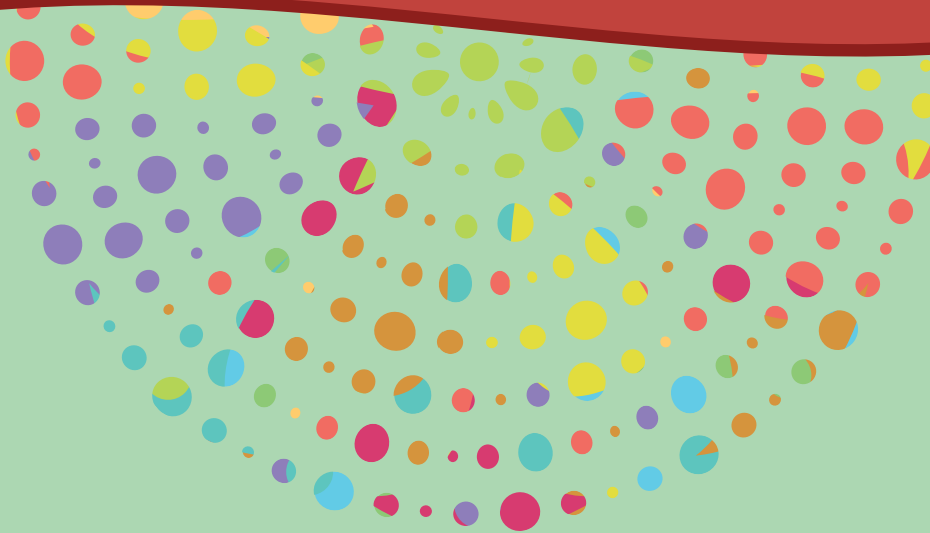


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10TH ANNIVERSARY



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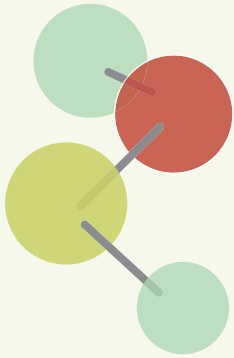
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The Autism Science Foundation provides funding directly to scientists conducting cutting-edge autism research to discover the causes of autism and develop better treatments. We also provide information about autism to the general public and support the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

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VENTURES



Caryn Schwartzman Spirit
AWARD WINNERS



Amy Ursitti

Amy is incredibly honored to receive the Caryn Schwartzman Spirit Award this year! She is personally connected to autism through her younger brother Jack, who was diagnosed with autism when he was two. Jack has served as her greatest inspiration in life so far, driving her to pursue research as an undergraduate at Emory University in Atlanta on pain and sensory sensitivity in adolescents with autism, and to serve as the president of Emory Best Buddies. Since graduating in 2022, Amy has been working as a clinical research coordinator at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, in the Neuroimaging of Mind-Body Interaction and Treatment (NoMBIT) Lab. Outside of work, she enjoys running and is currently training for the 2023 Boston Marathon as a charity runner for Nashoba Learning Group, a school for individuals with autism that her brother has attended for the past 15 years. Amy hopes to pursue a career in medicine in the future.

PAST WINNERS

●
2011
Pat
Schissel

●
2012
Allyson
Schwartzman

●
2013
Mark
Krinsky

●
2014
Dr. Paul
Offit

●
2015
Gregg &
Lori Ireland

●
2016
Erin Lopes
& Tim Bak



Judith Ursitti

Judith Ursitti is vice president of government affairs for Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP). A CPA by training, she spent a decade working in the field of tax accounting. Judith became immersed in autism advocacy when her son, Jack, was diagnosed at age 2. Since his diagnosis, she has worked on the passage, implementation and enforcement of autism-related legislation nationwide at the state and federal levels. Judith has worked for Autism Speaks as their director of state government affairs for over a decade and served on the Massachusetts Autism Commission, where she co-chaired the Commission’s 14-22/Employment Subcommittee. She is the recipient of the Margaret Bauman, MD Award for Excellence within the Autism Community, the Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts Commitment to Advocacy Award, the Autism Advocacy in Action Award from the Long Island Behavior Analysis Conference, the Champion Award from the Autism Insurance Resource Center, and the Oklahoma Autism Network’s Excellence in Autism Award. She has also run 10 marathons, including seven Boston’s, fundraising for various autism-related charities.

