



Summaries of OAR-Funded Research Posted on the Web Important Autism Research Findings Now Available in Easy-to-Read Format

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the addition of research summaries to its Web site, www.researchautism.org. Each year, through competitive grant awards, OAR funds studies that address the many challenges faced by individuals with autism and their families. Thanks to the combined efforts of OAR’s 2011 and 2012 summer interns, the results and implications of completed research projects have been condensed into short, easy-to-understand summaries, making the studies’ important findings accessible to the entire autism community.

“One of OAR’s continuing objectives is to share the latest information with those who can best use it,” said Mike Maloney, OAR Executive Director. “Not only do these summaries help make some complex studies more understandable, they also serve as testimony to the type, quality, and practical value of research OAR funds. The interns have done an excellent job.”

To view these summaries, visit www.researchautism.org. Along with abstracts of the original project proposals, the summaries can be found by selecting the “Professionals” tab on the main page and then clicking the “Studies Funded” option. All of the available information is listed by the year in which grants were awarded, dating back to the inaugural competition in 2002. In the ten years since, OAR has funded 141 studies, putting a total of \$2,481,000 into applied autism research. Many studies have been extremely successful, including Dr. Laura Anthony’s *Development of an executive-function based intervention for ASD*, which received a \$780,000 National Institutes of Health grant toward a larger-scale replication of her OAR study.

OAR seeks to fund research that directly impacts the day-to-day quality of life of people with autism and their families. Some of the findings recently added to OAR’s Web site focus on the transition to the workplace, access to transportation, feeding strategies, and other evidence-based interventions. OAR hopes that these research summaries will help parents, educators, and autism professionals better address challenges across the lifespan.

About OAR: The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national non-profit 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. To

help fund this critical research, OAR operates the *RUN FOR AUTISM*, a charity endurance program, whose participants have collectively raised over \$4 million since 2003. OAR also produces informational materials for the autism community, including the *Life Journey through Autism* series that addresses topics such as assessment, education, and transition to adulthood. OAR maintains the “Operation Autism” Web site (www.operationautismonline.org) geared toward the unique concerns of military families, and awards scholarships individuals with autism entering college or vocational school through its Schwallie Family Scholarship Program. More information about all of these initiatives can be found at www.researchautism.org.

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