

June 3, 2011

Join Our Mailing List!



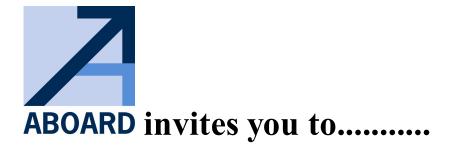
Advisory Board on Autism & Related Disorders

412.781.4116 or toll free: 800.827.9385

ABOARD'S MISSION:

There is considerable debate throughout the autism community about the cause of autism and issues such as vaccination, diet, inclusion, and appropriate therapies. Legislative acts can also influence services to those with autism. Our policy is to inform. We trust that individuals will assimilate the information we provide and make the best decision for their children and clients.

The entire mission statement can be found at http://aboard.web.officelive.com/aboutus.aspx



AUTISM OUTDOORS!

Saturday, June 11th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Rain or Shine! At Allegheny Commons Park next to Lake Elizabeth (behind the National Aviary) on Pittsburgh's North Side.

A FREE event provided by Venture Outdoors for people with autism and their families. Activities will include:

KAYAKING - CLIMBING WALL - BIKING - GEOCACHING (treasure hunting with GPS)









Snacks and drinks provided RSVP not required, but appreciated to help us arrange for enough supplies.

To register go to www.aboard.org

To volunteer or sponsor call ABOARD at 412.449.0165 or email autismnews@aboard.org

Presented by Venture Outdoors for the families of Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD)





Join ABOARD at this FREE fun filled day! OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES WITH ASD bring the entire family, staff & care givers!

You'll get the chance to try out kayaking on Lake Elizabeth (a manmade pool that's 2ft deep), climb a 24ft. climbing wall, go treasure hunt hiking with GPS units (geocaching) or go biking around the park. Other fun activities will take place as well in a tented area near the lake.

It will be a great opportunity for those with autism and their families to try out some new and interesting activities in a less structured, go-at-you-own pace environment.

Trip Leanders from venture Outdoors and staff and volunteers from ABOARD will great you near Lake Elizabeth and guide you throug the day's activities.

All equipment will be provided including kayaks, paddles, lifejackets, bikes, helments, and GPS Units (please do not bring your own.)

Water and Snacks will also be provided!

REGISTER for this FREE event!

For questions contact Rebecca Williams-Thomas at ABOARD 412-449-0165!

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

VENTURE OUTDOORS

PITTSBURGH WATER COOLER SERVICE INC.

We are getting a great response for this event and still are looking for sponsors or support!

Our biggest need is water and snacks for the day!

If you would like to sponsor or interested in sending a small donation or gift card to help purchase these items please contact

Rebecca Williams-Thomas at ABOARD 412-449-0165

ABOARD is proud to be a conference partner of the



2011 Conference on
ENVIRONMENTAL
TOXICITY AND
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL
DISORDERS

CONFERENCE DATES

Pittsburgh, PA—June 24, 2011 Morgantown, WV—July 15, 2011

www.envirotoxicityandkids.com

The Environmental Toxicity and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Conferences are co-hosted by The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University. The conferences will discuss the science surrounding environmental toxins and their harmful effects on our neurodevelopmental system, as well as offer potential strategies to create positive changes in our environment and health practices and policies.

National speakers representing both academia and medical practitioners from fields such as neurology, toxicology, genetics and environmental health science will be in attendance.

Pittsburgh Presenters

Scott Faber, MD - Developmental Pediatrician The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh

Martha Herbert MD, PhD, Pediatric Neurologist Massachusetts General Hospital of Harvard Medical School

H.M. "Skip" Kingston, PhD, Professor

Duquesne University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, Dean for Global Health and Ethel H. Wise Professor, Chair

The Department of Preventive Medicine Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Claudia S. Miller, MD, MS, Professor, Environmental & Occupational Medicine, Vice Chair

The Department of Family and Community Medicine The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Fredrica Perera PhD, Professor

Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

Isaac Pessah PhD, Professor of Toxicology

The University of California, Davis School of Medicine

Bernard Weiss, PhD, Professor Environmental Medicine and Pediatrics

University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

CLICK Here to Register NOW

CLICK Here for Conference Brochure

Pittsburgh Conference Friday, June 24, 2011

LOCATION

Duquesne University 600 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219

FEE

\$25 (Cancellation Policy: A full refund will be given prior to June 11, 2011)

Morgantown Conference Friday, July 15, 2011

LOCATION

The Waterfront Place Hotel
Two Waterfront Place
Morgantown, WV 26501

FEE

\$25 (Cancellation Policy: A full refund will be given prior to July 2, 2011)

TO REGISTER TODAY, VISIT WWW.envirotoxicityandkids.com

A limited number of scholarships are available.