Judith lives with her family in Dover, MA, where she co-chairs the Dover Sherborn Special Education Parent Advisory Council. She recently co-founded the Profound Autism Alliance with her family to promote targeted research, advocacy and services for those with autism and severe/profound intellectual disability.



Judith and Amy Ursitti attending AAP

●
2017

Liane
Carter

●
2018

Marjorie
Madfis
Jonah &
Ellen Zimiles

●
2019

Bryan &
Melissa
Harkins

●
2020

Scott
Badesch

●
2021

Feda
Almaliti
Elise & Phil
Orlando

●
2022

Samantha
Els
Suzanne
Wright



Evdokia Anagnostou

Dr. Anagnostou is a child neurologist and professor of pediatrics at the University of Toronto, and assistant director of Holland Bloorview Research Institute. As a senior clinician scientist, she co-leads the Autism Research Centre (ARC) at Holland Bloorview and University of Toronto. She holds a Canada Research Chair in translational therapeutics in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the Dr. Stuart D. Sims Chair in autism at Holland Bloorview. Dr. Anagnostou has received extensive international funding to understand the underlying biological differences associated with ASD and other neurodevelopmental differences, and translate

such understandings into potential novel interventions. She also has funding in health system innovation, stakeholder engagement, and in understanding the meaning and impact of ASD in marginalized populations. Dr. Anagnostou serves on multiple government committees on improving diagnostic and intervention pathways, and several editorial boards and grant review panels. She has also been recognized for her contributions to training young clinicians and scientists, and for her commitment to women in STEM. She currently represents the America Region – North on the INSAR Global Senior Leaders committee.



William Bennet, Jr.

Dr. Bennett is the father of a 7-year-old with ASD and Phelan-McDermid syndrome. He is also a pediatric gastroenterologist and clinical researcher at Indiana University School of Medicine. His work involves digestive health in individuals with ASD and neurodevelopmental disorders, integration of mental and behavioral health services into subspecialty care, and automation of gastrointestinal diagnoses and decision support using artificial intelligence. He serves on the medical and scientific advisory boards for the Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation, on the PCORI CEDS Advisory Board, and is director of

the Child Health Improvement Research Development Laboratory (CHIRDL) and scientific director of the Indiana CTSI Patient Engagement Core at Indiana University.



Connor Kerns

Dr. Kerns is an associate professor in clinical psychology and director of the Anxiety Stress and Autism Program (ASAP) at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. Her research is focused on enhancing the functioning and well-being of autistic individuals by improving our understanding and ability to detect, prevent and treat anxiety and stress-related disorders (including post-traumatic stress disorder) in children on the autism spectrum. To support her research, Dr. Kerns has received private and federal funding, including early career development awards from NICHD and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. She has published and presented internationally on her

findings and was recently awarded the UBC Killam Research Prize. Dr. Kerns has served on federal advisory boards in both the U.S. and Canada to inform autism-related public policy, particularly related to mental health.



Ana Kostic

Dr. Kostic is an associate professor of psychiatry at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and the director of drug discovery and development at the Seaver Autism Center for Research and Treatment. Dr. Kostic is a clinical scientist with expertise in drug development, biomarkers, patient selection and stratification. The main focus of her research is to identify potential drug candidates for treatment of autism, design experimental strategies for testing in neuronal cell systems and animal models, as well as to discover and validate molecular biomarkers in autism. Specifically, her group is interested in ADNP, DDX3X, FOXP1 and Phelan-McDermid syndromes,

common single-gene causes of autism. Prior to joining Mount Sinai, Dr. Kostic spent 11 years in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry working in various roles across preclinical, clinical and precision medicine at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, and as senior director of translational medicine at Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals. She received her Ph.D. and postdoctoral training in molecular and cell biology at Columbia University.



