

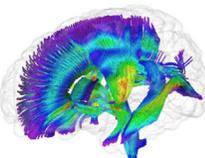


News & Notes

Research News

Brain differences found at 6 months in infants who later develop autism

Two UW Autism Center researchers, **Stephen Dager**, M.D. and **Annette Estes**, Ph.D., are co-authors on a multisite study of brain development in 92 infants who have older siblings with autism. The study used brain imaging to identify white matter fiber tracts (connections) throughout the brain in this group of infants at elevated genetic risk for autism. Results revealed that infants who developed autism had different patterns of white matter development relative to those who did not. These results have potential implications for identifying early biomarkers for autism, and also suggest that autism affects the whole brain (rather than a specific region) at this young age. This study was conducted by the IBIS Network and is published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.



Clinical News

Welcome, Eileen!



We are pleased to welcome **Eileen Klein Feldman**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, to our team as a new Behavior and Education Consultant. Dr. Feldman obtained her doctoral degree in Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology from UC-Santa Barbara under the mentorship of Drs. Robert and Lynn Koegel, and completed her pre-doctoral internship at The Kennedy Krieger Institute of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She has extensive training and experience using Pivotal Response Treatment with children with ASD in home, school, and community settings. Her work has focused on enhancing communication, social skills, play skills, and pro-social behaviors while decreasing maladaptive behaviors. Additionally, Dr. Feldman has provided parent education, overseen home-based programs, trained and supervised behavioral tutors, and consulted to school districts. For more information about Dr. Feldman's services or to schedule an appointment, please call the UW Autism Center clinic at 206.221.6806.

New Stepping Stones Program Begins

Stepping Stones is a new program at the UW Autism Center designed specifically for families of young children who have been recently diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Saturday afternoon workshops are offered in small groups to provide families with tips and activities for understanding and interacting with their children. Our first workshop was held on March 31, 2012. Parents enjoyed the small group setting, opportunities to network with other parents, the focus on real life situations, and the friendly, informative instructors. Upcoming workshops are scheduled for July 14 and October 13, 2012. For more information, see our [website](#) or contact [Ashley Berger Penney](#) at 206.221.5232.

Outreach News

Autism Awareness Month Kickoff Event



The UW Autism Center kicked off Autism Awareness Month with a question-and-answer session hosted by

a panel of specialists in pediatric neurology, psychology, speech-language pathology, and behavior therapy. The panel addressed questions on a range of topics, including the proposed changes to DSM-5, using iPads with children with autism, and how to improve bedtime routines and sleep habits. Check our [website](#) for a schedule of other free AAM activities throughout the month.

SSAP Conference a Success

The South Sound Autism Partnership's inaugural conference and resource fair in Tacoma was a huge success! There were over 200 participants, including parents and family members, clinical professionals, educators, and individuals with ASD. The event offered presentations addressing lifespan issues, provided networking opportunities, and displayed information about community resources. Feedback from the attendees was positive and many requested that this conference be an annual event. Many thanks to the sponsors, presenters, and volunteers who made this event possible!