family support interventions and policies, self-determination, health promotion, and aging of people with disabilities. She has written or co-edited 5 books and has edited special issues of *Technology and Disability*, *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, and *Family Relations*. She is past President of the board of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. In 2005 she was a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging. As a co-founder of the national Sibling Leadership Network, she is a member of its executive board. Her awards include the 2009 Autism Ally for Public Policy Award of The Arc/The Autism Program of Illinois; the 2008 Lifetime Research Achievement Award, International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities, Special Interest Group on Aging and Intellectual Disabilities; the 2009 Community Partner Award of Community Support Services, the 2010 Outstanding Researcher Award in the UIC College of Applied Health Sciences, and the 2012 International Award of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities.