



Autism Intervention Research  
Network on Physical Health

## AIR-P Network Newsletter

**DON'T FORGET!**



...to [register for our upcoming webinar](#) held on **Tuesday 7/19 at 4pm ET/1pm PT!** More information on the webinar below.

**AIR-P Presents: Systems Approaches in Autism Services Research**



*Presented by:  
Dora Raymaker, PhD  
Research Associate Professor,  
Portland State University's Regional Research Institute for  
Human Services in the School of Social Work*

In this webinar, Dr. Raymaker will provide 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.

Topics will include:

- An overview of systems approaches to inquiry, including systems thinking and action research

- An overview of relevant concepts and methodologies within these approaches, including leverage, generative causality, system dynamics, and critical systems heuristics
- Using leverage to identify how to create to long-term change through intervention
- Real-world examples of using systems approaches within autism employment research and public health

## AIR-P RESEARCH AGENDA SURVEY

The AIR-P Network wants to hear from YOU!

The graphic features a teal background with orange and white accents. On the 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, there is an illustration of a person in a green shirt and black pants standing in front of a large computer monitor. The monitor displays a checklist 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 of the graphic, the URL 'https://bit.ly/3ufvHtY' is displayed.

[Fill out our survey](https://bit.ly/3ufvHtY) 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](mailto: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)

Visit the [event page](#) NOW to view the slides of the rapid-fire presenters who will be showcasing their work at this event!

*Final agenda for this event will be published on the event page soon.*

## 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 June webinar, Dr. Christine Wu Nordahl provided an overview of current research focused on understanding autism in girls and women. Topics included biological and clinical theories about the difference in the sex ratio of autism, current insights into neurobiological sex differences in autism, and unique challenges faced by autistic girls and women.
  - View the recording [here](#)!
- AIR-P co-hosted a webinar with the **Healthy Weight Research Network (HWRN)**. This webinar reviewed common patterns of food selectivity among autistic children and related developmental and medical challenges, introduced the concept of good meal hygiene as a foundation for promoting healthy food intake in autism, and described effective strategies for introducing new foods and expanding the diet of a child with food selectivity.
  - View the recording [here](#)!
- On June 8<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> AIR-P scholar, Dr. Calliope Hologue, presented at the **Consortium for Autism, Neurodevelopmental Disorders & Digestive Diseases (CANDID)** virtual conference. Her presentation was titled *Adapting survey instruments to better capture gastrointestinal distress in NDD populations*.
  - View the recording [here](#)!

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- The AIR-P has published a supplement in the PEDIATRICS journal!
  - Access the supplement articles [here!](#)

## COMING SOON

- **August AIR-P Monthly Webinar: August 16, 2022** - 4-5pm EST/1-2pm PST- presentation by Dr. Maria Massolo and Dr. Lisa Croen
- **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

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



To request items for inclusion in our monthly newsletter or our social media platforms, please fill out a [Public Promotion Request Form](#) and select AIR-P under “AUCD Newsletter Promotion.”

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