EMORY UNIVERSITY | Silvio O. Conte Center for Oxytocin and Social Cognition

atlanta autism consortium

2017

Autism Research Symposium & Poster Session

A scientific event featuring autism research in the Atlanta area

September 28, 2017 4:30 – 8:30 pm

Emory University / James B. Williams Medical Education Bldg.
100 Woodruff Circle

Sponsored by the Atlanta Autism Consortium and the Emory Conte Center

This scientific event is free for AAC members. The target audience is principally Researchers and Clinicians but anyone connected to autism is welcome. Light food and refreshments will be served.

Research Topic Highlights

Symposium presentations by Atlanta area Researchers will include topics in genetics/genomics, new technologies, social psychology and neuroscience, including basic human research, animal models and clinical applications. A panel discussion focused on participation in autism research studies will include the perspectives of researchers/clinicians and autistic individuals.

Presenters and discussants will include renowned researchers and clinicians, as well as "rising stars", from Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Georgia, Marcus Autism Center and Emory Autism Center, Georgia State University.

Scientific Poster Presentations

Everyone conducting research on any autism-related topics is welcome to present a poster.
Poster requirements are provided on the online registration page.

Registration Required

Attendance to the Research Symposium, Poster Session and Reception is **free for AAC members**.
Registration is required by Monday, September 25th, 2017, 5 pm, at the following link:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-autism-research-symposium-poster-session-tickets-27306296869

Poster presenters: Please register ASAP and no later than Tuesday, September 19th, 2017, 5 pm, to reserve your poster board and have your poster information included in the Symposium Handout.

Event location and parking

Info provided on the registration page and at http://www.atlantaautismconsortium.org

For more information

Contact Anne-Pierre Goursaud at executive-director@atlantaautismconsortium.org or agoursa@emory.edu

Thank you for your participation in our

2017 Autism Research Symposium

Sponsored by:

Atlanta Autism Consortium, Inc.

and

S. O. Conte Center for Oxytocin and Social Cognition,

Center for Translational Social Neuroscience, Emory University

EMORY UNIVERSITY | Silvio O. Conte Center for Oxytocin and Social Cognition

atlanta autism consortium

2017 Autism Research Symposium & Poster Session

A scientific event featuring autism research in the Atlanta area

September 28 (Thursday), 4:30 – 8:30 pm **Emory -** James B. Williams Medical Education Bldg., 100 Woodruff Circle

Sponsored by the Atlanta Autism Consortium and the Emory Conte Center

Free and open to the public. Target audience: principally researchers and clinicians. Refreshments & light food offered.
Registration link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-autism-research-symposium-poster-session-tickets-35648084380

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION and WELCOME Gregory Abowd (AAC / GATech)

I. Oral Presentations => 4:40 – 6:45 pm

1) Animal Models and Research

Moderator: Larry Young (Yerkes / Emory University/ CTSN)

Presenters:		
	Donald (Tig) Rainnie	Emory /Yerkes
	Angela Mabb	GSU / Neuroscience Center
	Jim Kwon (grad student)	Emory / Rollins Res. Center
	James Burkett (post doc)	Emory / School of Public Health

Discussion & Audience Questions

2) Human Research

Moderator: Sarah Grace Hansen (Georgia State University/ Special Ed.)

Presenters:		
	Will Sharp	CHOA / Marcus Autism Center
	Lindee Morgan	Emory / Marcus Autism Center
	Krishnendu Roy	GATech
	Patrick Powell (post doc)	GATech –Psych / CABI

Discussion & Audience Questions

II. Panel Discussion => 6:50 – 7:20 pm

Discussion topic: **Finding or being a participant in autism research projects: perspectives from researchers/clinicians and autistic individuals**

Moderator: Opal Ousley (Emory Autism Center)

Panelists: Jennifer Sarrett (Emory)
Patrick Powell (GATech)
Elissar Andari (Emory / Yerkes)
Robert Watkins (*Self Advocate* / AAC /Autisticly)
Scott Kramer (*Self Advocate* / GCA Center for Adult Autism)
Liz Brown (*Parent* / CHOA)

