The University of Rochester strives to define, establish, and maintain an inclusive and productive environment for all people: students, staff, faculty, volunteers, contractors, and vendors.

The 2011 World Report on Disability estimates that there are over one billion people with disabilities in the world today, of whom nearly 200 million experience significant difficulties. A common conceptual model for “disability” has been described whereby disability is an umbrella term for “impairments, activity limitations, or participation restrictions.

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) proposes a paradigm in which to view disability not as a state that separates a person from being healthy, or as a condition that only impacts a few specific types of people, but as a common experience across age, gender, and culture/ethnicity.

The mission of the Inclusive Possibilities Cluster (IPC)—formerly the Interdisciplinary Disabilities Cluster—is to inform, educate, and connect employees and students across the University of Rochester in order to provide a welcoming, comfortable, and inclusive environment for all people, with a particular emphasis on individuals with disabilities, who are traditionally marginalized in academic and other communities.

The Inclusive Possibilities Cluster (IPC)
• provides opportunities for increased awareness of the challenges faced by people with disabilities
• dispels the myths while highlighting the achievements of people with disabilities
• affords members of the University community ways to be allies to people with disabilities
• designs the infrastructure necessary to create and sustain a university-based, interdisciplinary Center for Disability Studies

Planned activities to increase awareness of the importance of including people with disabilities in all aspects of the medical, educational, and local communities include
• Seminars, workshops, symposia
• Guest speakers on topics of interest to the community
• Research and mentoring opportunities

The IPC is composed of staff, faculty, and students from all areas of the University, as well as community agencies and partners that represent people with disabilities or that have an interest in contributing to the mission of this group.

After the session, anyone interested in being a member of the cluster is invited to our first lunch meeting. For further information or to RSVP for the lunch meeting, please contact: Bernadette Jackson at Bernadette_Jackson@urmc.rochester.edu.

Laura Robinson, Program in Aging and Developmental Disabilities, Co-Chair
Julia M. White, Inclusive/Special Education, Co-Chair