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Intro

Developments is a newsletter for Autism CARES legislation grantees, published by AUCD's Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (ITAC) in partnership with AMCHP's State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC). Its purpose is to share news, activities, events, research, and accomplishments across grantee areas - research, training, and state implementation

MCHB Minute

[MCHB Update DMCHWD](#)

Autism Awareness Month is a perfect time to acknowledge the many ways in which the Autism CARES grantees make a difference in the lives of children with ASD and other developmental disabilities, and their families. This quarter's MCHB Minute is about our gratitude for all that you do! [Read more...](#)

Training Topics

[NH-ME LEND Selected to Participate in MCH Diversity & Health Equity Peer Learning Collaborative](#)

The New Hampshire-Maine Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NH-ME LEND) Program was recently selected to participate in the 2017 Diversity & Health Equity Peer Learning Collaborative, supported by the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Bureau, Division of MCH Workforce Development. [Read more...](#)

[MNLEND Research on Lived Experience of Families](#)

MNLEND 2014-15 Fellow, Jocelyn Bessette Gorlin PhD, RN, CPNP, Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, Saint Catherine University, recently published an article in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing based upon her earlier MNLEND research project and dissertation. Her research examined the experiences of families living with a child with severe autism. [Read More...](#)

[Boston Children's Hospital Prepares to Wear Blue for Autism!](#)

The Autism Spectrum Center at Boston Children's will celebrate autism awareness month with a number of activities to raise awareness and to promote our Autism Friendly Hospital Initiative. This institution wide effort is aimed to ensure a positive experience for children, families and staff through training, preparation and support during visits and procedures. The initiative includes multiple projects, many led by former and current LEDBP and LEND fellows. [Read More...](#)

[Sharing Hope Event](#)

"Sharing Hope, The stories of our patients and families" is a booklet of personal stories shared by 27 generous families who have family members with developmental disabilities and receive care through the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (CCHMC-DDBP). This booklet was created by the DDBP-Family Advisory Council (DDBP-FAC) and accomplished through a generous grant from the Jack Rubinstein Foundation. [Read More...](#)

[Virginia LEND Trainees Advocate for Improved Transition to Post-Secondary Education for Students with ASD](#)

An African proverb states "It takes a village to raise a child." However, it also takes parents with a demonstrated passion and relentless drive to impact the success of their children beyond high school, especially when that child has a disability. This past January, Virginia LEND Trainees, Kate Flinn and Tammy Clamann who both have sons in high school who are on the Autism spectrum (ASD), held the first meeting of the Richmond-area Consortium on Level I-II Autism College Student Transition at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). [Read More...](#)

Research Roundup

[AIR-P Network Activities](#)

The Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P), led by Karen Kuhlthau, PhD, conducts research on evidence-based interventions to improve the physical health and well-being of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, with an emphasis on underserved communities. [Read More...](#)

[What's New in AIR-B3?](#)

The AIR-B3 network - UCLA, UC Davis, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, and Drexel University - has continued to develop strong partnerships within our local communities. Understanding the importance of community collaboration to design effective interventions for under-resourced communities, the network continues to collaborate and disseminate information about autism through community conferences, community involvement, and direct participation in community organizations. [Read more...](#)

[Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Research Network Update](#)

The Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Research Network (DBPNet) is a 14 site Network whose mission is "to conduct collaborative, interdisciplinary research in developmental and behavioral pediatrics that advances clinical practice, supports research training, and optimizes the health and functional status of children with developmental and behavioral concerns and disorders, including children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities". The Network had a successful competitive renewal in the past

year and is now funded from 9/16 through 8/21. [Read more...](#)

[Beta-adrenergic antagonism modulates functional connectivity in the default mode network of individuals with and without autism spectrum disorder](#)

Current research is beginning to suggest that propranolol, a drug originally developed to control blood pressure and heart rate by blocking beta-adrenergic receptors, which is also used for performance anxiety, might be helpful in autism spectrum disorders (ASD). However, the mechanism by which this occurs is not entirely known. Our team examined how propranolol affected interactions between brain regions, or functional connectivity (FC), with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). We examined this in both those with ASD and in those without ASD. We found that the effect of this drug depended on the network examined. [Read more...](#)

[Effects of acute beta-adrenergic antagonism on verbal problem solving in autism spectrum disorder and exploration of treatment response markers](#)

Current research is beginning to suggest that propranolol, a drug originally developed to control blood pressure and heart rate by blocking beta-adrenergic receptors, which is also used for performance anxiety, might be helpful in autism spectrum disorders (ASD). However, in order to move forward to clinical trials, it is important to first establish what measures are most likely to demonstrate a response to the drug. Therefore, we determined whether single doses of propranolol could affect verbal problem solving in ASD. Twenty participants received either propranolol or placebo in a within-subject crossover study performed in a double-blinded, counterbalanced manner. [Read more...](#)

State Stories

[Updates from the State Public Health Autism Resource Center](#)

AMCHP's State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC) has released several new resources and technical assistance opportunities designed to aid and assist Autism and other Developmental Disabilities (ASD/DD) grantees. [Read more...](#)

[Center for Leadership in Disability Parent Academies for Caregivers Across Georgia](#)

The Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD) led a series of Parent Academies that focused on caregivers of children, ages three to five, who demonstrate persistent challenging behaviors. Eight cohorts of parents completed five 2-hour sessions in settings ranging from public and private schools, to churches and community agencies. The goal of the Parent Academy was to teach participants about positive behavior and visual supports strategies to prepare them to address their child's challenging behaviors and improve developmental outcomes. [Read more...](#)