Audience Questions

CONCLUDING REMARKS

III. Poster Presentation and Reception => 7:35 – 8:30 pm

Symposium Organizer: Anne-Pierre Goursaud, PhD (executive-director@atlantaautismconsortium.org (OR agoursa@emory.edu)

2017 Autism Research Symposium - Atlanta Autism Consortium and Conte Center/ Emory University
September 28 (Thursday), 4:30 – 8:30 pm Emory - James B. Williams Medical Education Bldg., 100 Woodruff Circle

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Animal Models and Research

Moderator: **Larry Young, PhD** (Yerkes NPRC / School of Medicine, Emory University / CTSN / S O Conte Center)

Donald (Tig) Rainnie, PhD
Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Neurophysiology Laboratory, School of Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, and Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Atlanta, GA

What can prenatal exposure to sodium valproate tell us about autism?
Tig Rainnie, Katie Barrett, & Tom Hennessey
Department of Psychiatry, Emory University school of Medicine and Yerkes NPRC, Center for Translational Social Neuroscience.

Although the cause/s of idiopathic autism spectrum disorder (ASD) remain unknown, one drug that is known to increase the incidence of ASD in children is the antiepileptic agent, sodium valproate (aka Depacote or Epilim). Women who take valproate early in their pregnancy have a 40% greater risk of having children with ASD than the general population. Indeed, valproate exposure has been known to induce Fetal Valproate Syndrome for nearly 30 years, and yet women are still exposed to the drug while receiving little or no education about the potential risks associated with taking the drug. The Rainnie lab has been using fetal valproate exposure in rodents to try and understand the genetic and physiological underpinnings of the increased susceptibility to ASD in exposed offspring. Data will be presented to show how fetal valproate exposure disrupts social communication, social interaction, and anxiety-like behavior, which may be correlated with profound changes in RNA and protein expression in a brain region that is known to regulate socioemotional behavior, namely the amygdala.

Funding: NIMH Silvio O. Conte Center for Oxytocin and Social Cognition
drainni@emory.edu

Angela Mabb, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Neuroscience Institute, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Role of Protein Ubiquitination in Autism Spectrum Disorder
Angela Mabb
Neuroscience Institute, Georgia State University

Autism and autism spectrum disorders (ASD) exhibit heterogeneity at the genotype and phenotype level and the ability to identify viable treatments has been met with limited success. Hundreds of genes are linked to ASDs with a large fraction of these involved in processes related to transcription, cellular trafficking, synapse formation, protein translation, and protein ubiquitination. Although common themes are emerging for how disruption of gene candidates leads to ASD, we are only beginning to understand how changes in gene expression impact protein signaling pathways leading to changes in functional output. Moreover, understanding these associated changes on regionally distinct and subtype-specific neurons remains a challenge for the field. It is known that components of the ubiquitin pathway, which include a group of enzymes called E3 ubiquitin ligases (E3s) are disrupted in ASD. Surprisingly, our knowledge is limited in regards to the function of these E3s in the nervous system due to the fact that current strategies to elucidate E3 function are rather tedious and inefficient. We propose that deficits in protein ubiquitination contribute to autism and ASD. We will test the role of disordered ubiquitination by 1.) Utilizing a novel pipeline strategy to identify E3 substrates 2.) Assess developmental phenotypes in neuron subtypes following E3 disruption. 3.) Generate transgenic mouse models to understand how ubiquitin disruption impacts synaptic plasticity and ASD-related behaviors.

Funding: Whitehall Foundation, Rare Genomics Institute
amabb@gsu.edu

Yong Jun (Jim) Kwon
Graduate student, Neuroscience program, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Identifying subtle social interactions leading to affiliated behavior in prairie voles.

