



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

Center on Human Development and Disability

University of Washington Autism Center

June 2019



The UW Autism Center is delighted to announce that the UW, as part of a multicenter research collaboration, has been awarded a five-year NIH grant to fund a replication of our Infant Brain Imaging Study and confirm the scientific validity of imaging-based early prediction of autism at 6 months of age! Our study will conduct brain scans and developmental assessments with 250 infants who have an older sibling with autism, looking for subtle brain differences that can predict risk of developing ASD.

[Check out the article for more information about IBIS!](#)

[IBIS was featured on KUOW Seattle - listen to the segment here!](#)

More information on how you can be involved!

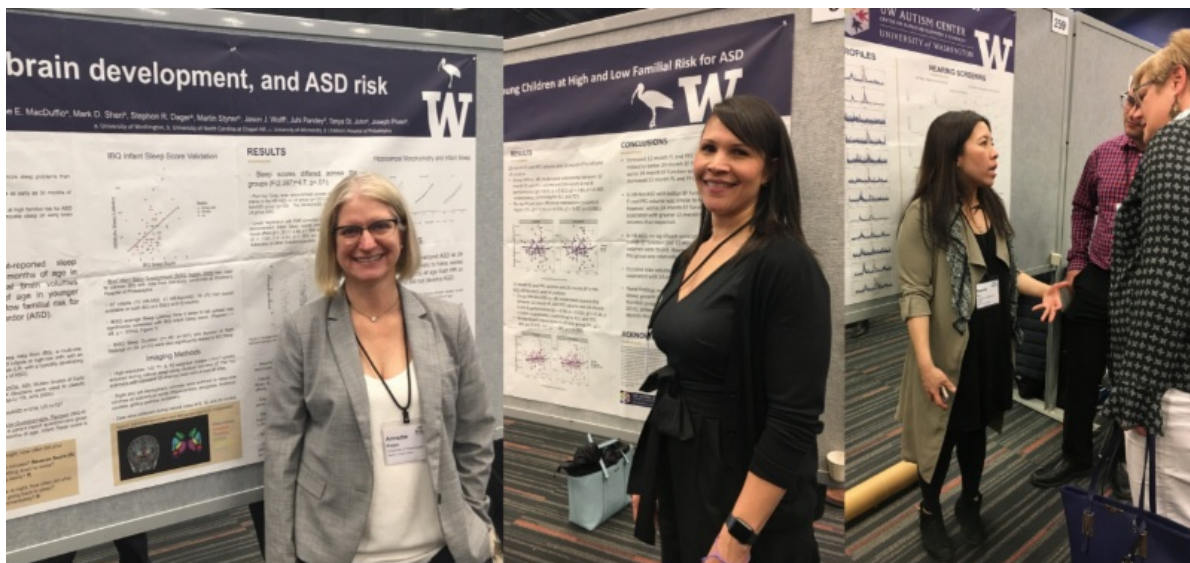


The Access to On-Time Intervention project is a collaborative effort between the UW Autism Center and the Haring Center for Inclusive Education, bringing together the expertise of these two organizations to improve children's access to clinical resources when autism symptoms first emerge.

Starting early with high-quality intervention can lead to better outcomes. But children often receive a diagnosis of autism after 4 years of age even though, in most cases, it is possible to diagnose ASD by 24 months of age. This project will establish a framework to help families navigate the complicated healthcare system and help community service providers offer better autism services to children in need.

We are so grateful to the Sunderland family highlighted in [this article and video](#) who provided the resources to make this project possible!

International Society for Autism Research



Several of our UWAC research team presented at the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) annual meeting in Montreal, Canada earlier this month. In attendance were **Dr. Estes, St. John, and Lau** (pictured above), **MacDuffie, and Aaronson**. We are proud of the contributions to autism research put forth by the UWAC, our greater UW family, and our colleagues across the globe.

Summer Trainings



Registration is now open for UW Autism Center summer 2019 trainings! These trainings are designed for parents, educators, and providers supporting individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). OSPI clock hours available for most trainings for an additional fee.

We hope to see you at one of our workshops this summer!

REGISTER NOW

Employee Spotlights

Cassie Borges, M.Ed., BCBA, is a behavior and education consultant at the UW Autism Center in Tacoma.

Cassie graduated from the University of Washington in 2016 with a teaching certification and Masters in Education focusing on early childhood special education and Applied Behavior Analysis. During the program, Cassie obtained her practicum and student teaching experience at the Experimental Education Unit. Cassie became a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and licensed in the state of Washington in 2018.



Cassie's areas of interest include early intervention, community outreach, as well as, parent and teacher training with the goal of empowering children, families, schools, and communities with the tools for success. Cassie is excited to provide evidence based and high quality ABA services in the Tacoma area.



Jesse Tibbits has been with the UWAC for two years. For fun she likes to play board games, read, and explore the great outdoors of the Pacific Northwest when the weather allows it. Her favorite ice cream flavor is matcha peach from Molly Moons.

About Jesse, a parent said: "I just know how overwhelming and hard his meltdowns can be and how tricky things are when he's having a hard time but I was so impressed with how calm and in control of the situation she was."

Former UWAC social work practicum trainee, **Yaxu Aimme Zhang**, is graduating in June with her MSW from the University of Washington!

In July, she will start working as a Recovery Services Counselor with the Asian Counseling and Referral Service. Her team is contracted with King County's Community Center for Alternative Programs, providing mental



health and substance use treatment to address individuals' crime-related behaviors in lieu of incarceration.



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