



June 17, 2011

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ABOARD *Autism Weekly*

Advisory Board on Autism & Related Disorders

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ABOARD'S MISSION:

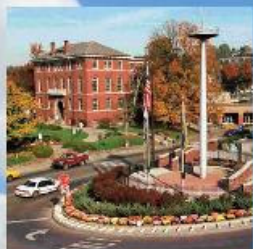
There is considerable debate throughout the autism community about the cause of autism and issues such as vaccination, diet, inclusion, and appropriate therapies. Legislative acts can also influence services to those with autism. Our policy is to inform. We trust that individuals will assimilate the 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>

**ABOARD is proud to be a
conference partner of the**



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Morgantown, West Virginia



2011 Conference on **ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICITY AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS**

CONFERENCE DATES

Pittsburgh, PA—June 24, 2011

Morgantown, WV—July 15, 2011

www.envirototoxicityandkids.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.envirototoxicityandkids.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
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The Children's Institute
Amazing Kids. Amazing Place.



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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.envirototoxicityandkids.com

Still time to get your ticket to

support ABOARD!

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
COMMUNITY PARTNERS CONCERT WITH
BOYZ II MEN
JUNE 23, 2011 • 7:30 PM • HEINZ HALL

PSO LOH LARIA

Join the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Resident Conductor Lawrence Loh for the eighth annual PSO Community Partners Concert. This year's performance features the sounds of Boyz II Men and the winner of the renowned 2011 Sphinx Competition, Paul Laria. The PSO's Community Partners Concerts have raised more than \$539,000 for partnering nonprofit groups since they began in 2004.

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!

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ABOARD

NEWSLETTER

Click here to learn about
What's Happening
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Today's eblast is provided free to the families through the support
of our sponsor!



**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR FOR HELPING
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Feature

Pitt Study Examines Environmental Risk Factors for Childhood Autism

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) has launched a multi-year study to help identify environmental and other factors that may put children at risk for developing conditions within the autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). The Study of Environmental Risk Factors for Childhood Autism is being conducted throughout southwestern Pennsylvania in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

<http://www.healthcanal.com/environmental-health/17922-Pitt-Study-Examines-Environmental-Risk-Factors-for-Childhood-Autism.html>

Pitt seeks participants in childhood autism study

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health has begun a three-year study to help identify environmental and other factors that may put children at risk for developing autism spectrum disorders. The Study of Environmental Risk Factors for Childhood Autism will involve 750 parents of 2-to-5-year-old children, some of whom have been diagnosed with ASD conditions and some who do not have them. The study, funded by the Heinz Endowments, is being conducted in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

For more information about participating, visit www.childhoodautism.pitt.edu or call project director Constance Bayles at 412-624-3122.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11160/1152565-100.stm#ixzz1PIsntK8t>

Research



Subtle Changes In Two Or More Genes May Cause Some Autism

Autism is often described as a spectrum - varying from severe syndromes in which the symptoms of autism are only part of the problem to the more classic autism characterized by impaired social skills, delayed language development, and repetitive or stereotyped behaviors. The genetic origin of the disorder may also occur along a spectrum. On one hand, a severe mutation affecting a particular gene gives rise to syndromic autism, a form of the disorder that occurs along with other problems including physical and facial abnormalities, including Rett, Angelman and Fragile X syndromes. On the other hand, a new study from researchers at Baylor College of Medicine and the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute (NRI) at Texas Children's Hospital proposes that several subtle mutations in different genes are associated with patients with near-normal or normal IQs and non-syndromic autism defined only by the behavioral characteristics. A report on the work appears in the current issue of Human Molecular Genetics.

http://www.redorbit.com/news/health/2063517/subtle_changes_in_two_or_more_genes_may_cause_some/

Autism shocker: Disorder linked to hundreds of mutant genes

Is there a gene for autism? Actually, a pair of new studies show that the debilitating neurodevelopmental disorder can be caused by hundreds of different genes. Scientists say the findings help explain why boys are more vulnerable to autism - and can lead to new treatments. For the studies - published in the June 9 issue of "[Neuron](#)" - scientists looked for mutated DNA segments among genetic samples from more than 1,000 families with an autistic child. They found that children with autism had more of these mutations - known as copy number variants - than their autistic-free siblings.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-20070333-10391704.html#ixzz1PIscaTjq

Utah researcher says autism-pollution link needs serious study

University of Utah researchers say the question deserves more study after their preliminary review shows children with autism spectrum disorders and other intellectual disabilities are more likely to have been born near industries that emit toxic chemicals or heavy metals. "If you take this combined with the other studies [showing links between pollution and autism], it's pointing to something that we need to seriously look at," said Judith Pinborough-Zimmerman, research assistant professor in the U.'s Department of Psychiatry.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home2/51847423-183/autism-chemicals-utah-metals.html.csp>

Protein missing in fragile X syndrome acts as a molecular toggle switch in brain cells

New research shows how the protein missing in [fragile X syndrome](#) - the most common inherited form of intellectual disability - acts as a molecular toggle switch in [brain](#) cells.

