Elisabeth Dykens

**Title:** Professor of Psychology and Human Development, Psychiatry, and Pediatrics

Presently, Elisabeth is the Director of *Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD* Intellectual and Developmental Disability Research Center, Vanderbilt University and the co-director, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities

Publications related to PWS:


Dykens, E.M., & Hodapp, R.M. (2007). Three steps toward improving the measurement of behavior in


**New study of Behavior in Prader-Willi Syndrome- (7/01/2010)**

This new NICHD funded study is a continuation of the current Elisabeth Dykens PWS study to characterize and accurately describes the behavioral features of Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) and how these can be different based on age, gender, family history and genetic subtype of PWS. The study looks at key psychiatric features of PWS, like rigid and repetitive behaviors, insistence on sameness, tantrums, aggression and depression and how these change over a lifespan. They want to see if intervention timing is related to successful outcomes and effectiveness. Elisabeth and her team set a goal to see 170 families with children, teens and adults with PWS for a one day visit at Vanderbilt Kennedy Center in Nashville TN over the next 5 years. We want to see how children with PWS change and we will follow them every other year to track changes. Parents will receive a written feedback report of all results and behavioral management tips during visit. Parents who are interested should contact Elizabeth Roof at elizabeth.roof@vanderbilt.edu or 615-343-3330 to get more information about the study.