



Autism Intervention Research  
Network on Physical Health

## AIR-P Network Newsletter

**DON'T FORGET!**



...to register for our [webinar](#) held on **Tuesday 8/16 at 4:00pm EST/  
1:00pm PST!** More information on the webinar below.

**AIR-P Presents: Involving Community Partners in Autism Research**



*Presented by:  
Lisa Croen, PhD (left)  
Maria Massolo, PhD (right)*

Involving community partners in the design, execution and dissemination of research yields more impactful studies that address the priorities of the communities being studied, and benefits researchers, healthcare providers and target communities. This presentation will review the principles of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), discuss its late arrival to the field of autism research highlighting the ongoing contributions of AASPIRE, and review US government support of patient centered research through PCORI funding. This presentation will also illustrate the benefits of collaborating with community partners by presenting a project in which a team of

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researchers and a team of autistic community advocates are co-producing autism research.

Topics will include:

- Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) benefits community participants, health care providers and researchers alike
- Community partners participate in all aspects of a research study and contribute to the development of culturally appropriate instruments, sensitive recruitment methods.
- Community partners receive compensation for their work and contribute to publications, and public presentations.
- Resulting research reveals a deeper understanding of the uniqueness of the communities studied, and a more accurate framework for testing and adapting healthcare interventions to community needs.

## CALL FOR PEER-REVIEWERS

**Interested in gaining experience in a peer-review role? Offer your insight to AIR-P!**

- Improve your critical-thinking skills and expertise in subject matter
- Contribute a key service to peer-reviewed science
- Help authors improve their work

Credit: [Why early-career researchers should step up to the peer-review plate \(nature.com\)](#)

**Context:** The Autism Intervention Research Network (AIR-P) submits an annual supplement published in *Pediatrics*, the official peer-reviewed journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. They are currently drafting the 2<sup>nd</sup> supplement with the goal of publication in April 2023. View our previous supplement [here](#).

**Ask:** We have received several drafts and are looking for individuals interested in peer-reviewing. All manuscripts are minimal in length and the deadline to complete the assigned review is August 19, 2022 (with room for minor accommodation).

**Who we're looking for:** This opportunity is open to individuals with publication experience, early-career investigators, and those interested in providing feedback for this publication.

If you have any questions or are interested in reviewing, please send an email to [AIRP@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:AIRP@mednet.ucla.edu). Thank you!

## AIR-P RESEARCH AGENDA SURVEY

The AIR-P Network wants to hear from YOU!

The graphic features a teal background with orange and purple accents. At the top left, the text 'AIR-P Research Agenda Survey' is written in white. A yellow arrow points from this text to a QR code on the right. Below the QR code, a person is shown interacting with a large computer monitor displaying a survey form with a red checkmark. To the left of the monitor, the text reads: 'HELP US IDENTIFY RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES THAT WILL IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF AUTISTIC INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES!'. Below this, it says 'PLEASE COMPLETE BY JULY 22 AT 11:59PM PST'. At the bottom, the URL 'https://bit.ly/3ufvHtY' is provided.

[Fill out our survey](#) to help us identify autism research priorities and activities that will improve the health of autistic individuals and their families. Results will be featured in our next *Pediatrics* supplement.

## RESEARCH STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

### **Kennedy Krieger Institute: 'G.I. Wanna Talk About Autism'**

**Goal:** The goal of this study is to better understand the experiences, needs, and priorities of autistic adults with a history of gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms. We will use data to develop recommendations on how to improve the GI health of autistic adults. In this first phase of the study, we are looking to interview 20 autistic adults (18 years and older) with a history of gastrointestinal health symptoms. *This study was co-created with a community board, including autistic adults and other stakeholders. This study is funded by the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P).*

**To participate:** Visit our website <https://www.giwannatalkaboutautism.com/> to learn more and to take the pre-enrollment screening survey. This screening survey will be used to select the participants for this study.

**Compensation:** Individuals who are selected to participate will receive \$10 per hour they participate in this study. Payment will be through a gift card of the participant's choice.

**Contact information:** [Calliope Holingue](#) (443) 691-1125

### **INSAR: Policy Brief Study**

**Goal:** A group of international experts (autistic adults, parents, researchers, and clinicians) is developing policy guidelines supported by the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR). These policy guidelines will help readers make informed decisions on topics related to autism, sexuality, and gender diversity. The results of this study may provide information that could help us promote well-being of autistic people

**To participate:** Please follow [this link](#)

**Contact Information:** [autismpolicybrief@gmail.com](mailto:autismpolicybrief@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

### [AIR-P Research Day at AUCD 2022 Conference](#)

When: November 13-16, 2022

Where: 999 Ninth Street NW, Washington, D.C. (In-person).

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

In collaboration with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), we hold monthly webinars showcasing our work and current research. Previous webinar recordings can be found [here](#).



- In the July webinar, Dr. Dora Raymaker provided an overview of systems approaches, concepts, and methodologies that could help lead to long-term change, with real-world examples drawn from within autism employment research and public health. Holistic approaches to inquiry, such as systems thinking and action research, target situations that have high degrees of complexity or heterogeneity. This makes them useful in designing and conducting autism services intervention research where personal and systems-level factors interact in complex ways; for example, in developing employment interventions.
  - View the recording [here](#)!
- Dr. Emily Hotez wrapped up her workshop series in July. The series titled, ***Supporting Children with Disabilities: Lessons from the Pandemic, A Workshop***, focused on promising approaches and innovative strategies to address challenges faced by children with disabilities and their families during the pandemic. Topics included: access to clinical service and treatment needs, home caregiving, and mental health treatment with an emphasis on underserved/under resourced children and families.
  - Workshop recordings can be found [here](#)!
- The AIR-P has published a supplement in the PEDIATRICS journal!
  - Access the supplement articles [here](#)!

## COMING SOON

- **September AIR-P Monthly Webinar: September 20, 2022** – 4-5pm EST/1-2pm PST presentation by Dr. Denise Nunez
- **October AIR-P Monthly Webinar: October 18, 2022**, 4-5pm EST/1-2pm PST– presentation by Dr. Laura Crane
- **November AIR-P Monthly Webinar: November 15, 2022**, 4-5pm EST/1-2pm PST – presentation by Dr. Monique Botha

## WANT TO SPOTLIGHT YOUR EVENT/RESEARCH/RECENT NEWS?



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