



OAR Announces 2016 Graduate Research Grant Recipients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2016 [Graduate Research Grants](#). This program, open to graduate students pursuing master's, doctoral, or postdoctoral degrees, awards up to \$1,000 and \$2,000 to those conducting research related to autism as part of their graduate studies. This year, OAR is awarding 11 grants totaling \$19,387.45.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Lisa Higgins Hussman Foundation, OAR was able to fund an additional grant for the 2016 competition. With these 11 grants, OAR has awarded over \$208,000 in grants to fund 116 graduate research studies since 2004.

OAR received 34 study proposals this year, the most in the history of the program. Members of the OAR Scientific Council, a group of 17 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 2016 grant recipients:

Marissa Allen, Western Michigan University

Comparing and Evaluating Preferences for Functional Analyses and Paired-Choice Assessments

Laura Fontil, McGill University

Transition to School for Children with ASD: Investigation of the Effectiveness of Transition Planning

Alejandra Gamez, The University of Texas at El Paso

A Novel Approach to Enhancing Upper Extremity Coordination in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Colleen E. Gargan, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Evidence of Motor Speech Impairments and Abnormal Prosody in Autism Spectrum Disorder

Courtney Jorgenson, University of Missouri

Effectiveness of Animal-Assisted Social Skills Interventions for Children with ASD

Jessica M. Keith, University of Rochester

Associations Between Sensory Processing and Cognitive Functioning in Children with ASD

Rachel Schwartz, University of Pittsburgh

Staff Training in Preference Identification and Choice Opportunities

Shalini Sivathasan, McGill University

Multimodal Emotion Recognition in Autism Spectrum Disorder: The Case of Music, Face, and Voice

Andrea Trubanova, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Attention Modification to Attenuate Facial Emotion Recognition Deficits in Children with ASD

Holly Weisberg, City University of New York

Examining the Efficiency of Social Communication Intervention

Jordan Wickstrom, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Investigating the Interaction Between Social and Motor Processes in Infants At-Risk for Autism

For inquiries regarding the Graduate Research Grant Program or for more information on the 2017 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. 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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