Yong Jun Kwon[1,2,3,4], Gordon J. Berman[1], Robert C. Liu[1,2,3];
1- Department of Biology, Emory University; 2- Center for Translational Social Neuroscience, Emory University; 3- Silvio O. Conte Center for Oxytocin and Social Cognition, Emory University; 4- Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University

Adult pair bonding involves dramatic changes in the perception and valuation of another individual. One key change is that partners come to reliably activate the brain's reward system, although the precise neural mechanisms by which partners become rewarding during socio-sexual interactions leading to a bond remain unclear. We have recently used a prairie vole (Microtus ochrogaster) model of social bonding to reveal how a key reward-related neural circuit is dynamically modulated during mating behavior to causally enhance females' affiliative behavior towards its partner (Amadei, Johnson et al, Nature, 2017). However, even though mating is a key behavior in bond formation, given sufficient time, prairie voles will form pair bonds even without mating. We are now aiming to further identify more subtle yet stereotyped social interactions between prairie voles that may lead to bond formation, exploiting recently developed computational algorithms to automatically identify robust behaviors from video recordings (Berman et al, 2014). The ability to identify subtle social interactions that leads to pair bonding may be used in future studies to identify subtle social behavioral deficits that may be diagnostic of Autism Spectrum Disorder phenotypes.

Funding: Silvio O. Conte Center grant; CRCNS
yjoone@gmail.com and robert.liu@emory.edu

James Burkett, PhD
Post-doctoral fellow, Department of Environmental Health, School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Developmental pyrethroid pesticide exposure and autism-related phenotype in a mouse model

James Burkett[1], Rohan Dhamsania[2], Rachel Cliburn[1], Emily Winokur[2], Shannon Gourley[3], & Gary Miller1[4]
1- Department of Environmental Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; 2- Emory College of Arts and Sciences, Emory University; 3- Yerkes National Primate Research Center; Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, Emory University School of Medicine; 4- Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases; Departments of Pharmacology and Neurology, Emory University School of Medicine

Despite their widespread use in households and agriculture, many pesticides have been linked to neurological diseases, including autism, ADHD, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Recently, pyrethroid pesticides have become more common as they are considered a "safe" alternative to harmful organophosphates. However, epidemiological studies have linked exposure to pyrethroid pesticides to risk for both ADHD and autism. Preeviously, our lab demonstrated that developmental pyrethroid exposure (DPE) in mice, at levels below the EPA benchmark "safe" dose, causes an ADHD-related phenotype in mice. Here, we tested whether the same DPE causes or contributes to an autism-related phenotype, using a battery of tests targeting social communication, social interaction, repetitive behaviors, and other autistic features. DPE caused an increase in marble burying in offspring, a mouse repetitive behavior. DPE also reduced the learning rate of mice trained to nose-poke for food, and caused a pattern of responses in a contingency degradation task consistent with a general learning deficit. Previous studies showed that DPE causes an increase in dopamine transporter in the striatum, which causes the ADHD-related behaviors. We found that DPE increaased striatal dopamine, but decreased SV2C, a protein found on striatal dopamine vesicles. In summary, DPE increases repetitive behaviors and impairs general learning, which may contribute to autism diagnosis by decreasing functioning. DPE also causes a host of dopamine-related disruptions in the striatum which may be related to these behavioral changes.

Funding: NIEHS Training Grant in Environmental Health

james.p.burkett@gmail.com

2. Human Research

Moderator: **Sarah G. Hansen, PhD** (Early Childhood Special Education, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA)

Will Sharp, PhD
Director, Feeding Disorders Program, Marcus Autism Center, Atlanta, GA; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics - Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

The Autism MEAL plan: A Parent Training Program for Food Selectivity in ASD.

