



## OAR Announces The 2012 Applied Research Competition Winners!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arlington, VA — At its annual meeting on October 26, 2012, the Organization for Autism Research's (OAR) Board of Directors approved eleven new applied autism research studies for funding in 2013. This additional \$330,000 in research grants will bring the total of OAR awarded funds to \$2.79 million since OAR awarded its first grants in January, 2003. These research studies, which will be conducted by autism professionals from across the country, will examine timely issues that affect the autism community every day.

The topics of this year's new research, which will be completed in the next 12-18 months, include: work systems supporting adolescents and adults on the autism spectrum, telemedicine, emotion recognition skills, transportation skills, socially-based reinforcers, and center versus home-based programs.

“These were the ten studies that stood out the most in terms of design, methodology and potential to produce meaningful outcomes,” explained Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D., Chairman of OAR's Scientific Council. “In fact, the findings from these studies offer to provide practical tools and resources for use by parents, teachers, caregivers and medical professionals that would enhance current methods of diagnosis, education, treatment, and quality of life.”

Recipients of this year's grants include:

**PI:**Michelle Sondra Ballan, Ph.D.

**Institution:**Columbia University School of Social Work

**Project:***Growing Up Aware: A Parent-Based Sexuality Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

**PI:**Lucy Bilaver, Ph.D.

**Institution:**Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

**Project:***Identifying Disparities in Access to Treatment for Young Children with Autism*

**PI:**Jonathan Campbell, Ph.D.

**Institution:**University of Kentucky

**Project:***Kit for Kids Evaluation Project: An Initial Evaluation of Evidence-Based Peer Educational Materials*

**PI:**Erinn Finke, Ph.D.

**Institution:**The Pennsylvania State University

**Project:***Effects of Incidental Teaching on Expressive Language of School Age Children with ASD who use AAC*

**PI:**Rahul Khanna, Ph.D.

**Institution:**University of Mississippi

**Project:***Health-Related Quality of Life and its Determinants in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

**PI:**Russell Lang, Ph.D.

**Institution:**Texas State University

**Project:***Using Lag Schedules of Reinforcement to Teach Play Skills to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

**PI:**Whitney A Loring, Psy.D.

**Institution:**Vanderbilt University

**Project:***Sleep Education Program for Adolescents With Autism Spectrum Disorders*

**PI:** John Maltby, MSW

**Institution:** Westchester Institute for Human Development

**Project:** *Creating a more effective path to Housing for people with ASD*

**PI:**Anna Petursdottir, Ph.D.

**Institution:**Texas Christian University

**Project:***Increasing Variability of Verbal Initiations through the Responses of Conversation Partners*

**PI:**Joshua Plavnick, Ph.D., and Brooke Ingersoll, Ph.D.

**Institution:**Michigan State University

**Project:***Enhancing Traditional Group Social Skill Instruction using Video-based Group Instruction Tactics*

**PI:**Oliver Wendt, Ph.D.

**Institution:**Purdue University

**Project:***An Experimental Evaluation of Matrix Training to Teach Graphic Symbol Combinations in Severe Autism*

Each grant winner will receive up to \$30,000.

OAR selected these proposals from an initial group of 92 pre-proposals received in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) published last year. 42 proposals were carried through to the final review, where these ten studies prevailed as the most outstanding.

OAR has posted the abstracts of these studies and the RFP for the 2013 Applied Research Competition at <http://www.researchautism.org/professionals/funded/list/index.asp>. For more information on the studies or for information on OAR's research grants programs, contact Cody Waters at 703-243-9717, [cwaters@researchautism.org](mailto:cwaters@researchautism.org).