

Dr. Robert Jaeger

**Director, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research**



Dr. Jaeger's research experience spans more than four decades. Much of his work has been focused on disability and rehabilitation research. He came to ACL in December 2017, following 10 years with the Office of Research and Development at the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), where he first served as Scientific Program Manager for Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Engineering, and then as the Director of Post-Deployment Health Research. Prior to his time with the VA, he was the Program Director for the Research to Aid Persons with Disabilities Program at the National Science Foundation. He also served as a Special Volunteer (adjunct research biomedical engineer) with the Rehabilitation Medicine Department at National Institutes of Health's Clinical Center.

In 1987, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR, the precursor of NIDILRR) awarded Dr. Jaeger a Mary E. Switzer Fellowship. In 1997, he entered government service and came to NIDRR to serve as a Program Specialist, with responsibilities for the Peer Review process, the Field-Initiated Grant Program, and the Small Business Innovation Research program. From 2000-2006, he served as NIDRR's Director of Interagency and International Affairs. In that role, he also served as the Executive Secretary of the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR).

His earlier roles included 17 years as a Professor at the Pritzker Institute of Medical Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology. While he was at IIT, he also had adjunct faculty appointments at the medical schools of Northwestern University and the University of Chicago.

He earned the B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Bioengineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the M.S. degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Jaeger is a Vietnam Era Veteran, having served in the Human Factors Branch at the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base (CA), and then in the Radiobiology Division at the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base (TX).