William G. Sharp[1,2], Lindsey Burrell[1,2], Rashelle Berry[1], Kristen Criado[1,2], & Larry Scahill[1,2]
1 – Marcus Autism Center; 2 – Department of Pediatrics - Emory University School of Medicine

Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are five times more likely to have a feeding problem compared to age mates. Food Selectivity (i.e., eating only a narrow variety of foods such as starches and snack foods with strong bias against fruits and vegetables) is the most common feeding problem in children with ASD. Although children with ASD may consume enough food to meet gross energy needs, poor dietary diversity is associated with vitamin and mineral deficiencies, poor bone growth, and constipation. Selective eating patterns (e.g., complex carbohydrates and fats) may also increase the risk for obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease in adolescence and adulthood. High prevalence of food selectivity in ASD, combined with the risk for long-term nutritional, medical, and quality of life sequelae, underscore the need for better measurement and better treatments. Behavioral intervention is the only empirically-supported treatment for severe feeding problems in children with or without ASD. To date, behavioral intervention targeting food selectivity in ASD is primarily delivered in highly structured settings (e.g., inpatient units; day treatment programs) by expert therapists. These services are expensive ($60,000 for 6 - 8 weeks of day treatment) and not available in all communities. Provisional evidence suggests parent training (PT) may be useful for feeding problems in ASD. Although parent-mediated interventions are promising in ASD, few studies have evaluated group-based parent training to address feeding problems in children with ASD. The Autism *Managing Eating Aversions and Limited* variety (MEAL) Plan PT program was specifically designed to assist caregivers in increasing dietary variety in children with ASD in a group format. This presentation will describe and present provisional outcomes of a randomized clinical trial investigating the feasibility and initial efficacy of the Autism MEAL plan in a sample of 40 children with ASD and food selectivity.

Funding: NIH
William.Sharp@choa.org

Lindee Morgan, PhD, CCC-SLP
Assistant Professor, Division of Autism and Related Disorders, Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Classroom SCERTS Intervention for Elementary Students with Autism: A Cluster Randomized Trial

Lindee Morgan
Department of Pediatrics - Emory University School of Medicine

This presentation will report on the evaluation of Classroom SCERTS Intervention (CSI) compared to Autism Training Modules (ATM). In this study 60 schools with 197 students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in 129 classrooms were randomly assigned to CSI or ATM. CSI teachers were trained on the model and provided coaching throughout the school year to assist with implementation. A CRT, with students nested within general and special education classrooms nested within schools, was used to evaluate student outcomes. The CSI group showed significantly better outcomes than the ATM group on observed measures of classroom active engagement, measures of adaptive behavior, social skills, and executive functioning. This research demonstrates the efficacy of a classroom-based teacher-implemented intervention with a heterogeneous group of students with ASD using both observed and reported measures.

Funding: Institute of Education Sciences
lindee.morgan@emory.edu

ORAL PRESENTATIONS *(cont.)*

Krishnendu (Krish) Roy, PhD
Robert A. Milton Chair Professor; Director, NSF Engineering Research Center (ERC) for Cell Manufacturing Technologies (CMaT); Director, Marcus Center for Therapeutic Characterization and Manufacturing (MC3M), www.cellmanufacturing.gatech.edu; The Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory; Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

The Promise of Cell Therapies in Autism – How would we overcome the Manufacturing Issues?
Krishnendu (Krish) Roy
GA Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

This presentation will provide an overview of the research and activities at the new Marcus Center at GATech, Atlanta, GA
krish.roy@gatech.edu

Patrick S. Powell, Ph.D.
Post-doctoral Fellow, School of Psychology, Georgia Institute of Technology, Memory and Aging Lab, Center for Advanced Brain Imaging, Atlanta, GA

Aging in Autism: Exploring Age-related Differences in Selective Attention and Context Memory
Patrick Powell, Jon Strunk, Taylor James, & Audrey Duarte
Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Psychology, Atlanta, GA

Age-related declines in memory for contextual information is arguably one of the more pronounced age-related effects in typical aging. However, despite the small but growing number of studies investigating cognitive aging in autism spectrum disorders (ASD), virtually nothing known about how age impacts this form of memory in adults with ASD. Additionally, previous studies have shown that age-related decline in context memory can be improved by directing attention to task-relevant associations. That is, directing attention to a specific contextual feature while ignoring irrelevant information can boost context memory performance. Therefore, the current study seeks to explore age-related differences context memory in adults ASD between 18 and 65 years old, as well as determine whether selectively attending to one contextual feature while attempting to ignore another can improve context memory performance in adults with ASD.

