

# Bold Ideas Colloquium Speaker Series: Empowering Health Scientists: Advancing Health Equity through Disability Inclusive Practices

**Dr. Birgit Prodinger**

**Recipient of the Samuel Weiner Distinguished Visitor Award**

**Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 12:00 – 1:30 pm**

**In-person: Chown, A106**

**Online:**

<https://umanitoba.zoom.us/j/67545124047?pwd=YJo4RDdHYfNL7E5IQyNGk51kTWWEwn.1>



**Abstract:** This lecture explores how human rights-based approaches can strengthen health professional training and practice, positioning disability-inclusion as essential for equitable health systems. Drawing on current developments of global competency standards for disability inclusive practice of health professionals, this lecture examines how health professionals can integrate rights-based principles into their practices, including communication, decision making, and collaboration with persons with disabilities and their support networks. Participants will consider how everyday clinical and educational practice can either challenge or reproduce structural barriers, and how adopting rights affirming approaches can promote health equity of persons with disabilities.

**Talk Learning Objective:** By engaging with current research, the lecture will encourage attendees to incorporate disability-inclusion into their professional roles and strengthen their efforts to advance health equity.

**Biography:** Dr. Prodinger is currently a Full Professor and the inaugural Chair of Inclusive Health Care at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Augsburg, Germany. Dr. Prodinger's high-impact research focuses on describing and understanding systematically and comprehensively the health needs of people with disabilities and how health systems respond to their needs. Her research is informed by her expertise as an occupational therapist I combined with years of research experience in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Dr. Prodinger is known for developing practice guidance related to the application of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in routine settings as well as for advancing methods to ensure that functioning is established as a main health indicator next to mortality and morbidity.