



AUTISM SPEAKS ANNOUNCES MAJOR EXPANSION OF AUTISM TREATMENT NETWORK

Fifteen Sites in the U.S. and Canada Dedicated to the Care of Children and Adolescents with Autism

NEW YORK, NY (Dec 12, 2007) – Autism Speaks, the nation’s leading autism advocacy organization, today announced its Autism Treatment Network (ATN) would triple in size, expanding from five sites to fifteen sites across the United States and Canada. The ATN is a group of hospitals and medical centers dedicated to improving medical care for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and to standardizing the care those individuals receive.

The ATN’s multi-disciplinary approach includes collaboration among specialists in areas including, but not limited to, neurology, developmental pediatrics, child psychiatry, psychology, gastroenterology, genetics, metabolic disorders, and sleep disorders. The network aims to develop common clinical standards for medical care for individuals with ASD and to increase the pool of autism medical specialists through trainee mentorship and outreach to community-based physicians. As part of this effort, families receiving care at the sites can participate in a data registry that tracks children and adolescents receiving ongoing care at participating sites. The information in the database is a crucial part of developing the evidence to create and substantiate these clinical consensus standards.

“It is imperative that all children, no matter where they live, have access to excellent, evidence-based medicine,” said Autism Speaks President Mark Roithmayr. “The continuing expansion and funding of the ATN is a significant step in that direction.”

“This dramatic expansion of the Autism Treatment Network provides real opportunity to improve the quality of health care that children and youth with autism receive, and for more children to receive that care,” said Dr. James Perrin, Director, Clinical Coordinating Center, ATN, and Director, General Pediatrics, Massachusetts General Hospital for Children. “Developing common standards of medical care across fifteen sites will allow us to get answers to the questions parents ask about their children’s care much more quickly.”

The participating ATN sites are: University of Arkansas and Arkansas Children's Hospital (Little Rock, AR); Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program Northern California (San Jose, CA); University of Colorado Denver, School of Medicine and The Children’s Hospital (Denver, CO); Kennedy Krieger Institute and Marcus Institute (Baltimore, MD/Atlanta, GA); LADDERS/Mass General Hospital (Boston, MA); University of Missouri (Columbia, MO); Columbia University Medical Center (New York, NY); University of Rochester (Rochester, NY); Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (Cincinnati, OH); Bloorview Kids Rehab, Surrey Place Centre and The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, ON, Canada); Oregon Health & Science University (Portland, OR); University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA); Vanderbilt University Medical School (Nashville, TN); Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX); University of Washington (Seattle, WA).

The ATN began as a collaboration between the Northwest Autism Foundation in Oregon and Massachusetts General Hospital for Children in Boston. In 2005, the network was established with five founding sites that came together to establish multi-disciplinary practices for the evaluation and treatment of the underlying medical conditions associated with ASD. These sites currently provide services to approximately 2,000 new cases of ASD each year, and all have taken critical steps to broaden the services available to all children in these centers. The Autism Treatment Network merged with Cure Autism Now in 2006. In February 2007, Cure Autism Now merged with Autism Speaks.

To find out more about the Autism Treatment Network, or to get connected to a site in your area, email: atn@autismspeaks.org.

About Autism

Autism is a complex brain disorder that inhibits a person's ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by extreme behavioral challenges. Autism Spectrum Disorders are diagnosed in one in 150 children in the United States, affecting four times as many boys as girls. The diagnosis of autism has increased tenfold in the last decade. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have called autism a national public health crisis whose cause and cure remain unknown.

About Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks is dedicated to increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and cure for autism, and to advocating for the needs of affected families. It was founded in February 2005 by Suzanne and Bob Wright, the grandparents of a child with autism. Bob Wright is Vice Chairman, General Electric, and served as chief executive officer of NBC for more than twenty years. Autism Speaks has merged with both the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) and Cure Autism Now (CAN), bringing together the nation's three leading autism advocacy organizations. To learn more about Autism Speaks, please visit www.autismspeaks.org.

Participating Autism Treatment Network Sites

University of Arkansas and Arkansas Children's Hospital
Jill James, PhD
Eldon Schulz, MD
Jill Fussell, MD
Little Rock, AR

Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program Northern California
Lisa Croen, PhD
Pilar Bernal, MD
San Jose, CA

University of Colorado Denver, School of Medicine and
The Children's Hospital
Cordelia Robinson, PhD, RN
Ann Reynolds, MD
Susan Hepburn, PhD
Denver, CO

Kennedy Krieger Institute and Marcus Institute
Rebecca Landa, PhD
Stewart Mostofsky, MD
Baltimore, MD/Atlanta, GA

LADDERS/Mass General Hospital Margaret Bauman, MD Martha Herbert, MD, PhD	Boston, MA
University of Missouri Judith Miles, MD, PhD Stephen Kanne, PhD	Columbia, MO
Columbia University Medical Center Agnes Whitaker, MD Reet Sidhu, MD	New York, NY
University of Rochester Susan Hyman, MD Tristram Smith, PhD	Rochester, NY
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Patricia Manning-Courtney, MD Cynthia Molloy, MD, MS	Cincinnati, OH
Bloorview Kids Rehab, Surrey Place Centre and The Hospital for Sick Children Wendy Roberts, MD Alvin Loh, MD	Toronto, ON, Canada
Oregon Health & Science University Robert Steiner, MD Darryn Sikora, PhD	Portland, OR
University of Pittsburgh Nancy Minshew, MD Cynthia Johnson, PhD	Pittsburgh, PA
Vanderbilt University Medical School Wendy Stone, PhD Beth Malow, MD	Nashville, TN
Baylor College of Medicine Diane Treadwell-Deering, MD Daniel Glaze, MD	Houston, TX
University of Washington Bryan King, MD	Seattle, WA