Funding: National Institute on Aging, NIH; NSF
patrickspowell@gmail.com

PANEL DISCUSSION

Topic: **Finding or being a participant in autism research projects: perspectives from researchers / clinicians, parents and autistic individuals**

Moderator: **Opal Ousley, PhD** (Emory Autism Center, School of Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, GA)

Panelists:	**Jennifer Sarrett, PhD**	Lecturer, Center for the Study of Human Health, Emory College, Atlanta,GA
	Patrick Powell, PhD	Post-doctoral Fellow, School of Psychology, Georgia Institute of Technology, Memory and Aging Lab, Center for Advanced Brain Imaging, Atlanta, GA
	Elissar Andari, PhD	Post-doctoral Fellow, Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Division of Behavioral Neuroscience & Psychiatric Disorders, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
	Robert Watkins	*Autistic self advocate, Parent*, neurodiversity advocate, Founder http://Autistic.ly, Atlanta Autism Consortium
	Scott Kramer, MSEd	*Autistic self Advocate*, *Parent*, Founder and Program Director, GCA Center for Adult Autism, Chattanooga, TN
	Liz Brown, OTL, BCP	*Parent*, Occupational Therapist, Children's Health Care of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

POSTERS

1. **From Milliseconds to Months: Long-term Developmental Change in Moment-by-Moment Attention to Social Stimuli**
   Megan Micheletti, Andrew Kreuzman, Jessica Jones, Ami Klin, Sarah Shultz, Warren Jones
   Marcus Autism Center, Atlanta, GA; Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, GA; Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
   mmiche5@emory.edu

2. **Ethnic Differences in the Parental Report of Items on the M-CHAT-R**.
   Chloe Beacham[1,2], Meena Lambha[1,2]
   1- Marcus Autism Center, Atlanta, GA; 2- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, GA
   Chloe.Beacham@choa.org

3. **Amazing-Me: Milestone Tracking via an Interactive Ebook**
   Yiran Ma, Rosa I. Arriaga
   School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
   yiranma@gatech.edu

4. **Examining Parental Sensitivity to Early Social Communication Delay in Autism Spectrum Disorder Using the MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories**
   Hannah Grosman[1], Cheryl Klaiman[1,2], Shana Richardson[1]
   1- Marcus Autism Center, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, GA; 2- Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
   Hannah.Grosman@choa.org

5. **Neural Precursors of Language in Infants at High Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder**
   Laura A. Edwards[1], Helen Tager-Flusberg[2], & Charles A. Nelson[3,4]
   1- Marcus Autism Center, Atlanta, GA; 2- Boston University, Boston, MA; 3- Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA; 4- Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
   laura.ann.edwards@emory.edu

6. **Auditory Joint Engagement: Autism Affects How Toddlers Share Sounds During Parent-Child Interactions**
   Lauren B. Adamson[1], Roger Bakeman[1], Katharine Suma[1], Diana L. Robins[2]
   1 – Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA; 2 – AJ Drexel Autism Institute, Philadelphia, PA
   ladamson@gsu.edu

7. **Development of a 4-minute interactive assessment to measure social-communication skills: Implications for early identification of autism spectrum disorder**
   Gabrielle Harper, Ogechi Adele, Opal Ousley
   Emory Autism Center, Atlanta, GA
   oousley@emory.edu

8. **Autism Disparities: Quality of Care and Structural Barriers to Diagnosis and Services**
   Jennifer S. Singh[1], Leslie Rubin[2]
   1- Georgia Institute of Technology, School of History and Sociology, Atlanta, GA; 2- Morehouse School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Atlanta, GA
   jennifer.singh@hsoc.gatech.edu

