



## 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 \$4.4 million in new autism research: supported over 130 pilot studies (\$4,139,369) and made grants to 179 graduate students (\$305,755)
- Awarded \$1,522,500 in total scholarships to 503 autistic students 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; for parents; and *An Educator's Guide to Autism*, and *An Educator's Guide to ASD (Level 1 Supports)* for teachers
- Created unique resources for military families impacted by autism: [Operation Autism](#), a website that provides 24/7 access and *A Guide for Military Families*
- Introduced the [Kit for Kids](#) peer education program that has reached more than 160,000 students in the US and been translated into five languages to reach kids across the globe.
- 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
- Supported young, autistic adults with resources like *Finding Your Way: A College Guide for Students on the Spectrum* and an online sex education resource for individuals with autism
- Launched the new [Community Grant Competition](#) in partnership with the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health to empower autistic community members to create information resources to improve health outcomes and quality of life for autistic people

### Near-Term Objectives

- Fund 8 applied research studies (\$320,000) and 8 graduate research grants in 2022
- Award 60 scholarships to students with autism pursuing post-secondary education in 2023
- Expand the *Peer Education Grants Program*
- Expand the new *Community Grants Competition*
- Develop a Scholars' Society to connect and engage OAR scholarship winners past and present
- Develop additional resources to support autistic individuals' independence and quality of life

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 is 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.