For more information about the conference or to apply for a scholarship, please contact Mary Green from The Hutton Group, Inc. 412.833.4360, or 877.982.2200, or mgreen@thehuttongroup.com

CONFERENCE PARTNERS













Funding for this conference was made possible by Grant Number R1CRH20683 from the HRSA Office of Rural Health Policy. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

www.envirotoxicityandkids.com

support ABOARD!



Pittsburgh Symphony Community Partners Concert Featuring BOYZ II MEN

Location: Heinz Hall Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 7:30 PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Tickets may be ordered in any of the following ways: calling the PSO Box Office at 412.392.4900 or toll-free: 1.800.743.8560 ordering online at pittsburghsymphony.org/communitypartners coming to the PSO box office in person (600 Penn Ave., in Heinz Hall)

23845 ABOARD - Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders

100% of your ticket purchase benefits ABOARD!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Feature

Research

Education

Events/Info

QUICK LINKS

ABOARD

NEWSLETTER

What's Happening at ABOARD and all our upcoming events, conference and seminars for 2011!



Today's eblast is provided free to the families through the support of our sponsor!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR FOR HELPING PROVIDE THIS SERVICE TO OUR FAMILIES FOR FREE!

.Feature....

Study: Could Brain Scans Help Spot Autism?

brain scan may someday be able to help identify cases of autism, a new study suggests. Currently, autism is diagnosed based on subjective evaluations of a child's behavioral and developmental deficits, but researchers at Columbia say using brain scans may offer more objective indicators of the condition. The researchers used functional MRI (fMRI) to study brain activity in 12 children with autism and 15 typical children, ranging in age from 4 to 17, while they listened to recordings of their parents talking. Researchers focused on activity in the brain regions that process hearing (primary auditory cortex) and language comprehension (superior temporal gyrus). The brain scans showed no difference between the groups in brain activity in the region involved in hearing. But researchers noticed significantly greater activity in the language comprehension area in typical children than in kids with autism.

http://healthland.time.com/2011/06/01/study-could-brain-scans-help-spot-autism/#ixzz108UBm3yR

Research



Clues to Autism's Roots From Brain Study

Analysis finds differences in gene activity. Though autism and related disorders vary widely from person to person, certain brain changes may be at the root of the disorder. Changes in genes important for brain-cell development and function contribute to the poorly understood disorder, a study published online May 25 in Nature shows. Finding genetic contributors to the multifaceted disease might help scientists design better ways to treat it. "For us to be able to develop specific therapies that treat the cause, you have to understand the genetics," says pediatrician and autism researcher Hakon Hakonarson of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

http://www.usnews.com/science/articles/

The world through autistic eyes: study says autistic people see symmetry better

A new study offers a unique glimpse into the mind of autistic people, suggesting they perceive symmetry better than those who are not autistic. While most people might look at a butterfly and admire its general beauty, for instance, an autistic person might focus on the fact the left wing is a mirror image of the right wing. Armando Bertone thinks this difference in perception is linked to the well-known symptoms of autism - such as fixation on specific objects. http://www.google.com/hostednews/

<u>Large Population of Undiagnosed Autism in General Population According to</u> New Brain Research Foundation

A new study utilizing a population-based approach that for the first time looked for autism among all children found prevalence of the disorder to be almost three times higher than previously thought. The groundbreaking study conducted over five years in Korea by a multinational group of scientists tested all children, including those in mainstream schools who had no history of the disorder. Previous studies focused more narrowly, meaning a significant percentage of the population was never evaluated. "This extraordinary project utilized a population-based approach that screened all the children in a large community to identify those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)," stated Dr. Bennett Leventhal, Brain Research Foundation board member and study participant. "The results of the study indicated a prevalence estimate for ASD to be 2.64% of the population; a number nearly three times previous estimates." The groundbreaking study was conducted over five years in Korea by a multinational group of scientists, led by Brain Research Foundation investigators Young Shin Kim, MD, PhD, MPH and Bennett L. Leventhal, MD.

http://pr-usa.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=739523&Itemid=29
Researchers to examine different teaching models for children with ASD

Scientists from the University of Miami, the University of North Carolina and the University of Colorado develop methods to measure how well schools

implement teaching programs for autistic preschool children

Researchers from the University of Miami (UM) Department of Psychology participated in a multi-site study to examine different teaching models for children with <u>Autism</u> Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The study is one of the first to look at the fidelity of treatment models for preschoolers with <u>autism</u>. The findings are published online in the current issue of the journal Research in <u>Autism</u> Spectrum Disorders. The report concludes the first phase of a four-year project to analyze the comparative <u>efficacy</u> of preschool programs for children with ASD. It involves developing and validating assessment measures to demonstrate that the classrooms in the study are actually implementing the teaching models at high levels of adherence.

