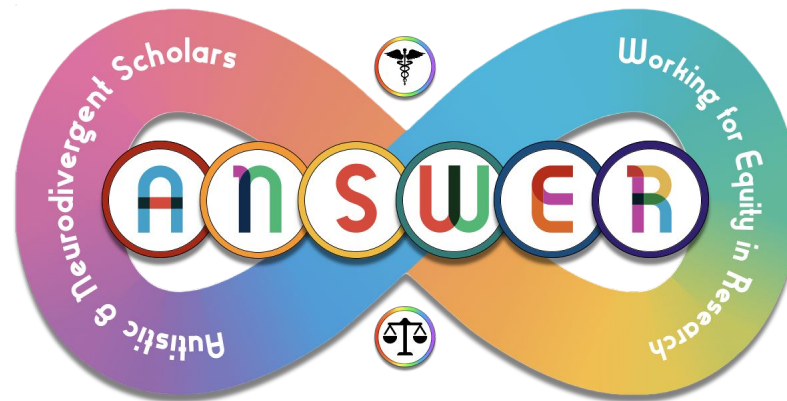




Autism Intervention Research  
Network on Physical Health

AIR-P Presents:

**ANSWER**





# ANSWER

The AIR-P **Autistic and Neurodivergent Scholars Working for Equity in Research (ANSWER)** is dedicated to advancing research on autism and promoting the physical health and well-being of individuals on the autism spectrum. **The mission of AIR-P ANSWER is to provide support and empowerment to autistic researchers, who bring unique perspectives and expertise to the study of autism.** Through this mission, ANSWER acknowledges the significant contributions that autistic researchers can make towards advancing our understanding of autism and improving the quality of life for individuals on the spectrum.



Several parts of the AIR-P network fall under “The ANSWER Umbrella”

**Leadership**

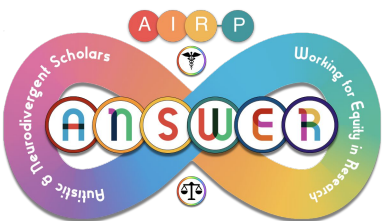
01

**Node &  
Committee Reps**

02

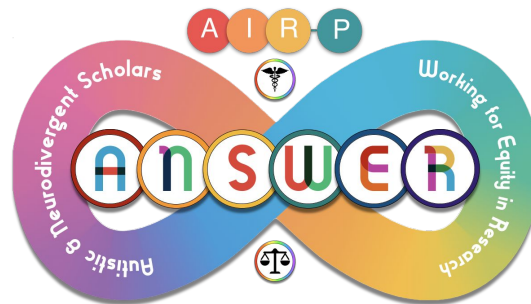
**Scholars**

03

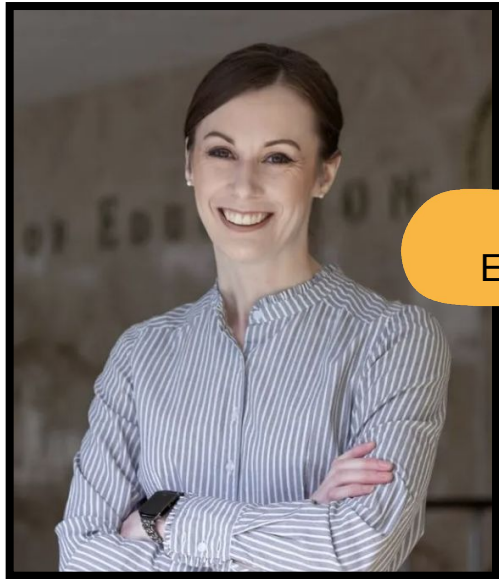




# Meet the Leadership Team



## Chair



Campus  
Belonging

Co-Design

Written  
Expression

Impression  
Management

### Heather Brown, PhD

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Education  
**University of Alberta**  
EMAIL: [heather2@ualberta.ca](mailto:heather2@ualberta.ca)

