



Center on Human Development and Disability

University of Washington Autism Center

September 2019

Congratulations to **Drs. Estes, St. John, and Dager** for their recent publication in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), ***What to Tell a Parent Who Worries a Young Child Has Autism***. This article, aimed at physicians, includes the emerging knowledge of ASD presentation in young children, and the benefits of a timely diagnosis.



The UW Autism Center is actively recruiting participants as part of our collaboration in the multicenter Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS). We are seeking **infants ages 0-6 months** who have an older sibling on the autism spectrum. In addition, IBIS is currently seeking participants with **Down Syndrome ages 0-6 months**, as well as school-aged children with **Down Syndrome ages 7-11 years**. Participants of each of these studies will complete developmental testing, as well as participate in MRI scans without the use of sedation. **Will McCloud, Ed.S.**, pictured to the left, preparing participants for a scan.

Interested families may call us at **1.877.408.UWAC**, or **[follow this link for more information on how you can be involved.](#)**

Upcoming Trainings



Our Training & School Services team is excited to announce two upcoming webinars in September: Introduction to [Neurodiversity and Autism Acceptance for Professionals](#) and [Supporting Secondary-Aged Students with ASD: 8 Tips for an Inclusive Classroom](#). Educators and other professionals who work with autistic clients, patients, and students are encouraged to participate from the comfort of their workplace or home!

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Family Camp for Exceptional Families

YMCA Camp Orkila, in collaboration with the UW Autism Center and the [APEX Program](#) is excited to host a Family Camp for Exceptional Families October 11-13th. This program provides an opportunity for families of all shapes, sizes and abilities to unwind and reconnect away from the pressures of busy life. Camp activities include arts and crafts, boating, archery, the giant swing, and climbing wall. Visit the [YMCA website](#) for more information about this weekend for all ages in the inspiring natural beauty of Orcas Island.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

UW Autism Symposium



Our UW Autism Center Training Team presented to packed houses at both our Seattle and Tacoma locations for our UW Autism Symposium. This year, we were proud to present "Supporting Diverse Populations within the Autism Spectrum in School Settings." Our team was delighted to offer this symposium at no cost to the educators and providers in attendance. Participants enjoyed presentations from **Dr. Natasha Lewis Harrington** (pictured above), **Dr. Kawena Begay**, **Jim Engracia, M.A. CCC-SLP**, and **Kathryn Holley, M.Ed., BCBA**.



The UW Autism Center is proud to highlight our [Autism Stories](#) project! We invite 2 people to have a conversation about how their lives have been touched by autism, and we audio-record these conversations so that others may hear. UWAC Autism Stories has featured both autistic people and their families. Enjoy a listen of our complete series [on our website!](#) Do you have an Autism Story to

share? If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact Dr. Kelly Johnson at uwautism@uw.edu.

UW Tacoma

The **UWAC Short Term Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program** is a 12 week comprehensive intensive early intervention program for children up to 5 years, 11 months, with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The program will include empirically supported ABA therapy

sessions 4 days per week for 3 hours per day. A comprehensive multidisciplinary approach is utilized, such that additional expertise (e.g., speech therapy) is incorporated into the programming. Embedded within these 12 weeks will be parent coaching with the supervising Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), observation and direct intervention time with the Certified Behavior Technician (BT), parent group coaching with Licensed Clinical Psychologist, and meetings with parent advocate for transition planning.



Goals of Program

- To offer an initial foundation of evidence based, high-quality ABA services to more families in the area waiting to receive comprehensive services currently on long wait lists.
- To provide families with tools for success focusing on strength based strategies that build lasting skills to reach their highest potential.
- To empower families with the ability and confidence to participate in their communities and other environments.

Contact our UW Tacoma Clinic

Employee Spotlights

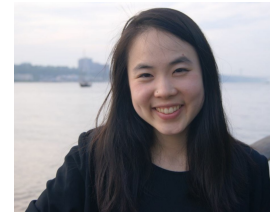


This summer we thank **Dr. Kawena Begay** and **Hayley Waltz, M.S., BCBA** for their years of outstanding service with the UWAC as they move on to new opportunities. Our staff also rose a glass to **Robin Finlayson, M. Ed., BCBA** in celebration of her upcoming wedding!



Congratulations to **Dr. Kelly Johnson** for 20 years at the University of Washington! The UWAC is fortunate to have Dr. Johnson as a clinical psychologist supporting both our clinic and research. Dr. Johnson has touched so many lives with her work with children, families, students, and colleagues in the field. We are deeply grateful to have her on staff.

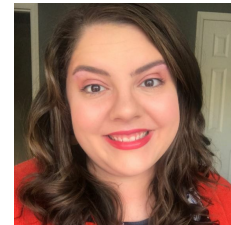
Vanessa Zhou, M.S. is a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at Seattle Pacific University currently completing a practicum at the UW Autism Center focused on assessment. Her research focuses on the influence of culture on executive functioning in autistic preschoolers. She is also interested in improving service quality and access for underserved families of individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities.



Sara Julsrud is a graduate student in the PsyD program at Northwest University. She is completing a practicum at the UW Autism Center. She is also an art therapist and Minnesota Vikings fan –Skol!

Taylor Saunders is a Behavior Technician at our UWAC Tacoma campus, and graduate student at UW Tacoma. A message from Taylor:

"Hello, my name is Taylor and I am a Behavior Technician at UWAC Tacoma. In addition to my work as a BT I am completing my practicum at the clinic. I am in the final year of my Master of Social Work program at UWT (class of 2020). I am also a Simon Family Endowment Fellow which means I am particularly interested in working with adults with autism. Much of my previous experience has been working with adults with autism and other intellectual/developmental disabilities. Creating and improving services for adults with ASD is one of my passions, so I am excited to learn from and collaborate with you!"



Joelle Dela Cruz is a Behavior Technician and soon-to-be graduate student at UW Tacoma. A message from Joelle:
"My name is Joelle Dela Cruz, and I am a behavior technician for the Tacoma clinic! I received my Bachelor of Arts in Social Welfare from the University of Washington Tacoma this year, and will pursue an MSW here in the fall. During my Bachelor's program, I was able to receive practicum experience through the UW Autism Center. I look forward to working with all of you!"

Jyssica Seebeck, M.S. is a graduate student in the Clinical Psychology program at Seattle Pacific University. She is completing a practicum at the UW Autism Center.



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