http://www.news-medical.net/news/20110521/Researchers-to-examine-different-teaching-models-for-children-with-ASD.aspx

Validating preschool programs for children with autism

Scientists from the University of Miami, the University of North Carolina and the University of Colorado develop methods to measure how well schools implement teaching programs for autistic preschool children. Researchers from the University of Miami (UM) Department of Psychology participated in a multi-site study to examine different teaching models for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The study is one of the first to look at the fidelity of treatment models for preschoolers with autism. The findings are published online in the current issue of the journal Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-05/uom-vpp051911.php

Prenatal Vitamins May Lower Autism Risk

Study Shows Pregnant Women Who Take Prenatal Vitamins Have Lower Risk of Having a Child With Autism. Taking prenatal vitamins may reduce the risk of having a child with <u>autism</u>, new research shows. "It appears that women who reported taking prenatal vitamins starting three months prior to <u>conception</u> and through the first month after conception seem to have a reduced chance their child will develop autism," says study researcher Irva Hertz-Picciotto, PhD, professor of epidemiology and environmental health at the MIND Institute and Department of Public Health, University of California, Davis.

http://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/news/20110601/prenatal-vitamins-may-lower-autism-risk

Of Interest



Spotlight on: Autistic artist Nat Jones

Nat Jones has been drawing and painting for eight years, which is not surprising for a 13-year-old boy. What might surprise some, however, is that Nat is autistic, and his purposeful artistic creations have garnered enough attention to earn an exhibit at a cafe in his town, a suburb of Washington, D.C. Nat's paintings, a mix of water colors, pastels, crayons, markers, colored pencils and even some spit, are on display at <u>Suburban Trading Co.</u> in Kensington, Maryland. His

original art goes a long way to snow that even if a person is non-verbal-which nat is-ne still has something to express.

http://communities.washingtontimes.com/multimedia/image/nats-art-show1jpg/

Could Repetitive Autistic Behaviors Actually be Useful?

Sometimes behaviors are pretty clear about what our child is trying to communicate (e.g., running around the room erratically making a lot of loud noise usually means overstimulation and too much situational stress in our house) and are therefore much easier to understand and then address. However, there are whole ranges of behaviors that are considered by many to be largely without meaning. But what isn't so clear to me is why. Some kids slowly tear paper into little strips or pick up small handfuls of sand and watch them fall through their fingers to the ground. Some call these abnormal, 'non-functional' behaviors. Autism is in large part defined by these 'repetitive and stereotyped behaviors'. But why? Is it because these behaviors aren't 'productive' or 'useful'? Is it because this falls too far outside the norms of what paper or sand is supposed to do?

http://www.opposingviews.com/i/could-repetitive-autistic-behaviors-actually-be-useful

Special Olympics helped Georgetown man with autism find his voice

At the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Neb., he won four medals: gold in the four-by-100-meter relay, silver in the 100-meter dash and the long jump, and bronze in the 200-meter dash He was voted one of two Special Olympics athletes of the year by the Kentucky Special Olympics for 2010, and he was the only Kentucky athlete chosen to travel to Washington, D.C., where he met Sen. Mitch McConnell and Special Olympics chairman Tim Shriver. The confidence he gained in Special Olympics helped him venture into the work force. He has held a job as a bag boy for three years at the Georgetown Kroger. "Ryan is very well known and well thought of in our community," Kroger associate manager Kelley Hackworth said. "He seems to know everyone. The Scott County community is really behind him."

http://www.kentucky.com/2011/06/01/1758879/breaking-autisms-barriers.html#ixzz108Tea5sZ

Should babies be screened for untreatable diseases?

NEW YORKA new poll shows parents are split over whether their newborns should be screened for fragile X syndrome, the most common type of inherited mental disability. http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/06/02/us-babies-diseases-idUSTRE75101L20110602

Employment Firm Sued After Applicant With Asperger's Rejected

The federal government is suing an employment agency with offices across the country alleging discrimination after a man with Asperger's syndrome was denied a job shortly after disclosing his disability. Jason O'Dell applied for work as a lab technician through a Randstad office in Frederick, Md. The company was initially quite interested in O'Dell, but soon after he revealed his Asperger's diagnosis, O'Dell was told that hiring for the position was "on hold," according to a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission this month.

