

# Spring 2021 Newsletter



UW AUTISM CENTER  
CENTER ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & DISABILITY  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



## Research

Congratulations to **Dr. Annette Estes** who received a National Institutes of Health grant for a project titled *Sleep, Brain Development, and Behavioral Correlates in a Longitudinal Cohort of Children at Risk for ASD*. This study builds upon many years of work by the **IBIS team** and will be conducted in collaboration with the Department of Nursing and Radiology and across multiple universities in the US and Canada. [You can read more about the project here.](#)

Congratulations **Dr. Bonnie Lau** who was also recently awarded a grant to help identify how speech processing in both ears relates to understanding speech in noisy environments to target new treatments for auditory processing disorder in children with autism.

**Dr. Ben Aaronson** and **Will McCloud, EdS** from UWAC's APEX Summer Camp were recently published along with colleagues in JAMA Network Open. *Assessment of Feasibility of Face Covering in School-Aged Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder* was also featured in this release from UW Medicine.

**Drs. Kate MacDuffie, Annette Estes, Lucas Harrington** and colleagues published "Presymptomatic Detection and Intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorder" in the journal *Pediatrics*. Drs. MacDuffie, Estes and colleagues also published "The Ethics of Predicting Autism Spectrum Disorder in Infancy" in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*. Both publications consider emerging evidence that autism can be predicted from brain changes observed in infancy, and anticipate the clinical, ethical, and social impacts of identification and intervention in the first year of life.

**Congratulations to our UWAC colleagues!**

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# Spring Webinars

Are you interested in the webinars that the UWAC is offering but can't make the specific date and time? Now, with the help of technology, we are excited to be able to increase access to our trainings by offering recorded webinars. You can view a recorded version of the live webinar when it's most convenient for you! You can also go back and re-watch the recording as many times as you want within a 30-day period. Just be sure you register for the webinar by the date of the training. The recording will be available following the live event.

The UWAC is proud to be an approved ACE provider for the BACB. We will be offering several webinars with CEUs for BCBA's. Topics include Incorporating Principles of Neurodiversity into ABA Practice, Structuring Parent Coaching for Success, and more. Please check out our trainings on our website and stay tuned for more webinars for BCBA's this summer.

*Please note that not all webinars will be recorded and not all webinars will offer BACB CEUs. Check details of each training.*

[See upcoming trainings!](#)

## Sleep Clinic

The UW Autism Center Sleep Clinic has had a busy quarter! We are wrapping up the latest 'Early Birds with Robin' group for parents of children with ASD and sleep problems. We presented data on this work at two conferences this year; 'The Effects of Group-Based Parent Coaching on Sleep in Children with Autism' at the *Applied Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Autism* conference and 'Bedtime Resistance and Parent Stress' at the *International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)* conference.



Our sleep research and clinic teams aim to find feasible and effective ways to help families of children with ASD get a better night's sleep. In the clinic, we conduct home sleep evaluations and develop individualized recommendations for families. We also provide group-based coaching on sleep for families through our 'Early Birds with Robin Sleep Support Group'. If you are interested in learning more or pursuing a sleep evaluation, please contact us at [uwautism.com](http://uwautism.com) or [\(206\) 221-6806](tel:2062216806).

[Learn More](#)

## UWAC Autism Stories

The UWAC Autism Stories Project is an idea inspired by StoryCorps, based on the belief that everyone has an important story to share, and that these stories connect and strengthen us. The most recent episode comes to us from Brazil and features Thiago, a sixteen-year-old autistic artist, and Adriano, his English teacher. Thiago speaks on his love of drawing, the inspiration for his art, and his message to other autistic people: "Love yourself." You can find Thiago's story and more on the Autism Stories page of 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](mailto:uwautism@uw.edu).

## Spring High School Interns from Seattle Academy



Ruby Desai notes she "is excited for the opportunity to intern at such an amazing institution." Next year she plans to go to Texas Christian University, and will major in Psychology on the pre-med track. Her favorite part of this internship so far has been observing the sleep groups and asking questions.



Anna Kendall will be attending Tufts University in the fall and plans on majoring in cognitive and brain science. Her goal is to go to medical school and become a neurosurgeon. So far, Anna's favorite part of the internship has been helping build research kits to send to families participating in project ECHO; a study on environmental exposures and child development.



Halle Janssen will be attending Boston College and is interested in learning more about medicine. Halle has especially enjoyed learning about the IBIS sleep study and putting together IBIS-ECHO kits!

## Community Opportunities

### **Study on Neurodiversity and Intervention**

The concept of neurodiversity – and its implications for autism supports and interventions – continues to be actively debated by stakeholders in the autism world. Researchers at UC Davis are interested in learning about the opinions of autism stakeholders regarding these topics. Stakeholders include autistic people/people with autism (formally diagnosed or self-identified) and their family members, as well as professionals, clinicians, and researchers working in the autism field.

As long as you accept cookies, it is possible to leave the survey and return to it up to a week later if you use the same browser and computer.

Participants in this study have the option of entering a random drawing with a 1 in 25 chance of winning a \$25 Amazon gift card. The survey should take about 30-60 minutes to complete.

Please contact Patrick Dwyer ([psdwyer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:psdwyer@ucdavis.edu)) if you have any questions about this study.

Survey Link: [https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8227gTZMioA77SZ](https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8227gTZMioA77SZ)



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