Kelsey C. Martin

Dr. Martin is the executive vice president of the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) and the Simons Foundation Neuroscience Collaborations. In this role, she supports large-scale basic, translational and clinical neuroscience research around the globe. Dr. Martin is also a professor of biological chemistry and psychiatry at UCLA, where her research lab studies the molecular and cell biology of long-term memory, with a focus on how experience alters gene expression to change connectivity between neurons. Deeply committed to academic medicine, Dr. Martin served as dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA from 2015-2021. As dean, she

established programs in precision health and computational medicine, founded a master's program in genetic counseling, and developed a series of interdepartmental research initiatives spanning basic through clinical research. After receiving a BA in English from Harvard, Dr. Martin was a public health Peace Corps volunteer in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She then pursued MD-Ph.D. training at Yale University, receiving her MD and her Ph.D. in molecular biophysics and biochemistry in 1992. She undertook postdoctoral training in neurobiology with Nobel laureate Eric Kandel at Columbia University and joined the UCLA faculty in 1999. Dr. Martin was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine in 2016.



James C. McPartland

Dr. McPartland is the Harris professor of child psychiatry and psychology at the Yale Child Study Center. He is a practicing child psychologist and director of the Yale Developmental Disabilities Clinic. Dr. McPartland is director of the Yale Center for Brain and Mind Health and the principal investigator of the Autism Biomarkers Consortium for Clinical Trials, a U.S.-based effort to identify biomarkers to support intervention research in autism. Dr. McPartland's program of research investigates the brain bases of neurodevelopmental conditions to develop biologically-based tools to improve clinical care and quality of life for autistic people and their families.



Nicole Rosen

Nicole Rosen is a fourth-year doctoral student at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) working under the mentorship of Dr. Catherine Lord. Nicole's research interests include examining the bidirectional relationship between autistic individuals and their siblings on development across the lifespan. Specifically, her work has explored the impact of sibling factors, including birth order, gender, gender match, and diagnostic profile, on trajectories of adaptive behavior, autism symptoms, and challenging behaviors among autistic individuals across time. Additionally, Nicole and Dr. Lord have led ASF's Next Generation

Siblings study at UCLA, aimed at understanding the influence of autistic individuals on the experiences, future family planning decisions, and research interests of non-affected siblings and spouses through engaging in focus groups and individual interviews. To complement these areas of research interest, Nicole works clinically with autistic individuals and their families across the lifespan using evidence-based interventions to support the broader family unit and to enhance well-being. Nicole is excited to share the findings from the Next Generation Siblings study with you all as well as future directions for sibling research in autism!



Zack Williams

Zack Williams is an autistic MD/Ph.D. candidate in the Neuroscience Graduate Program and Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University. He is also an affiliate of the Vanderbilt University Frist Center for Autism and Innovation, co-chair of the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P) Autistic Researchers Review Board, co-chair of the INSAR Autistic Researchers Committee, and an autism consultant for Roche. Zack's research focuses on the sensory manifestations of autism in adulthood, the assessment and treatment of co-occurring physical and mental health problems

in autistic adults, and the development of novel questionnaires and clinical measures to assess core and associated features of autism across the lifespan. You can follow him on Twitter at @QuantPsychiatry.

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Els for Autism Foundation was established in 2009 by Liezl and Ernie Els. The Els' son, Ben, is impacted by autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The Foundation's global mission is to transform the lives of people with autism and those who care for them through lifetime services and collaborative partnerships.

Els for Autism is proud to partner with the Autism Science Foundation to support the lives of siblings of individuals with ASD through our Sam's Sibs Stick Together program. We are grateful to have Samantha Els as the ambassador of this program.

