



FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am honored to work on behalf of persons and families touched by autism by serving on the board of directors of ARI, and in doing so, supporting research and education.”

— MARVIN NATOWICZ, MD, PhD
Cleveland Clinic
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

2019: ARI's List of Accomplishments

RESEARCH

ARI takes an active role in all phases of autism research.

ARI awarded more than \$220,000 in grants to fund exciting and innovative research that holds promise to impact the lives of those on the autism spectrum.

ARI expanded its Scientific Advisory Board which increases the number of leading researchers exploring all areas related to the understanding of the underlying biology of autism.

ARI sponsored forums, such as national and regional think tanks and an online discussion group, to engage scientists and practitioners in in-depth dialogue about current and upcoming research. In these settings, scientists have an opportunity to share their thoughts and findings directly with clinicians with diverse expertise. In addition, these researchers appreciate receiving practical input from experienced practitioners who often provide further insight about autism.

ARI provided researchers with advice and guidance on how to optimize their experimental designs. We also helped them recruit participants for their studies.

ARI assisted two tissue banks, including a brain tissue bank for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the University of Maryland and a gastrointestinal tissue bank at the Digestive Function Laboratory Repository at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

ARI continued publishing its quarterly science newsletter, *Autism Research Review International (ARRI)*, where we reported on current medical, behavioral and educational research.

ARI was instrumental in completing an upcoming multidisciplinary book (publication in 2020) on understanding and treating anxiety. Contributors included leading experts in challenging behaviors, medicine, neurology, nutrition, and sensory processing.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

ARI informs the medical community about best-practice treatments.

ARI offered, in joint providership with the Cleveland Clinic, complimentary **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™** to physicians. Connecting physicians to improved standards of care is crucial to amplifying understanding of the medical nature of the disorder. New talks on Psychiatry, Psychopharmacology and Genetics were released in the Fall 2019 – view online at ARI-CME.org

ONLINE LEARNING

ARI offers an active online presence.

During Autism Awareness Month last April, ARI released a new website, www.Autism.org, integrating online presentations, updated content, and statistically validated diagnostic and assessment tools for all members of the autism community.

ARI published a bimonthly e-newsletter, *Clinical Research in Autism*, for obstetricians, pediatricians, and nurses who want to keep current with research relevant to their practice.

ARI hosted live webinars featuring top researchers and treatment professionals, in partnership with The Johnson Center for Child Health and Development. The topics included research updates, diet, nutrition, ABA, assessment, educational therapies, adult issues, and much more.

ARI's YouTube channel offered free access to presentations by top experts with up-to-date webcasts on medical support and educational videos, social stories, and talks from past conferences. Users have tuned in for more than 415,000 viewings.

OUTREACH IN THE U.S.

ARI offers personal support to parents and professionals.

ARI sponsored a telephone support line for parents and care providers seeking information.

ARI provided an opportunity for viewers of its live webinars to ask questions directly to the presenters.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

ARI embraces a global autism community.

ARI is an NGO (non-governmental organization) of the United Nations.

ARI translated many of its key articles, as well as its Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist (ATEC), into different languages. Now available in 21 languages, ARI's ATEC is completed by more than 150 users per day.

ARI worked directly with network groups and clinicians worldwide, especially in regions where awareness and support are still in their infancy, such as Eastern Europe and South America.