Collaborators' Corner

[Exploring the Impact of Community Service on Career Exploration, Self-Determination, and Social Skills for Transition-Age Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

Bleak transition outcomes for youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), coupled with the surge in incidence, has led to the need for focused and innovative transition strategies. While structured community service reveals promise, documentation of how community service experiences contribute to building employment skills for youth with intellectual and developmental disability (IDD), including those with ASD, is underresearched. A new article in Inclusion explores the impact of a community service experience on employment skill-building for youth with ASD. [Read More...](#)

[Considering Culture in Autism Screening Kit & Curriculum Now Available Online](#)

Providing full access to culturally-competent early identification practices for children from non-English speaking families has been a long-standing goal of the Massachusetts Act Early State Team. The team is pleased to announce that the Considering Culture in Autism Screening kit and curriculum is now available for download at no cost for pediatric providers and other early childhood professionals at <http://www.maactearly.org/considering-culture-in-autism-screening.html>. [Read more...](#)

[Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports Survey](#)

Deadline Extended: April 30, 2017

The Arc, in collaboration with the Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota (MN LEND), has launched the 2017 Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports Survey which seeks to capture perceptions of family caregivers of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) on a range of life-span issues. [Read more...](#)

[New 2017 Transition Coding and Reimbursement Tip Sheet Available](#)

Got Transition and the American Academy of Pediatrics released a new 2017 Transition Coding and Reimbursement Tip Sheet to support the delivery of recommended transition services in pediatric and adult primary and specialty care settings. The new tip sheet includes a list of updated transition-related CPT codes, including the new code for transition readiness assessment, and current Medicare fees and RVUs for these services. It also includes a new set of seven clinical vignettes with recommended CPT and ICD-10 codes. [Read more...](#)

[OAR Offers News Autism Safety Resource](#)

OAR released A Guide to Safety, the newest installment of the Life Journey Through Autism series. Since then, OAR has distributed over 3,000 copies to homes, classrooms, fire and police departments, and resource libraries. Designed with families, educators, and first responders in mind, the goal is to give readers the tools and resources they need to address their autism safety issues. Written in collaboration with key stakeholders and experts within the autism community, A Guide to Safety includes life-saving tips, strategies, and tools to help families strengthen their safety plans. [Read more...](#)

[Predicting Autism: Researchers Find Autism Biomarkers in Infancy](#)

Using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in infants with older siblings with autism, researchers from around the country were able to correctly predict 80 percent of those

infants who would later meet criteria for autism at two years of age. The study, published today in Nature, is the first to show it is possible to identify which infants - among those with older siblings with autism - will be diagnosed with autism at 24 **months of age**. [Read more...](#)

ITAC Items

[AUCD Promotes Disability Employment during Developmental Disability and Autism Awareness Months](#)

This March and April, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is celebrating National Developmental Disability Month and National Autism Awareness/Acceptance Month by hosting a series of Twitter Chats about Employment: #Jobs4All. We will have chats from academic experts, business leaders, disabled entrepreneurs, and more. Join us for our next [#Jobs4ALL Twitter Chat: Autism in Academia](#) on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 2 p.m. ET.

[Pathways to Employment for Transition Aged Youth and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

One of the most difficult times for youth and young adults with ASD is the transition from school to adulthood. In fact, young adults with ASD typically experience low rates of employment, independent living, and connection to community. This session will review the research regarding employment outcomes for youth with ASD as well as review 3 important pathways to employment. These pathways are internships, supported employment and customized employment. Additionally, the presenters will provide specific examples regarding the supports youth and adults with ASD used to acquire and maintain employment in community-based integrated environments. A webinar from AUCD's Autism Special Interest Group (SIG). [Read more...](#)

[Autism CARES Grantees Share Resources, Best Practices for Transition](#)

The 2016 Autism CARES Virtual Meeting will be held virtually (i.e. through an online portal) on Thursday, July 21 as a half-day event exploring the topic of transition. This will be an opportunity for MCHB-funded CARES legislation grantees (representing research, training, and state implementation stakeholders) to share information about activities within their respective networks, discuss emerging trends, and facilitate meaningful collaboration. [Read more...](#)

[Now Archived Infants with Congenital Zika Virus Infection and their Families](#)

This webinar will provide an overview of the Zika virus infection, updated case numbers for infants with congenital Zika virus infection, and useful resources for families and EI professionals. Findings on the potential clinical manifestations of congenital Zika virus

infections will be discussed as well as the still evolving clinical, policy, and research implications for early intervention professionals. [Read more..](#)

Meetings

[The 2016 Autism CARES Grantee Meeting](#)

July 21, 2016

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET

Virtual Meeting

Registration will open in May. More information will be available [here](#).

[AUCD Conference](#)

November 5-8, 2017

Washington DC

Submit a proposal to present a poster or concurrent session by June 1st.

Upcoming Activities

[Twitter Chat Series: #Jobs4ALL](#)

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

2:00 p.m. ET

Topic: Autism in Academia

Moderator: [@AUCDNews](#)

Host: [@TimGordonjr](#)

[Twitter Chat Series: #Jobs4ALL](#)

Monday, April 24, 2017

2:00 p.m. ET

Topic: Autism and Industry

Moderator: [@AUCDNews](#)

Host: [@VRFerose](#)

About

Developments is a newsletter for Autism CARES programs funded under MCHB. The content of this newsletter has been generated by program staff and trainees, and does not necessarily reflect the views and policies of HRSA-MCHB. No official support or endorsement by HRSA-MCHB is intended or should be inferred. This publication is funded in part by cooperative agreement #UA5MC11068.