The fragile X protein, called FMRP, hooks up with a group of molecules called microRNAs to switch the production of other proteins on and off in response to chemical signals, scientists at Emory University School of Medicine have discovered. The results appear in the June 10 issue of Molecular Cell.

<http://www.news-medical.net/news/20110610/Protein-missing-in-fragile-X-syndrome-acts-as-a-molecular-toggle-switch-in-brain-cells.aspx>



Of Interest

Twins with Special Needs Inspire Mom To Help Others

Huntley resident turns experience as mother of special-needs twins into self-help book.

Concerned, the Dehmlows visited their pediatrician, who diagnosed the twins with sensory integration dysfunction with autistic tendencies. The Dehmlows said they were shocked.

But that wasn't all. Over time, the Dehmlows learned their children were on opposite ends of the autistic spectrum. Serianna showed more autistic tendencies and Steele demonstrated tendencies commonly associated with Asperger's syndrome.

<http://huntley.patch.com/articles/twins-with-special-needs-inspire-mom-to-help-others>

Cheryl Haack and son Ben embody World Games spirit

WHEN son Ben was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome and joined the Special Olympics movement, Cheryl Haack stepped out of her car and into a new family. Cheryl Haack and son Ben are late bloomers. Ben was not diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome until he was 17, and it was only then the family joined the Special Olympics movement. But the Gold Coast duo have more than made up for lost time. When Cheryl climbed out of the car 12 years ago at Ben's first soccer training session, little could she imagine that she would one day be the chairperson of the Gold Coast Special Olympics region, a Level One soccer coach, have a unique Blue Brigade at her disposal and regularly travel the world.

Haack detests talking about herself. The former Lifeline counsellor tries to appoint Ben her spokesman for this interview. After all, the Special Olympics is all about the athletes.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/sport/world-games-2011/cheryl-haack-and-son-ben-embody-world-games-spirit/story-fn8herqz-1226074950088>

Judge: Allow boy to take service dog to school

A boy with autism should be allowed to take his service dog with him when he attends elementary school, a federal court judge ruled Tuesday. U.S. District Court Judge Andrew J. Guilford granted a preliminary injunction compelling the Cypress School District to allow the dog at a Cypress elementary school until a civil trial can put the matter to rest in September 2012.

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/school-304508-dog-district.html?nstrack=sid:1752141|met:102300|cat:0|order:7>

Events/Info



ABOARD Support Group Meeting

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

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.

Fun, Food and Prizes at the Total Learning Center in Murrysville for Kid's Expo

The Total Learning Centers will open their doors to the public for the Kid's Expo on June 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children and adults are invited to come and see what the Total Learning Centers has to offer in this exclusive exhibition of their educational programs. Located at 6335 William Penn Highway in Murrysville, the Kid's Expo will be loads of fun for the whole family with free food, games, and prizes every hour.

When the school year ends and summer begins, parents can become frustrated by the lack of activities for their child to participate in. The Kid's Expo will be a chance for parents in the Murrysville area to see what educational opportunities are available this summer. See if you can win in the Attention Competitions, or if you have the best memory in the family. There's something for everyone at the Total Learning Center Kid's Expo.

Just ten minutes from the Monroeville Mall, the Total Learning Center is a convenient choice for parents interested in helping their child succeed in school. Former students will demonstrate each program, and education specialists will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

This event is free to the public and no reservations are required. Come and enjoy all that the Total Learning Centers have to offer on June 25th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information about Kids Day or the Total Learning Centers, please call 724-387-1204.

Facial Recognition Intervention at CMU

Carnegie Mellon University is conducting an intervention research study on facial recognition for children with autism spectrum disorders. The investigators are looking for 10 year old verbal boys to help finish the study. Families who participate in the study will come to Oakland for three testing sessions over the course of a year. Each session involves cognitive testing using computer and paper and pencil tests as well as an fMRI scan. If your child is assigned to the intervention group, he will complete a computer-based training program that may improve face-recognition ability. All participants will be compensated for their time. For more information, please contact: 1-866-647-3436 or autismrecruiter@upmc.edu.

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[save the date]

JOEY TRAVOLTA

FILM WORKSHOP



For Students and Young Adults,
ages 14-25

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]

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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.

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