

## **An effort to broaden the research universe**

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February 1, 2010 | Visit [crainscleveland.com](http://crainscleveland.com)

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People with disabilities soon could find it easier to participate in clinical trials.

Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing has a \$400,000 grant from the National Institute of Nursing to find ways to include the disabled in medical research projects. Researchers often unknowingly exclude the blind, hearing impaired and illiterate from research studies.

Under the nursing school's project, experts from the Cleveland Sight Center and the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center, researchers in engineering and teaching, rehabilitation specialists who work with the disabled, and communication scientists will collaborate to find ways to help the disabled participate in research studies.

Staffers from the hearing and sight centers will head up workshops in which researchers will learn how to use communication technologies commonly used by the blind and hearing impaired. Researchers also will be able to test various communication tools that help the blind and hearing impaired before using them in a research project.

The hope is that inclusion of the blind and hearing impaired will enable research studies to produce better results. The first workshop will be held on Feb. 9.