OAR Awards 2021 Graduate Research Grants

ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2021 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 $17,599.68. With these grants, OAR has awarded over $305,755 in research grants to 171 graduate researchers since 2004.

The funding for two of these grants was provided through the generosity of Team Robby, a dedicated group of individuals who raised $55,000 for OAR in memory of Robby Schulz. Robby, who passed away last year in an accident at the age of 14, was an energetic, enthusiastic teenager who loved Minecraft, interacting with other people, and making jokes, especially puns. The funds raised by his family will be used to support an applied research study and four OAR scholarships in addition to two of these graduate grants.

OAR received 40 study proposals this year. Members of the OAR Scientific Council, a group of 20 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 2021 grant recipients:

Claudia Abbiati, University of Vermont and State Agricultural College
Communication is Movement: Speech and Gesture Motor Control and Coordination in Adolescents with Mild Autism

Rebecca Bradley, University of Arkansas
Emergency Service Use in Youth and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Predictors and Family Perspectives

Abigail Moretti, Rowan University
Pilot Study: The Acceptability and Feasibility of Virtual Parent Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Groups

Rose Morlino, University of Georgia

The Effect of Unit Price on Problem Behavior and Academic Compliance

Haven Niland, University of North Texas
Stimulus Prompts in Tablet-based Instruction: An Assessment with Children with Autism

Ciara Ousley, Pennsylvania State University
Coaching Families of Young Children with Autism and Minimal Speech in Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Strategies Using Video Feedback

Lauramarie Pope, Pennsylvania State University
Comparison of the Efficacy of Text-based vs Picture-based AAC Systems to Maximize Outcomes for Preschool Children with ASD

Ana Ramirez, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Perceptions of Bilingualism in Bilingual Autistic Children

Lindsay Rentschler, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Effectiveness & Feasibility of a Webinar-Based Daily Living Skills Intervention for Caregivers of Adolescents with Autism without Intellectual Disability

Sarah Wiegand, University of Georgia
Training Part C Providers to Screen for Autism Spectrum Disorder Using an Online Training Module: A Pilot Study

For inquiries regarding the Graduate Research Grant Program or for more information on the 2022 funding cycle, please contact OAR 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 spectrum disorders. 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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