2023 Graduate Research Grants Awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 6, 2023

Contact: Vivian Muhumuza, Grants and Programs Associate
(571)977-5391, research@researchautism.org

ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the winners of its 2023 Graduate Research Grants. This program, open to graduate students pursuing master’s or doctoral degrees, awards up to $1,000 and $2,000 to those conducting research related to autism as part of their graduate studies. This year, OAR is awarding nine grants totaling $16,312. With these grants, OAR has awarded over $322,067 in research grants to 188 graduate researchers since 2003.

OAR received 26 study proposals this year from graduate students across the United States. Members of the OAR Scientific Council, a group of 15 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 proposals were selected for funding.

Congratulations to the 2023 grant recipients:

**Justine Brennan, University of Alabama**
The Impact of Support on Mothers of Autistic Children

**Michal Cook, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
TEACCH Autism Gives (TAG): Development of a structured community service program for autistic adults

**Alan Gerber, Yale University**
A Novel In-Vivo Approach to Understanding Loneliness and Suicidality in Autistic Adolescents

**Lei Huang, University of Georgia**
Special Education Advocacy Training for Chinese Immigrant Families Who Have Children with Autism: A Pilot Study

**Hyeyoung Kim, The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles**
Korean American Parents' Experiences in Disclosing Their Child's Autism Diagnosis to The Affected Child
Casey Lewis, Oklahoma State University
*A Grounded Theory Approach to Exploring the Worlds of Chronically Ill Autistic Adults*

Setareh Moslemi, University of North Texas
*Evaluation of a Brief Podcast to Teach Caregivers to Use Positive Reinforcement with Their Child with Autism*

Jessica Smith, The Rector & Visitors of the University of Virginia
*A Blueprint for Building Capacity: Understanding Providers’ Barriers and Facilitators to Service Provision for Autistic Children*

Shuqi Yu, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
*How ethnicity and neurodiversity affect caregivers’ ideal affect: an exploratory study comparing Asian and European American parents of children with and without autism*

For inquiries regarding the Graduate Research Grant Program or for more information on the 2023 funding cycle, please [visit the website](http://www.researchautism.org) or contact OAR at 571-977-5391; e-mail [research@researchautism.org](mailto: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](http://www.researchautism.org).

###