



OAR Announces 2015 Applied Research Grant Recipients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the research grant recipients of the 2015 Applied Research Competition. This program awards up to \$30,000 to researchers and professionals conducting applied autism research. This year, the Board of Directors of OAR authorized funding for six new grants totaling \$179,827. One remaining study is under consideration pending discussions with the researchers and a supplementary review. With these six confirmed grants, OAR has awarded more than \$3.3 million in grants to support 98 applied research studies since 2002. These studies, which will be conducted across the country, will examine timely issues that affect the autism community on a daily basis.

This year, OAR received 133 pre-proposals during the initial round, making it the most competitive competition cycle in OAR history. From those 133 pre-proposals, OAR invited 61 researchers to submit full proposals, and 22 ultimately advanced to the final review. Members of the OAR Scientific Council, a group of 15 autism professionals from a variety of fields and backgrounds, reviewed and evaluated the proposals. In the end, they identified six studies as the most outstanding.

“This year’s submissions for applied research grants were among the most interesting and relevant proposals received to date,” notes Joanne Gerenser, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, vice chair of OAR’s Scientific Council. “It was a difficult process to narrow the list down to the six that we were able to fund. We are all very excited by the research questions the six OAR funded proposals are seeking to address and feel confident their findings will provide important and practical information to those supporting individuals with ASD as well as the individuals with ASD themselves.”

Congratulations to the 2015 applied grant recipients:

Audrey Blakeley-Smith, Ph.D., University of Colorado Denver, JFK Partners
Facing Your Fears: Supporting Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Intellectual Disabilities

Dara Chan, Sc.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Examining Person and Environment Factors Associated with Community Participation for Adults with ASD

Juhi Kaboski, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame
Comorbidities in ASD: Developmental Trajectories and Predictors of Adult Outcomes

Cara Pugliese, Ph.D. and Lauren Kenworthy, Ph.D., Children’s National Health System
Effectiveness of a School-Based Executive Function Intervention for High School Students with ASD

Kristin Rispoli, Ph.D., Michigan State University
Regulation of Emotional Lability in Autism Spectrum Disorder through Caregiver Supports (ReLACS)

Ty Vernon, Ph.D. and Robert Koegel, Ph.D., University of California Santa Barbara
Social Tools and Rules for Transitions (START): A Young Adult Social Intervention Package

The 2016 Applied Research Competition is now open. The Request for Proposals (RFP) can be accessed [here](#). Pre-proposal applications will be accepted through Monday, March 28, 2016 at 11:59 EST. Please use the online WizeHive application for submissions.

For inquiries regarding the Applied Research Competition, please contact Kimberly Ha, Programs and Outreach Associate at (703)243-9762 or e-mail kha@researchautism.org.

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. 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. Learn more at their Web site: www.researchautism.org.

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