



April 9, 2008

Dear Families:

The University of Washington Autism Center is pleased to announce that Dr. Stephen Dager has accepted the position of interim director of the UW Autism Center Clinical Program beginning April 1, 2008. Dr. Dager will join our leadership team of Dr. Milani Smith and Cathy Brock as the Autism Center continues to provide comprehensive, coordinated clinical services for children with autism and their families.

Dr. Dager has been involved in efforts to understand autism for a number of years. In fact, he worked with Dr. Geraldine Dawson here at the Autism Center with the Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism (CPEA) and Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment (STAART) grants. He is currently the UW principal investigator of the Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) consortium imaging grant studying infants at high risk for autism and principal investigator of imaging research as part of the UW ACE grant. At the national level, Dr. Dager is on a "vision panel" for the Department of Defense that decides policy on how best to spend money allocated by Congress for medical research studying autism. He is currently on the scientific advisory board for Autism Speaks, is a member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, and served on the scientific advisory board for the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR). He is on the editorial board for *Autism Research*, a newly created scientific journal, and was part of the scientific organizing committee for the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), which will be held in London in May 2008.

Dr. Dager, a psychiatrist by training, is a professor of radiology and a current research affiliate at the Center on Human Development and Disability. He is known as an outstanding professional who brings leadership and a spirit of collaboration in all of his work. His vision and skill will continue to promote the growth of the clinical program at the Autism Center and to enhance research activities. We are excited to have Dr. Dager join the Autism Center and look forward to continuing to serve you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Guralnick".

Michael J. Guralnick, Ph.D.
Director, Center on Human Development and Disability
Professor of Psychology and Pediatrics