Nonetheless, Randstad continued to recruit for the position, the suit alleges, and did not give further consideration to O'Dell. The EEOC charges that Randstad acted in in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act and is seeking back wages for O'Dell, punitive damages and wants the company to change

http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2011/05/20/employment-firm-sued/13139/



Events/Info

ABOARD Support Group Meeting

For a complete listing of the ABOARD Support Groups please see our website at www.aboard.org!

Just Us Parents - Autism Support Group

Find support, encouragement and help in your parenting of a child on the Spectrum Autism, PDD-NOS, Aspergers. Meet other parents; Support one another; Share information and ideas; Get resource information; Meeting the needs of those who attend.

Location/Address Panera Bread Company at 7217 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (Across from Ross Park Mall)

Time 7pm to 9pm

Monthly First Monday of the month.. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 6

Contact Name Astrid Camille Arroyo and Maureen Wirth

Contact Phone 412-358-0393 or 724-625-0284

Contact Email la.bella@verizon.net or mhwirth@gmail.com

Perspective Program: Intervention Research Study for Adults with ASD

The Perspectives Program at the University of Pittsburgh is developing new non-drug interventions to meet the unique needs of adults with autism spectrum disorders. Individuals with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder NOS, between the ages of 16-40, are now being accepted into the program. All participants will receive one of two new experimental interventions, Cognitive Enhancement Therapy or Enriched Supportive Therapy, at no cost. Participants must be able to come to the University of Pittsburgh on a regular basis. A new session is beginning soon. To enroll or find out more information contact 1-866-647-3436 or autismrecruiter@upmc.edu.

Parents in Toto Family & Friends Fishing Day!

Sunday, June 12, 2011,

20in, Millvale Sportsman Club Lake, Wexford 15090

(Near I-79 Wexford Exit; Rt. 910 & Lake Road), Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 31 to johnwills1818@yahoo.com for a headcount!We appreciate Board of Director President John Wills for organizing this event! Please bring fishing gear and bait; \$3 one-day fishing license available on-site. Parents in Toto will provide hot dogs; beverages, snacks and non-fishing activities Everyone is welcome! FREE!

<u>CPC Family Support Network will focus on "Resources & Services for Families," and welcome</u> guest speaker Nicole Zilli, Southwest Regional Coordinator for Parent to Parent, an organization dedicated to linking families of children and adults with disabilities and special needs. Join us on Wednesday, June 8 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the CPC Greensburg office, 814 E. Pittsburgh Street. To

register or for more information, contact Desiree Pollard at 724.875.1675 or email dlp0721@gmail.com. Childcare will be provided. CPC Family Support Network is a community of parents, families and caregivers touched by autism.

11th annual Summer Reading extravaganza

Sunday, June 12 12 - 5 pm On the lawn at CLP - Main, Oakland

Travel the world without leaving Pittsburgh! Celebrate this year's multicultural summer reading theme in an afternoon packed with free fun.

<u>Click here to pre-register</u> for Extravaganza and Summer Reading! <u>http://www.carnegielibrary.org/summer/extravaganza/preregister/</u>

Here's a sample of some of the fun things you'll be able to do at Extravaganza:

Watch fun international performances

Personalize a Smiley Cookie with Eat'n Park

Rock out with Radio Disney & Friends

Visit the I Made It! Market and Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's Kid's Day at Schenley Plaza

Check out the Used Book Sale

Visit with the Pittsburgh Pirates

Support your Library

AND SO MUCH MORE...

Bring the whole family! There's fun for everyone!

Autism Spectrum in your Classroom: It is All About Relationships

This 3-hour event will define Autism Spectrum Disorder and provide participants with insight into the current research and interventions for children with Autism in their classrooms. As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to: Understand ASD definition, diagnostic criteria, myths, latest research in cause and treatment; be familiar with early benchmark for developmental signs and goals for children; identify developmental signs and red flags for children with ASD; and develop an action plan of goals and interventions for use in their classrooms with all children.

6/18/2011

\$15.00 registration fee made out and addressed to:

Gloria J. Rodriguez-Ransom, LPC Office of Child Development 400 North Lexington Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15208

In Butler County Family YMCA to Partner with Wesley Spectrum Services to Offer an Inclusionary Summer Therapeutic Activities Program for Children with Autism

The Butler County Family YMCA is partnering with Wesley Spectrum Services to offer a supportive and inclusionary summer camp experience for children with an autism spectrum disorder. The Inclusionary Summer Therapeutic Activities Program (I-STAP) camp will run Monday through Friday, July 11 through August 12, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The camp fee is \$125 per week, plus the cost of field trips.