To learn more, visit:
elsforautism.org & samssibssticktogether.com

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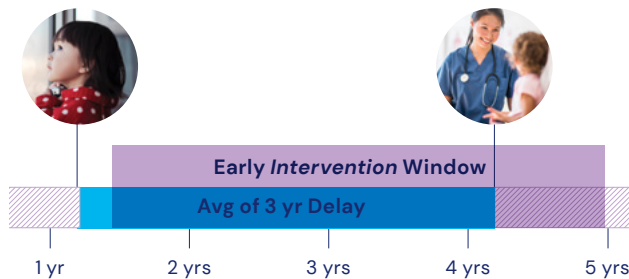
Canvas Dx is the first FDA-authorized tool that helps your doctor to diagnose or rule out Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in children between the ages of 18 and 72 months at risk of developmental delay based on concerns of a parent, caregiver or doctor.

Early Autism Diagnosis and Intervention is an Opportunity for Your Child

For the last 20 years, the average age of autism diagnosis has remained unchanged at 4 years and 2 months. An average delay of 3 years between initial parent concerns and diagnosis.

14 mos
Parental
first concern

4 yrs 2 mos
Avg diagnosis



Delays in diagnosis can result in missed opportunities during a critical time for your child's development. **But that could soon change.**

Early diagnosis and treatment of children with autism can result in improved outcomes, helping families to build upon their children's specific strengths.

Indications for Use

Canvas Dx is intended for use by healthcare providers as an aid in the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for patients ages 18 months through 72 months who are at risk for developmental delay based on concerns of a parent, caregiver, or healthcare provider. The device is not intended for use as a stand-alone diagnostic device but as an adjunct to the diagnostic process. The device is for prescription use only (Rx only).

For more information and detailed Indication for Use visit CanvasDx.com.

Introducing Canvas Dx

Canvas Dx utilizes new technology that has been fine-tuned using data from thousands of children at risk for developmental delays, and may help diagnose children with autism **1½ years earlier** than the average age of diagnosis.

Canvas Dx is simple to use, after downloading the Canvas Dx App:

- Step 1** You will fill out a short questionnaire on your child's behavior and development
- Step 2** You will record and upload two (2) short videos of your child playing and interacting at home with toys and other people
- Step 3** A questionnaire will be completed by your child's doctor

Once the 3 steps are completed, Canvas Dx produces a result to help your child's doctor diagnose or rule out autism.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2023 Caryn Schwartzman Spirit Award Recipients

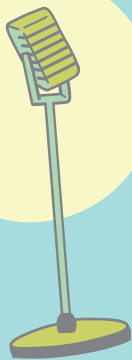


JUDITH URSITTI & AMY URSITTI

The Council of Autism Service Providers is proud of our Vice President of Government Affairs Judith Ursitti and her brilliant daughter Amy Ursitti for their sustained outstanding advocacy on behalf of people with autism. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition from the Autism Science Foundation.

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CASP The Council of Autism
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10.28.23

