



ORGANIZATION FOR AUTISM RESEARCH

History and Mission

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national non-profit founded in 2001. It uses research to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find answers to their immediate questions. OAR provides timely and relevant resources, funds studies that have the potential to enhance quality of life, and is an active partner in the autism community.

OAR's mission is to apply research to the challenges of autism.

Programs and Accomplishments

- Funded more than \$4 million in new autism research: supported over 200 pilot studies (\$3,717,789) and made grants to 161 graduate students (\$288,156)
- Awarded \$1,068,000 in total scholarships to 356 individuals with autism pursuing education at four-year and two-year colleges, trade schools, and life skills programs
- Published nine *Life Journey through Autism* guides to include guides on research, assessment, transition to adulthood, special education, safety; a *Guide for Military Families* for parents; and *An Educator's Guide to Autism*, *An Educator's Guide to Asperger Syndrome*, and *An Educator's Guide to ASD (Level 1 Supports)* for teachers.
- Created *Operation Autism*, www.operationautismonline.org, a website that provides 24/7 information for military families impacted by autism
- Introduced the "Autism in the Schoolhouse" initiative to promote peer acceptance (*Kit for Kids*) and teacher professional development ("Curriculum in a Box")
- Started the "Autism Sibling Support" initiative to help typically-developing children and teens develop positive relationships with their siblings on the spectrum
- Launched [Hire Autism](#), a national adult employment initiative that matches individuals with autism to employers and provides job coaching through the [Navigator](#) program.
- Released several new guides for job seekers with autism, including *A Guide to Job Searching*, *A Guide to Job Applications*, *A Guide to Resume Writing*, and *A Guide to Cover Letter Writing* through Hire Autism.
- Released *Finding Your Way: A College Guide for Students on the Spectrum*
- Launched an online sex education resource for individuals with autism

Near-Term Objectives

- Fund 8 applied research studies (\$320,000) in 2020
- Award 40 more scholarships to students with autism pursuing post-secondary education
- Update the *Guide for Transition to Adulthood*
- Expand the *Autism Sibling Support* initiative
- Continue the OAR webinar program

OAR is a charity dedicated to funding practical research into the challenges of autism. OAR is established in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia (EIN#54-2062167). As provided for under Virginia law, a copy of OAR's financial statements are available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in Richmond, VA. Donations to OAR are tax deductible.