## Vice-Chair



Statistics &  
Methodology

Measure  
Development

Auditory  
Processing

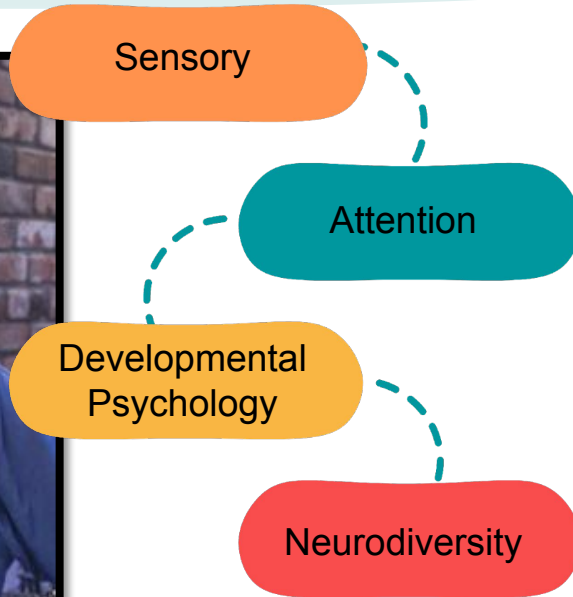
Psychiatric  
Disorders

### Zachary J. "Zack" Williams

MD/PhD Candidate  
Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences  
**Vanderbilt University School of Medicine**  
EMAIL: [zachary.j.williams@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:zachary.j.williams@vanderbilt.edu)



# Communications Directors



## Patrick Dwyer, PhD

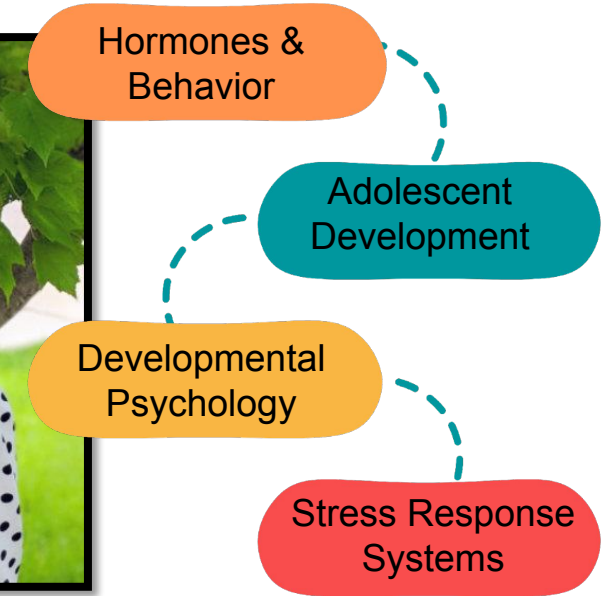
Research Fellow

Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre (OTARC)

La Trobe University

EMAIL: [patrick.dwyer@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:patrick.dwyer@latrobe.edu.au)

Editor in Chief AIR-P Cureus Channel



## Jenny Mai Phan, PhD

Research Postdoctoral Fellow

Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Children's National Hospital

EMAIL: [jmphan@childrensnational.org](mailto:jmphan@childrensnational.org)

Communications Director



# Training and Mentorship Directors



Epidemiology

Measure Development

Gut Brain Axis

Mixed Methods

## Calliope Hologue, PhD

Assistant Professor

Center for Autism and Related Disorders, **Kennedy Krieger Institute**, Department of Mental Health, **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**  
**EMAIL:** [hologue@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:hologue@kennedykrieger.org)