Campers will participate in arts and crafts, group games, teambuilding and environmental activities, swimming, and weekly field trips. Wesley Spectrum will provide a Camp Behaviorist and Camp Specialists to offer 4:1 support for campers while integrating therapeutic and individualized interventions based on the principals of Applied Behavioral Analysis. To ensure that each child benefits from participation, all children must meet camp eligibility criteria. Children must be between the ages of five and twelve, have a current Autism diagnosis, Medical Assistance, a prescription for an I-STAP program, as well meet all clinical admission criteria. Contact the Wesley Spectrum Intake Office at 724-443-4888 for an initial phone screening.

F.A.N. Family Autism Night in the Borough of Franklin Park

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011

Where: Blueberry Hill Park Activity Center

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm Fee: \$6 per child

\$8 per adult

We invite your entire family out for a fun and safe place to have dinner together,

be yourselves, and socialize with other families.

Crafts and games will be provided to allow the children time to work on socialization skills, or give brothers and sisters a time on their own, while also allowing parents to network and talk.

Dinner will be provided by Eat 'n Park with gluten and dairy free options.

Seating is limited, so register early...

NO LATER than June 15, 2011

Contact Bonnie Hoolahan with any questions at 412.364.4115 ext. 347

Children's Music Express™ is pleased to invite families in the community to our FREE Summer
Kick Off Event! We will be celebrating the start of summer with FREE sample classes of our
Children's Music and Movement classes, Music for Autism™ class, and Children's Yoga classes at
our Huntingdon Valley and Chestnut Hill locations on June 7, 8, 9, and 10th. Join us for our
sample classes, facepainting, give aways, balloons, raffles, and prizes! RSVP now to reserve your
spot by calling (215) 275-5594 or email tammy@childrensmusicexpress.com. Please provide your
name, the class you'd like to attend, phone or email, and child's name and age when you RSVP.
Reservations are required so hurry to reserve your spot!

Summer Sample Class Schedule:

Chestnut Hill at The Cedars House

200 Northwestern Avenue Philadelphia PA 19118 Forbidden Drive at Northwestern Avenue in Fairmount Park

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Prancing Warriors™ Yoga 9:30 am / Ages 3-4

Power Warriors™ Yoga 10:30 am / Ages 5-8

Peaceful Warriors™ Yoga 11:30 am / Ages 9-12

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

Music Lions™ Music and Movement 9:30 am / Ages 3-4

Music Monkeys™ Music and Movement 10:30 am / Ages Infant - 4

Music for Autism™ Music and Movement11:30 am / Ages 3-5

Huntingdon Valley

at The Kid Company 2381 Philmont Ave, Suite 119 Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006 Near the corners of Philmont Avenue and Huntingdon Pike

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 Music for Autism™ Music and Movement 6:30 pm / Ages 6-8

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Music Lions™ Music and Movement 9:30 am / Ages 3-4

Music Monkeys™ Music and Movement 10:30 am / Ages Infant - 4

Peaceful Warriors™ Yoga 11:30 am / Ages 9-12

Power Warriors™ Yoga 4:30 pm / Ages 5-8

Music for Autism™ Music and Movement 6:30 pm / Ages 9-12

Friday, June 10, 2011 Music for Autism™ Music and Movement 12:15 pm / Ages 3-5

REGISTER NOW For

[save the date]

ages 14-25

JOEY TRAVOLTA

FILM WORKSHOP

For Students and Young Adults,

July 18-29th, Monday through Friday from 10a.m.-3p.m.

This workshop is specifically designed to meet social, communication, IEP, transition, and/or vocational goals.

Please contact us with any questions you may have regarding payment schedules and other sources of funding.

[call or email AHEADD for more information] 877.AHEADD.1 (877.243.2331) | www.aheadd.org | admin@aheadd.org



Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction. ABOARD is registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations. To receive a copy of the official registration and financial information, please call 800-732-0990 within Pennsylvania or visit www.dos.state.pa.us.

ABOARD is a member of the The Chamber of Commerce



United Way of Allegheny County Contributor Choice Agency Number 9817



Join our page or join our cause!
You can also



add a CAUSE Toolbar so every web search will help ABOARD generate funds!http://apps.facebook.com/causes/toolbar



GOODSEARCH.COM or GOODSHOP.COM - Select "ABOARD

OUR MISSION

ABOARD IS DEDICATED TO MAXIMIZING THE SOCIAL, EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS. THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, EDUCATION & TRAINING, AWARENESS BUILDING AND COLLABORATION, WE PROVIDE HOPE AND HELP TO PENNSYLVANIANS CONFRONTED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF AUTISM.

412 - 781 - 4116 or 800 - 827 - 9385

Forward email





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Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders | 35 Wilson Street, Suite 100 | Pittsburgh | PA | 15223