



OAR Announces 2017 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 2017 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 \$176,090. With these six new studies, OAR has awarded more than \$3.4 million in grants to support 110 applied research studies since 2002. These studies, which will be conducted across the country, will examine timely issues that affect the autism community.

This year, OAR received 150 pre-proposals during the initial round, making it the most competitive competition cycle in OAR history. From those 150 pre-proposals, OAR invited 56 researchers to submit full proposals, and 25 ultimately advanced to the final review. Members of the OAR Scientific Council, a group of 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.

Congratulations to the 2017 applied grant recipients:

Development and Pilot Testing of a Pedestrian Skills Assessment with Enhanced Virtual Reality Experience

Principal Investigator: Cecilia Feeley, Ph.D.
Institution: Rutgers University, Brunswick, NJ

Students and Teachers Actively Reading Together

Principal Investigator: Veronica P. Fleury, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Institution: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Parent-Mediated Mobile Health Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Peru

Principal Investigator: Robert Gilman, M.D., Michael Powers, Psy.D., and Mirko Zimic, Ph.D.
Institution(s): Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; University of Peru, Lima, Peru

Step It Up: Increasing Physical Activity for Adults with ASD and ID through Self-Management

Principal Investigator: Kara Hume, Ph.D., and Melissa Savage, Ph.D.
Institution: University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

EMT in South Africa: Training Speech Language Therapists in Early Intervention for Children with ASD

Principal Investigator: Ann P. Kaiser, Ph.D.
Institution: Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Building Community Capacity: Evaluating a Distance Training Model for Underserved, Rural Areas

Principal Investigator: Sarah Reith, Ph.D.

Institution: San Diego State University, San Diego, California

The 2017 Applied Research Competition is open from December 1, 2017 through March 26, 2018. The Request for Proposals (RFP) can be accessed [here](#). Pre-proposal applications will be accepted through Monday, March 26, 2018 at 11:59 EST. Please use the online WizeHive application for submissions.

For inquiries regarding the Applied Research Competition, please contact Kimberly Ha, Research and Programs Director 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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