



## ORGANIZATION FOR AUTISM RESEARCH

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OAR AND RETHINK AUTISM PARTNER FOR RESEARCH**

Arlington, VA, August 13, 2012 - The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) and Rethink Autism, a New York City based company that produces high quality, behaviorally based educational instruction for teachers, are pleased to announce a partnership that will result in one additional applied research grant this year. Rethink Autism has pledged \$25,000 to fund a study that will independently use and examine the efficacy of its web-based curriculum, training, assessment and data tracking platform in public school settings. With that, OAR published a new Request for Proposals today inviting researchers to apply.

Commenting on its new research partner, OAR executive director, Mike Maloney offered, "As I said when Rethink Autism won the competitive bid to provide its educational intervention platform to students with autism in the Department of Defense schools last year, Rethink Autism sets the bar high and has a well-deserved reputation for excellence and competence in this area. In that context, we could not ask for a better partner."

Interested researchers can apply using OAR's [online application system](#). This application will require a full proposal, which the online process explains once an applicant is logged in. The deadline for applications is Friday, September 21, 2012. OAR's Scientific Council and Board of Directors will identify the most promising study on October 27, and announce the grant recipient along with the winners from the 2012 Applied Research Competition on November 2.

Rethink Autism places high value on the independent review aspect of this effort. "While there have been an increasing number of online programs geared toward helping schools and agencies serve children with autism, the research literature offers very little insight into best practices for implementing these solutions," notes Jamie Pagliaro, co-creator and executive vice president, Rethink Autism. "Rethink Autism is excited to partner with the Organization for Autism Research to advance knowledge about the application of our technology, and how it can best be used to affect change, particularly in settings where there is tremendous pressure to serve more students on the spectrum than ever before."

With the exception of this new RFP, OAR's 2012 Applied Research Competition is closed. Of the XX studies proposed, 45 have advanced to the second or full proposal round. Of those, 10-15 plus up to three proposals responding to the Rethink Autism grant will advance to the final review by the Scientific Council in October. OAR will open the 2013 Applied Research Competition on December 3, 2012. For questions or more information, please contact Cody Waters, OAR's Business Manager, at (703) 243-9717 or [research@researchautism.org](mailto:research@researchautism.org).

**ABOUT OAR:** The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national, nonprofit organization formed and led by relatives of children and adults with autism and Asperger Syndrome. OAR is dedicated to promoting research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much-needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions.

Since 2001, OAR has awarded almost \$2.5 million to fund 141 applied research studies and published six community-friendly resource guides in its *Life Journey through Autism* series.



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For more information about OAR, please visit [www.researchautism.org](http://www.researchautism.org).

About Rethink Autism, Inc.: Rethink Autism seeks to ensure that every child on the autism spectrum has access to effective and affordable evidence-based treatment options by providing professionals, parents, and family members with the tools and information necessary to teach children with autism in a way that is easy to understand and apply. <http://www.rethinkautism.com>

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