OAR Announces 2023 Applied Research Grant Recipients

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 Applied Research Competition. This program, which will begin awarding up to $50,000 in 2024, offers grants to researchers and professionals conducting applied autism research. This year, OAR's Board of Directors authorized funding for eight new grants totaling $297,569. With these additions, OAR has surpassed more than $5 million awarded in grants since 2002.

OAR received 138 pre-proposals during the first round, and of those, OAR invited 54 researchers to submit full proposals. Nineteen full proposals advanced to the final review. OAR's Scientific Council, a group of autism professionals from various fields and backgrounds, reviewed and scored each proposal. In the end, they identified eight studies as the most outstanding.

Congratulations to the 2023 applied grant recipients:

ACT FASTT: A Virtual Toolkit to Support College Instructors of Autistic Students
Shannon Crowley LaPoint, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Morrisville, North Carolina

Barriers and Facilitators to Suicide Risk Screening and Management for Autistic Youth
Paige Cervantes, Ph.D.
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

Evaluating the Effects of Virtual Support Groups for Intersectional Autistic Individuals
Meredith Maroney, Ph.D.
University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, Massachusetts

Extending Direct Instruction to Students with ASD Using Speech-Generating Devices
Alice Shillingsburg, Ph.D., BCBA-D, and Sarah Frampton, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska

Feasibility and Efficacy of Assessing Child Preference for Feeding Treatment Using Choice Assessment
Laura Phipps, Ph.D.
Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska

Improving Access to Community-Based Occupations via a Rideshare Training Program
Stacey Reynolds, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, and Alissa Brooke, M.S., CRC, PBSF
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

A Pilot Trial of a Culturally Adapted Intervention to Prevent Self-harm in Young People with Autism
Nadia Shafique, M.D., and Nasim Chaudhry, Ph.D.
Foundation University Islamabad & Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning, Islamabad, Pakistan

A Randomized Controlled Trial of a Parent-Focused Sexuality Education Program for Autistic Youth
Lindsey DeVries, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver, Denver, Colorado

* OAR thanks the Lisa Higgins Hussman Foundation for generously supporting Dr. LaPoint's study.

OAR is accepting letters of intent for the 2024 Applied Research Competition through March 18, 2024 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 OAR at (571) 977-5391 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. 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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