



OAR Announces 2021 Applied Research Grant Recipients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2021

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 Applied Research Competition. The purpose of the program is to support innovative pilot studies that have the potential to improve the quality of life of families and individuals impacted by autism today. 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 five new grants totaling \$196,000. With these additions, OAR has awarded \$4.4 million in grants since 2002.

OAR received 137 pre-proposals during the first round. Of those, OAR invited 47 researchers to submit full proposals. Only 20 full proposals advanced to the final review. OAR's Scientific Council, a group of autism professionals from a variety of fields and backgrounds, reviewed and scored each proposal. In the end, they identified five studies as the most outstanding.

Congratulations to the 2021 applied grant recipients:

A Comparison of Simultaneous and Sequential Bilingualism in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Mirela Cengher, Ph.D., BCBA-D and Caio Miguel, Ph.D.
University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Baltimore, Maryland

Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Autistic Adults: The Role of Community and Social Connections

Brenna Maddox, Ph.D. and Dara Chan, ScD, CRC
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Improving Outcomes in Autism: Community Implementation of Stepped Transition in Education Program

Susan White, Ph.D.
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Contextual Behavioral Strategies to Help Parents Adhere to Behavior Plans for Children with Autism*

Craig William Strohmeier, Psy.D., BCBA-D
Hugo W. Moser Research Institute at Kennedy Krieger, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland

Amplifying Autistic Voices: Investigating the Impact of a Community-Based Public Speaking Program

Sasha Zeedyk, Ph.D. and Yasamin Bolourian, Ph.D.
California State University, Fullerton, California

* OAR thanks the Lisa Higgins Hussman Foundation for sponsoring Dr. Strohmeier's study on contextual behavioral strategies to help parents adhere to behavior plans for children autism.

The next applied research competition cycle opens on December 4, 2021.

OAR is accepting applications for the 2022 Applied Research Competition through March 22, 2021 at 11:59 PM ET. More information on the application process, including the Request for Applications (RFA) 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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