

Autism Research Institute

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Autism Research Institute's Accomplishments in 2016

Research

- **ARI awarded more than \$400,000 in grants** to scientists whose work will have a direct impact on the lives of those on the autism spectrum. The funds supported research in immune, gastrointestinal, metabolic, neurologic, and sensory issues.
- We continue to publish our quarterly science newsletter, *Autism Research Review International (ARRI)*, summarizing current medical, sensory, and educational research.
- **We sponsored a major think tank**, attended by researchers and experienced medical clinicians. In order to make progress in the field, ARI knows it is critical for scientists and experienced clinicians to meet and discuss issues related to treatment.
- **ARI helps fund two tissue banks**, including a whole-body 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.
- **We support an active dialogue** among researchers and clinicians in a private Internet discussion group limited to those with advanced science degrees and extensive autism experience.

Continuing Medical Education

- **ARI offers, in joint providership with the Cleveland Clinic, complimentary *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*** to physicians and the general public on gastrointestinal, medical, metabolic, and neurological comorbidities in autism. This year we premiered talks on treating sleep problems by Dr. Kenneth Sassower, and on interacting with patients on the autism spectrum by Dr. Temple Grandin. We also translated videos into Spanish and Portuguese.

Since premiering these webcasts, more than 12,000 viewers have tuned in to learn about the medical comorbidities associated with ASDs. **This continuing medical education activity has been reviewed by the American Academy of Pediatrics** and is acceptable for a maximum of 6.00 AAP credits (per series). These credits can be applied toward the AAP CME/CPD Award available to Fellows and Candidate Members of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Online Learning

- Our YouTube channel offers free access to experts with more than 100 free, up-to-date webcasts on medical support and educational videos, social stories, and selected talks from past conferences – **users have tuned in for more than 200,000 viewings at bit.ly/autism_education.**

(*Online Learning' continued*)

- **ARI hosts three to four live webinars featuring top researchers and treatment professionals on the Internet each month** in partnership with The Johnson Center for Child Health and Development. The topics include research updates, diet, nutrition, ABA, assessment, educational therapies, adult issues, and much more. Participants can receive a free Certificate of Attendance for most webinars. Visit our webinar portal at www.ariconference.com.

Domestic Outreach

- **ARI offers a hotline** for parents and professionals, who can reach a live person for information and support at 866.366.3361 (toll free) and at 619.281.7165 (San Diego).
- **ARI was instrumental in the publication of an edited book on understanding and treating self-injurious behavior.** Medical, neurological (i.e., seizures), immune, nutrition, sensory, and behavioral issues are discussed. The book, released in June, is popular among pediatricians and special educators.
- **ARI's adult program, the Autistic Global Initiative:**
 - hosts an online employment course.
 - publishes a quarterly e-newsletter focused on topics related to adults.
 - oversees a 12-week comprehensive course on daily living/residential course training for direct-support providers for adults on the autism spectrum.
 - sponsors an Internet portal, www.autism.jobs, on employment for those on the spectrum, parents, and potential employers. The website provides relevant information and guidance on finding and preparing for a job.
 - completed a second version of a trauma video.
- **ARI moderates several Internet discussion groups** for parents.
- ARI publishes a quarterly e-newsletter focused on individuals on the autism spectrum who are **deaf/hard of hearing and blind/visually impaired.**
- ARI publishes a **bimonthly e-newsletter titled *Clinical Research in Autism*** for obstetricians, pediatricians, and nurses who want to keep up to date with research relevant to their practice.

International Outreach

- **ARI is an NGO** (non-government organization) of the United Nations.
- For the fourth straight year, **we co-sponsored a major international conference in Moscow.**
- ARI continues to translate many of our "key" articles, as well as translate our Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist (ATEC), into different languages — the ATEC is now available in 18 languages online. **On average, more than 150 users per day complete ARI's ATEC.**

Learn more about the work we do, visit us online at www.autism.com