Self-determination

Qualitative

Participatory Research

Intellectual Disabilities

## Jackie Ryan, PhD

Research Associate

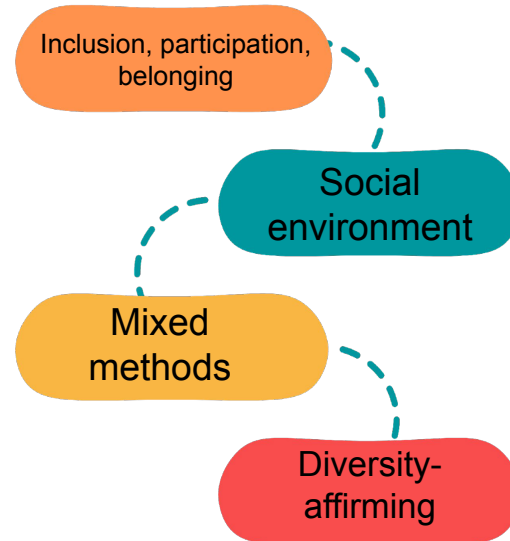
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

**University of Alberta**

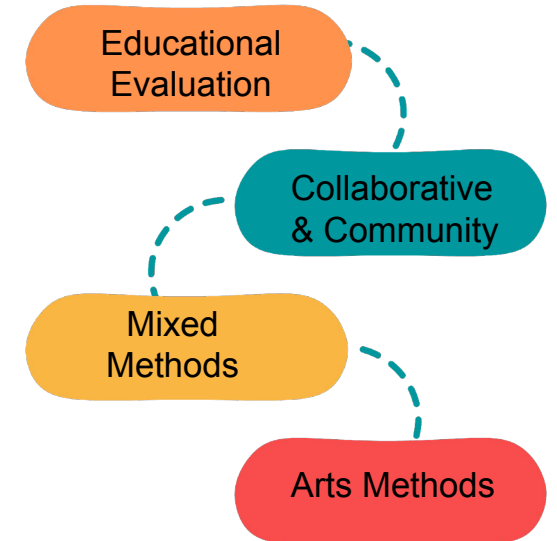
**EMAIL:** [jgryan@ualberta.ca](mailto:jgryan@ualberta.ca)



# Liaison Team



**Sandy Thompson-Hodgetts, PhD, OT**  
Associate Professor, Department of  
Occupational Therapy Faculty of Rehabilitation  
Medicine  
**University of Alberta**  
**EMAIL:** sandy.hodgetts@ualberta.ca



**Michelle Searle, OCT, CE, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Educational Evaluation  
Faculty of Education  
**Queen's University**  
**EMAIL:** searlem@queensu.ca

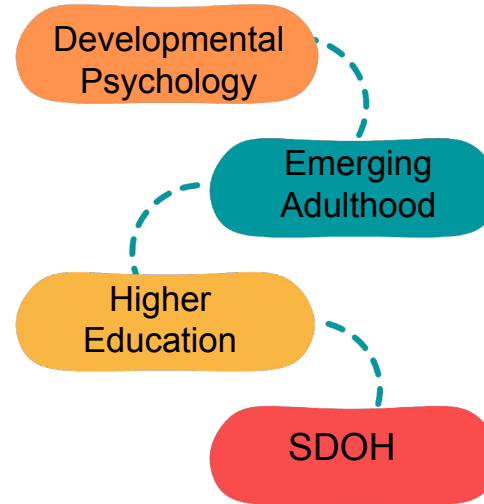




# Liaison Team



**Emily Hotez, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
**University of California Los Angeles**  
**EMAIL:** [ehotez@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:ehotez@mednet.ucla.edu)