POSTERS *(Cont.)*

9. **Gut Microbiome manipulation and ASD: ethical consequences**
Saskia Verkiel, Benoit Chassaing
Neuroscience Institute, College of Arts & Sciences, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
sverkiel1@student.gsu.edu

10. **Increasing Social Interactions of Preschool Children with Autism Through Cooperative Outdoor Play**
Sonja M T Ziegler[1,2] , Michael J Morrier[1]
1- Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA; 2- Department of Educational Psychology, Special Education, and Communication Disorders, College of Education and Human Development, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
sziegl2@emory.edu

11. **Empa: Analyzing emotional priming by quantifying changes in facial affect**
Tyler Angert[1,2], Rosa I. Arriaga[1]
1- School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA; 2- College of Arts and Science, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.
tangert@emory.edu

12. **Randomized Controlled Trial of a Parent-Mediated Intervention for Toddlers with Autism: Effects on Parent and Child Behaviors**
Kathleen M. Baggett[1], Brian Barger[1], Hannah H. Schertz[2], Samuel L. Odom[3]
1- Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA; 2- Indiana University, Bloomington, IN; 3- Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, and School of Education, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.
bbarger1@gsu.edu

13. **The Importance of Social Supports: A Look at Georgia Autistic Adults**
Scott Kramer
GCA Centre for Adult Autism, Chattanooga, TN
Scott.Kramer@chattanoogaautismcenter.org

14. **Computational Approaches to Measuring Children's Nonverbal Behavior**
Eunji Chong, Katha Chanda, Nataniel Ruiz, Agata Rozga, James M. Rehg
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
eunjichong@gatech.edu

Upcoming events organized by the Atlanta Autism Consortium and collaborative events*

atlanta autism consortium

2017:

October 27th, 2017; 3:30 to 5:30 pm
Topic: **Updates on Autism-related Research at the Centers for Disease Control**
Sponsors: Atlanta Autism Consortium; Emory Autism Center; CDC
Location: Emory Autism Center; 1551 Shoup Ct, Decatur, GA 30033

November 1st, 2017; 4:30 to 5:30 pm
Topic: **Randy Lewis: Integrating People with Disabilities in the Workplace**
Author, *No Greatness Without Goodness,* & Former Senior Vice President, Walgreens
Sponsors: Atlanta Autism Consortium; Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship, GA Tech
Location: LeCraw Auditorium, Scheller College of Business, GATech; 800 West Peachtree NW, Atlanta, GA, 30308

December 7th, 2017; 5:30 to 8:00 pm
Topic: **AAC Holiday Gathering and Reception**
Sponsor: Atlanta Autism Consortium
Location: Emory Health Science Research Building; Haygood Drive, Atlanta, GA, 30329

2018:

January 2018 (*Date and Time TBD*)
Topic: **Research Updates on Disparity in Autism**
Sponsors: Atlanta Autism Consortium; Marcus Autism Center
Location: Marcus Autism Center *or* CHOA's Learning Center on Tullie Circle

February 2018 (*Date and Time TBD*)
Topic: **Innovations in Education for Students with Sensory Movement Differences**
Sponsors: Atlanta Autism Consortium; Hirsch Academy; RPM Community of Alanta
Location: TSRB, GATech,

March 2018 (*Date and Time TBD*)
Topic: **Early identification and Intervention Updates**
Sponsors: Atlanta Autism Consortium; Emory Autism Center; Department of Public Health
Location: *TBD*

April 2018 (*Date and Time TBD*)
Topic: **Autism Awareness and Acceptance Event**
Sponsors: Atlanta Autism Consortium; CDC; Autism Speaks; Autism Society of GA
Location: *TBD*

May 2018 (*Date and Time TBD*)
Topic: **Autism Conference and Expo of GA**
Sponsors: Atlanta Autism Consortium; GSU Center for Leadership in Disabilities
Location: *TBD*

** This schedule is only informative, and may be modified at any time.*

Center for Translational Social Neuroscience

The Center for Translational Social Neuroscience brings these fields of research together.

