



# News & Notes

## **Clinic Updates**

### **New Employees**



Welcome to our two new employees, Angela Belt, Scheduling Coordinator, and Amy de Kock, Intake Coordinator! Angela can be reached at 206-543-4255 or [belta2@uw.edu](mailto:belta2@uw.edu).

Amy can be reached at 206-616-8642 or [amyd8@uw.edu](mailto:amyd8@uw.edu). Angela and Amy are a great addition to our team!

### **Summer Camp Registration**

We are very pleased to announce the opening of registration for Apex Summer Camp 2014. Dates for our expanded 5-week day camp program are July 7<sup>th</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup>. The program runs Monday through Friday 9am-3pm, and focuses on building social and behavioral skills through group recreational activities. Campers ages 6-12 with an autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, as well as peers and siblings, are welcome to apply. More information is available at [www.apexsummercamp.org](http://www.apexsummercamp.org) or contact us at [apex@uw.edu](mailto:apex@uw.edu) or (206) 221-CAMP (2267).

### **Social Skills Groups**

The UW Autism Center is also excited to offer social skills groups for preschool children ages 3-5. Groups provide an individualized, supportive environment where students learn to connect with their peers and practice skills such as entering into play, interactive play, and turn-taking. Students meet once weekly for 10 weeks at the UW Autism Center. To maximize student participation, group size is limited. Call 1-877-408-UWAC for information and availability!

### **Save-the-Date**

The UW Autism Center will be hosting an Autism Awareness month event in our Seattle clinic the evening of Thursday, April 24th. As part of the event, we plan to offer hands-on workshops and "ask the expert" question and answer sessions. Stay tuned for more details!

## **Research Updates**

### **New Research Funding**

The UW Autism Center and the Seattle Children's Research Institute are launching a collaborative research project under the direction of Drs. John Welsh and UW Autism Center Director, Annette Estes, with UW Autism Center researchers Drs. Jeffrey Munson and Stephen Dager. The grant from the National Institutes of Health will enable them to investigate brain function through a novel approach called eye-blink conditioning in children age 8-12 who have participated in previous UWAC research studies.

### **New Finding: Reducing Parent Stress**

Drs. Annette Estes, Jessica Greenson, Jeffrey Munson, former ESDM research team lead, Dr. Jamie Winter, and former UW Autism Center director, Dr. Geraldine Dawson, were recently published in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders for their work on the impact of a parent-coaching intervention on parenting-related stress and sense of competence. Results of the study suggested that a parent-coaching intervention may help maintain parental adjustment directly after a child is diagnosed with ASD. Congratulations, Dr. Estes and colleagues!

### **Uncovering Connections Conference**

UW Autism Center researcher and former director, Dr. Stephen Dager, was a keynote speaker on Imaging Advances in Autism as part of a trans-NIH conference, Uncovering Connections, sponsored by the American Academy of Radiology Research held on 2/3/2014 in Bethesda, Maryland. More information about the conference is available at <http://www.acadrad.org/event/conference-agenda/>

## **Training and Outreach Updates**

### **Facebook**



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