**Leadership**

**01**

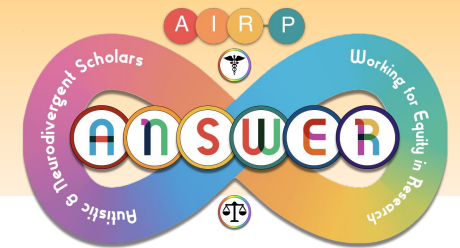
**Node &  
Committee Reps**

**02**

**Scholars**

**03**

# Node & Committee Reps



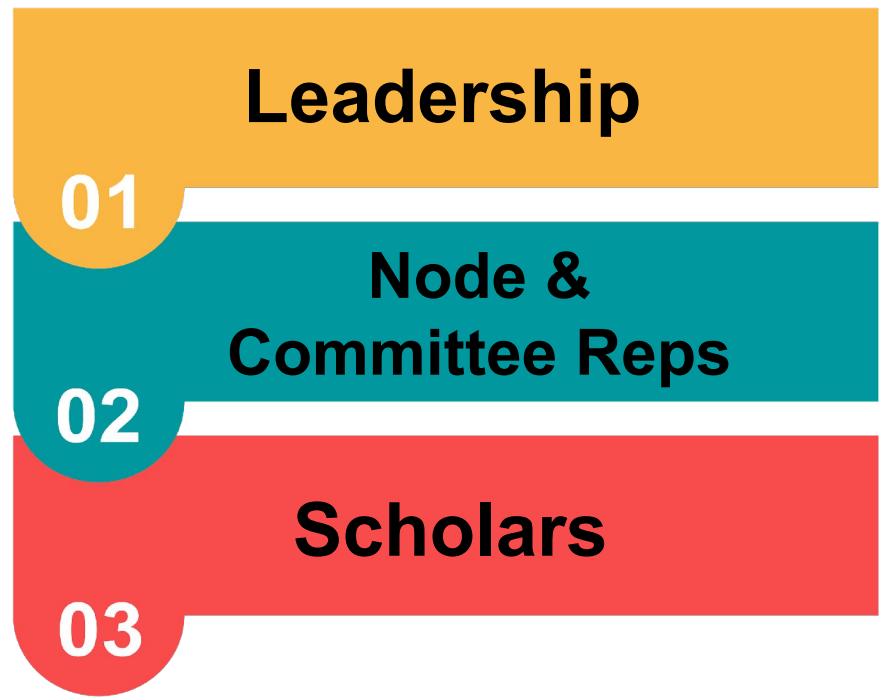
# Node & Committee Reps

**Two ANSWER Representatives (Reps) support each AIR-P Network Node and Committee**

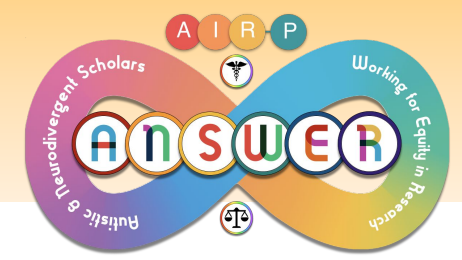
Higher Workload / Commitment (HC)	Lower Workload / Commitment (LC)
ICR	LEND
Scholars	Primary Care
Gender/Sexuality	Neurology
Genetics	Community/Lifestyles
Health Systems	Big Data

There are a total of five higher workload/commitment (HC) nodes/committees and five lower workload/commitment (LC) nodes/committees within AIR-P





# ANSWER Scholars



# ANSWER Scholars Program

**Up to \$50,000 annually (in \$5,000–\$10,000 awards) given to autistic (a) doctoral students or (b) health care professionals\* performing mentored research projects**

- For dissertation awards or small clinical research projects (secondary record review, pilot study)

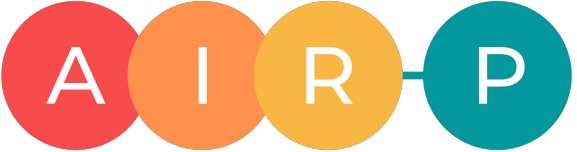
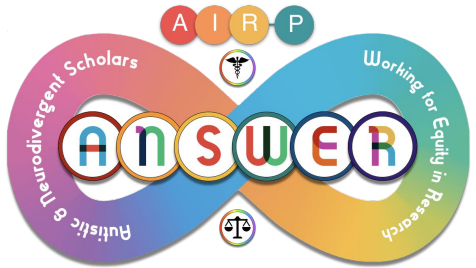
<b>Mentorship</b>	<b>Professional Development Opportunities</b>
Applicant-selected Project Advisor	Bi-monthly Webinar Series
Monthly Meetings with More Senior Neurodivergent Researcher	Presentation at AUCD Meeting
Informal Support through ANSWER	Poster/Publication in Cureus Channel

\* Intended for individuals in primarily patient-facing positions (including clinical faculty/staff, residents, fellows, community providers, etc.) Faculty with  $\geq 50\%$  FTE devoted toward research are ineligible to apply.





