



## OAR Announces 2017 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 2017 [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 11 grants totaling \$20,619.30. With these grants, OAR has awarded over \$228,600 in research grants to 127 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 2017 grant recipients:

**Samantha Bergmann, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

*Establishing Quality Standards for Applied Behavior Analytic Skill Acquisition Interventions*

**Andrea Carcelen, Johns Hopkins University**

*Estimation of the Prevalence of Autism in Periurban Centers in Lima, Peru*

**Heather Coleman, Virginia Commonwealth University**

*Parent Implemented Communication Intervention for Young Children with Autism and other Developmental*

**Sarah Cox, Florida State University**

*Proportional Reasoning Instruction for Middle School Students with ASD*

**Christine Drew, University of Oregon**

*Wisconsin PROMISE Tele-behavior Support Research Project*

**Gerin Gaskin, Claremont Graduate University**

*Parenting the Spectrum Sensitive: A Positive Emotion Intervention*

**Allie Khalulyan, University of Southern California**

*The Effect of Mutual Gaze on Human Perception in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Typically Developing Controls*

**Elaine Kwok, University of Western Ontario**

*Impact of auditory processing on language development in children with ASD*

**Elena Luchkina, Brown University**

*Individuals with autism may have lower tolerance for within-category variability*

**Ariana Riccio, The Graduate Center, City University of New York**

*Developing a Curriculum to Help Adolescents with ASD Enhance Skills Needed to Succeed in STEM Fields*

**Jonathan Sterling Beck, Brigham Young University**

*Square Pegs in Round Holes: Investigating How Diagnostic Practices Fail to Identify Females with ASD*

For inquiries regarding the Graduate Research Grant Program or for more information on the 2017 funding cycle, please contact Saman Kamgar-Parsi, Programs and Outreach Associate, at 703-243-3466 or e-mail [research@researchautism.org](mailto: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](http://www.researchautism.org).

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