FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2020

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 Applied Research Competition. This program awards up to $40,000 to researchers and professionals conducting applied autism research. This year, OAR’s Board of Directors authorized funding for eight new grants totaling $240,000. With these additions, OAR has awarded more than $4.2 million in grants since 2002.

OAR received 195 pre-proposals during the first round, the most in the history of the program. Of those, OAR invited 44 researchers to submit full proposals. Only 18 full proposals 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 scored each proposal. In the end, they identified six studies as the most outstanding.

Congratulations to the 2020 applied grant recipients:

- **Feasibility of Parent Training Via Telepractice for Rural Families of Children with Autism**
  Cynthia Anderson, Ph.D., BCBA-D & Ryan Martin, Ph.D.
  May Institute, Randolph, Massachusetts

- **Developing supports to address mental health needs of autistic students in postsecondary education**
  Vanessa Bal, Ph.D. & Evan Kleiman, Ph.D.
  Rutgers University - New Brunswick, Piscataway, New Jersey

- **Is Universal Suicide Screening in the ED Universally Effective? Considerations for Youth with ASD**
  Paige E. Cervantes, Ph.D. & Sarah M. Horwitz, Ph.D.
  Bellevue Hospital, New York, New York

- **Facing Your Fears On Campus**
  Brian Freedman, Ph.D. & Jessica Monahan, Ph.D.
  University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

- **Optimized Father Coaching to Advance Communication Skills for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**
  Michelle Flippin, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Adam Moore, Ph.D.
  University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island

- **Parents Taking Action to Improve Autism Services Access for Navajo Families in...**
Northern Arizona
Olivia Lindly, Ph.D., MPH
Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona

OAR is accepting applications for the 2021 Applied Research Competition from December 4, 2020 through March 22, 2021 at 11:59 PM ET. More information on the application process, including the Request for Proposals (RFP) and Budget Guidelines, can be accessed here.

For questions or comments, 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 website: www.researchautism.org.

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