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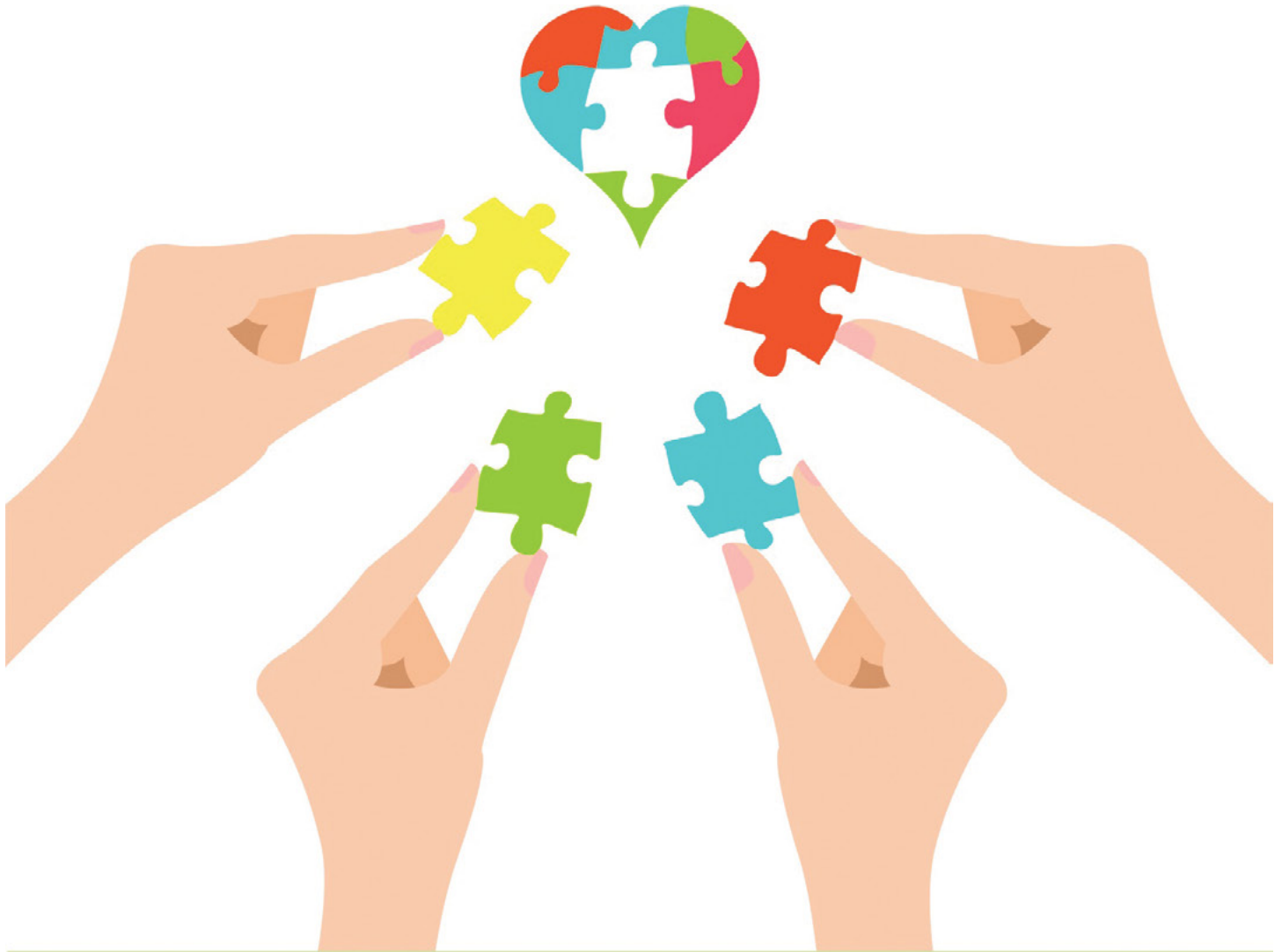
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Maelyn Fulton, Fabiana Casis and the
BSRC Communication Committee



To learn more see:

Charman, T., Young, G. S., Brian, J., Carter, A., Carver, L. J., Chawarska, K., Curin, S., Dobkins, K., Elsabbagh, M., Georgiades, S., Hertz-Picciotto, I., Hutman, T., Iverson, J. M., Jones, E. J., Landa, R., Macari, S., Messinger, D. S., Nelson, C. A., Ozonoff, S., Saulnier, C., ... Zwaigenbaum, L. (2017). Non-ASD outcomes at 36 months in siblings at familial risk for autism spectrum disorder (ASD): A baby siblings research consortium (BSRC) study. *Autism research: official journal of the International Society for Autism Research*, 10(1), 169–178. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aur.1669>

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