Our mission is to foster intellectual exchange and collaboration among a diverse community of researchers and clinicians investigating the neurobiology of prosocial behavior and disorders of the social brain.
We are committed to translating discoveries made in the laboratory into strategies for improving social function in psychiatric disorders, including Autism Spectrum Disorders and Schizophrenia.

We also have an eye to the future. Our interdisciplinary and translational environment provides an ideal training environment for young scientists. We are using the most cutting-edge techniques to extend the frontier of social neuroscience, and to train the next generation of researchers to carry these investigations into the years ahead.

Please join us in our mission to promote innovative research that advances our understanding and healing of the social brain.

http://www.ctsn.emory.edu/index.html

Silvio O. Conte Center for Oxytocin and Social Cognition

The goal of the Silvio O. Conte Center for Oxytocin and Social Cognition is to launch an integrated, coordinated and rigorous research program to discover the neural mechanisms by which oxytocin modulates social cognition.

The Atlanta Autism Consortium (AAC) needs your help to develop our programs in the Atlanta area

JOIN NOW to support your local autism community, and grow your personal and professional relationships

It is important that you join via the AAC website even if you previously joined and/or receive AAC emails.

atlanta autism consortium

To be regularly informed of autism-related events in the Atlanta area, receive scientific news, support your local autism community and develop professional and personal relationships and collaborations, **join the AAC** or **renew your membership now**!

Register and pay your annual dues at: https://www.atlantaautismconsortium.org/join-the-consortium/

Membership to the AAC is cheap:

Professional Membership: $75

Community Membership: $30

Student Membership: $20

Remember that **ALL AAC events**, including this annual Research Symposium and Reception, are **FREE for AAC members**. Please help us keep it that way by contributing online at: https://www.atlantaautismconsortium.org/donate/

Other membership benefits include: Invitation to Special Initiative groups; Eligibility to travel wards to local and domestic conferences; Access to AAC Speakers Bureau with autism advocates and experts; Free entrance to our autism community Annual Holiday Gathering and Reception; Invitation for you and your research to be featured in the AAC newsletter; Announcements of AAC and other autism-related events, and more…

atlanta autism consortium

"Connecting the Atlanta Autism Communities:
Doing together what no one organization can do on its own"

http://www.atlantaautismconsortium.org

Our Mission, Vision and Values:

The Atlanta Autism Consortium, Inc. (AAC) is a non-profit organization (501 c 3) dedicated to ***connecting*** **individuals and organizations around autism,** ***sharing*** **diverse perspectives and** ***developing*** **effective partnerships.**

We strive to sustain a vibrant consortium that fosters an active and effective Atlanta autism community through our values:

Collaboration: To accomplish more together;

Diversity: To welcome constructive perspectives in a safe forum;

Knowledge: To grow our collective understanding of autism in its fullness;

Impact: To sustain positive contributions to all concerned.

AAC Members:

Everyone with a link to autism is welcome to join the AAC.
Members include researchers, clinicians, therapists, educators, advocates, support groups, families and autistic individuals. Currently AAC include more than 700 members!

To become an AAC member, register at:
https://www.atlantaautismconsortium.org/join-the-consortium/

AAC Activities:

- Community building activities: To facilitate the sharing of knowledge and resources and address concerns across the lifespan and across stakeholders' perspectives.
- Public facing events: To promote awareness, understanding and acceptance through educational events, forum and conferences, in partnership with community members and other local and national organizations.
- AAC mailing list: To keep members informed of autism related events happening in the Atlanta area (email list).
- Special Initiative Groups: To support targeted and fruitful collaborative activities between subset of the AAC community.

AAC Sustenance: Membership & Donations! https://www.atlantaautismconsortium.org/donate/

Contacts: Anne-Pierre Goursaud: executive-director@atlantaautismcomsortium.org
or Gregory Abowd: president@atlantaautismconsortium.org