



OAR Announces 2015 Graduate Research Grant Recipients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Wendy McKinnon, Programs and Outreach Associate
(703)243-3466, research@researchautism.org

ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2015 [Graduate Research Grants](#). This program, open to graduate students pursuing master’s or doctoral degrees, awards up to \$1,000 and \$2,000 respectively to those conducting research related to autism as part of their graduate studies. This year, OAR is awarding 10 grants totaling \$17,849. With these grants, OAR has awarded over \$189,000 in research grants to 105 graduate researchers since 2004.

“Each year, I am impressed with the high quality of the proposals we receive,” notes Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D., chair of OAR’s Scientific Council. “The future of autism research is in good hands with these promising individuals.”

OAR received 26 study proposals this year. Members of the OAR Scientific Council, a group of 16 autism professionals from a variety of fields and backgrounds, reviewed and scored each proposal. Their evaluation was based on three key criteria:

- Alignment with OAR’s research priorities
- Methodological soundness
- Relevance of potential findings for those affected by autism

In keeping with OAR’s dedication to high quality research, only the best of the best were selected for funding.

Congratulations to the 2015 grant recipients:

Monique N. Colclough, Old Dominion University

Understanding the Experiences of College Students Who Have Autism

Jewel E. Crasta, Colorado State University

Sensory Processing among Children with High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders

Theresa Fiani, City University of New York

Generalization of Gaze Shift Across Social Communicative Contexts and Responses

Samantha Goldman, Vanderbilt University

Using Home-School Communication to Reduce Problem Behaviors in Children with ASD

Irang Kim, University of Georgia

Parental Stress and Coping Strategies among Korean-American Immigrant Parents of Children with ASD

Caroline Leonczyk, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Effectiveness & Feasibility of a School-Based Social Skills Intervention for Adolescents with ASD

Sara Nowell, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Social-Communication Outcomes in Preschoolers Identified as At-Risk for ASD at 12 Months

Hoa Lam Schneider, University of Miami

Socio-Emotional Adjustment in Couples with Children with ASD: Dyadic and Individual Effects of Autism

Deanna Swain, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Feasibility Study of Mindfulness-Enhanced Pivotal Response Treatment Group Training for Parents of Children with Autism

Rachel Wright, University of Tennessee

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For inquiries regarding the Graduate Research Grant Program or for more information on the 2016 funding cycle, please contact Wendy McKinnon, Programs and Outreach Associate, at 703-243-3466 or e-mail research@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 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. Learn more at their Web site: www.researchautism.org.

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