



Matt Rizzo, Ph.D., serves as Principal Investigator of our NIGMS funded Great Plains IDeA Clinical and Translational Research Network (GP IDeA CTR), spanning the Dakotas and NE (with links to KS). He is a clinician scientist who believes strongly in silo-spanning work and am helping to run the national NIH CTR PI group, endeavoring to improve the organization and value of CTR programs. They

have worked with NCATS, which administers the CTSAs, and with other IDeA programs to build research CTR capacity and connections across the US.

He is Chair of the Department of Neurological Sciences, Chief Physician for Neurological Services (Neurology, Neurosurgery, Pain, PM&R, Psychiatry), and Director of the Mind and Brain Health Initiative at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). He also holds faculty appointments in the Department of Psychiatry at UNMC, the Department of Bioengineering at UNO, the Department of Music at UNO, and Professor Emeritus at the University of Iowa. In this highly connected context, he has worked with UNMC to establish a world-class enterprise aimed at diagnosis, treatment, and research in neurological disorders.

Relevant service includes the US National Academy of Sciences Board on Human-Systems Integration, US FDA Panel for PNS and CNS Drugs, FMCSA Medical Advisory Committee (appointed by US Secretary of Transportation). He also serves as a member of the Executive Committees on the Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior (CB3) at UNL, the Visual Neurosciences COBRE at NDSU, the Dakota Cancer Collaborative on Translational Activity (DaCCoTA) CTR at UND, the National Neurology Chairs organizing group of the AAN (American Academy of Neurology), the Science Committee of the AAN, the Public Policy and Relations Committee of the ANA (American Neurological Association). He is also chair of the Executive Committee of the ABC (American Brain Coalition), a 501(c)3 organization comprising over 100 partner organizations (patient advocacy, industry, medical professional groups, government groups), advocating to advance research for neurological cures.

He has conducted translational neuroscience research (continually funded by NIH my entire career) on evidence-based strategies for evaluating and supporting vulnerable patients. He has led efforts to improve and disseminate better simulation tools and practices and helped pioneer successive generations of tools for naturalistic behavioral research in aging, cognitive impairments, and medical disorders in at-risk individuals. A current focus of this silo-spanning “brain-in the wild” work is using sensors in a person’s own vehicle and devices as a passive-detection system for flagging age- and disease-related aberrant behavior and physiology (“digital biomarkers”) that may signal early warning signs of functional decline or incipient disease, such as Alzheimer’s.