# Opportunities for Engagement



# Attend ANSWER Leadership Meetings

We meet 1/x month to discuss ongoing & upcoming projects & initiatives



# Consult and Collaborate

One-time and ongoing consultations are available

- How to design effective participatory research teams
- Grant and manuscript writing support
- Support in using neuro-affirming language
- Finding and measuring meaningful outcomes (according to the Autistic community)
- Strength-based neuro-affirming research approaches
- How to create inclusive, including sensory-friendly, research environments
- Designing meaningful research questions
- Designing and conducting useful evaluations
- An overview of community-engaged scholarship
- Making meaning by interweaving the Arts into data collection





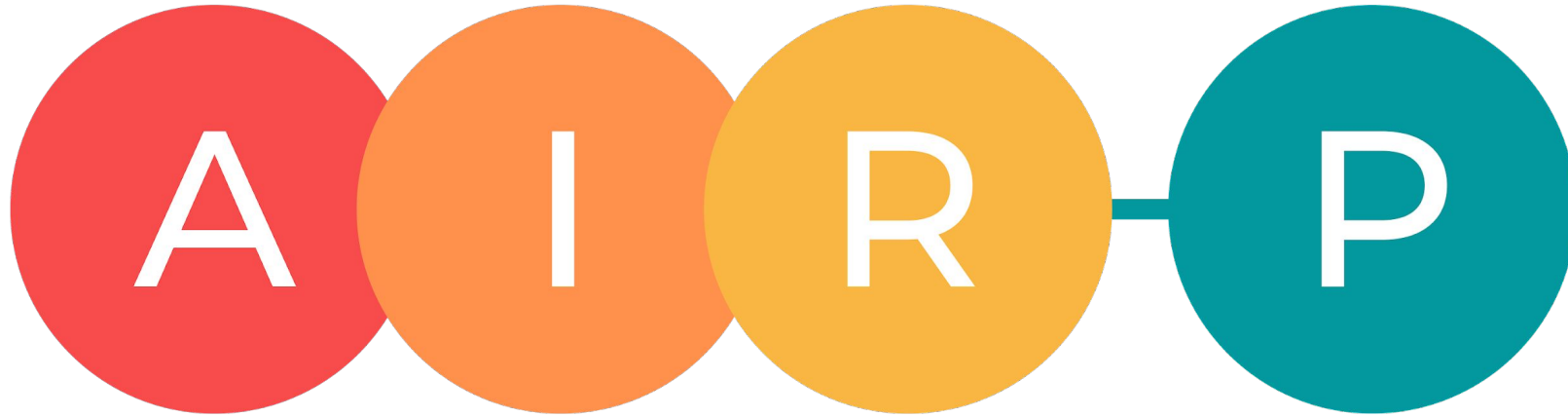
# Support Network for AIR-P Autistic/Neurodivergent Researchers and Community Partners

**ANSWER can provide peer support and resources to all AIR-P affiliated autistic/neurodivergent researchers, including those working at CREs**

- Research 101: Collaborating in Participatory Autism Research
- Research Basics Training
- Mentorship connections
- Collaboration opportunities
- Networking
- Access to resources (e.g., funding, research tools, databases)
- Advocacy training
- Support with dissemination of research findings



**THANK YOU!**



Autism Intervention Research  
Network on Physical Health

Heather Brown: [heather2@ualberta.ca](mailto:heather2@ualberta.ca)

Emily Hotez: [ehotez@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:ehotez@mednet.ucla.edu)

Zack Williams: [zachary.j.williams@Vanderbilt.Edu](mailto:zachary.j.williams@Vanderbilt.Edu)