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Upcoming New Edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)

The DSM-5 revisions collapse the DSM-IV subtypes of Pervasive Developmental Disorder into a single unifying DSM-5 diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Specifically, this means that the DSM-IV diagnoses of Autistic Disorder, Asperger’s Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Rett’s Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified, will not be in the DSM-5. Additionally, the revisions combine delays or deviation in social and communicative functioning into a single category, alongside another category for repetitive restricted behaviors. This change reflects an effort to improve the diagnostic accuracy of clinicians and researchers.

Indeed, the first DSM-5 field trials published in

November 2012 indicate significant consistency in the way different clinicians use the new criteria when diagnosing children with ASD. However, many people continue to express concern that significant numbers of those who meet criteria for one of the DSM-IV subtypes of PDD will not meet criteria for the new DSM-5 ASD. A recent study published in the American Journal of Psychiatry applies the DSM-5 criteria to datasets from several thousand children who previously were classified as having ASD under the DSM-IV criteria. Findings indicate that the new criteria do not miss the diagnosis in a significant number of children. This retrospective study will be followed by field trials that will comprehensively test out the new criteria on children and adults.



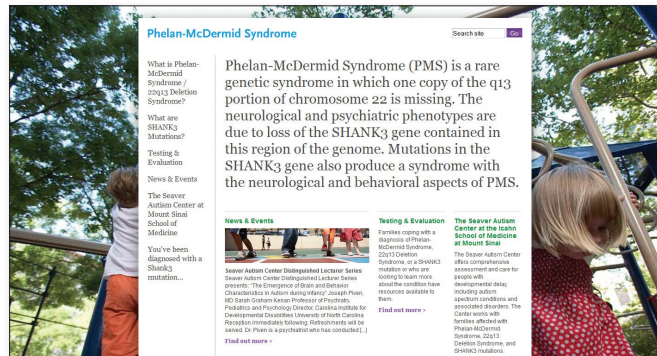
Dr. Joseph Piven presenting at the Distinguished Lecturer Series.

Distinguished Lecturer Series

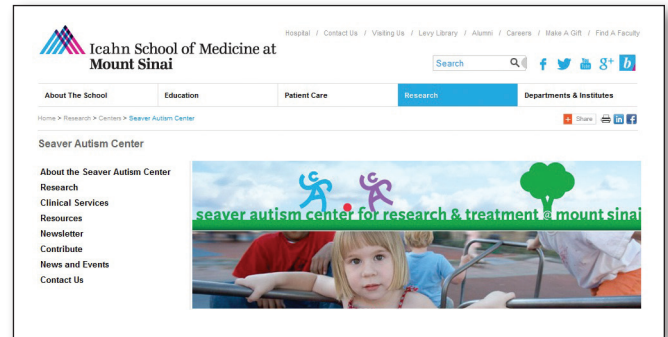
On Wednesday, March 6, 2013, the Seaver Autism Center hosted the Distinguished Lecturer Series. Dr. Joseph Piven, Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Psychology, and Director of the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, was the second presenter in this series. Dr. Piven’s lecture, “The Emergence of Brain and Behavior Characteristics in Autism during Infancy,” was intriguing for community members and professionals alike. After the lecture, audience members had the opportunity to mingle and ask questions about Dr. Piven’s research findings. Stay tuned for lecture announcements later this year!

Seaver on the Web

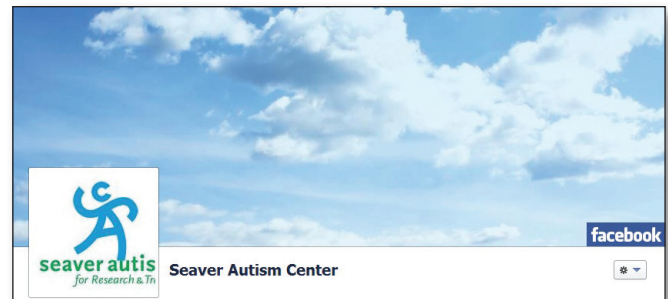
► **WE ARE ON THE WEB AT WWW.SEAVERAUTISMCENTER.ORG. HERE YOU CAN FIND DETAILS ABOUT THE SERVICES WE OFFER AND THE RESEARCH WE CONDUCT AT THE CENTER. WE ALSO POST NEW PUBLICATIONS, THE LATEST ISSUES OF THIS NEWSLETTER, AND EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS.**



► **VISIT US AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SEAVERAUTISMCENTER. “LIKE” OUR PAGE FOR RESEARCH UPDATES AND EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS, AS WELL AS PHOTOS AND VIDEOS OF THE SEAVER TEAM!**



► **AT WWW.SHANK3GENE.ORG, YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION AND RESEARCH UPDATES RELATING TO SHANK3 MUTATIONS AND PHELAN-MCDERMID SYNDROME/22Q13 DELETION SYNDROME.**

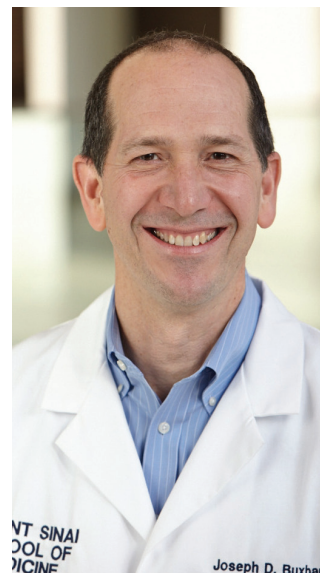


Keep an eye on these pages for special content during Autism Awareness Month!

Seaver Center Athletes

The Seaver Autism Center is excited to join with the Singer family and [Team Drive4Rebecca](#) in the New York City Triathlon, for the third time, on July 14, 2013. Our very own Drs. Joseph Buxbaum and Teresa Tavassoli will make up the Seaver Relay Team. All money raised by the Seaver Autism Center’s team will go to the Center to support active research. We are profoundly grateful to the Drive4Rebecca for their ongoing support and generosity.

Help us cheer on our Seaver athletes by visiting www.tiny.cc/seavertriathlon2013!



Fragile X Syndrome Information Session and Reception

On Tuesday, March 5, 2013 the Seaver Autism Center hosted an event for families of individuals with Fragile X Syndrome (FXS). The purpose of this event was to inform the families about the Fragile X Clinical Trials being conducted at Mount Sinai, as well as the Fragile X Clinical Trials going on at the Institute for Basic Research (IBR) in Staten Island. Katie Clapp, president and co-

founder of FRAXA Research Foundation, opened the event with a discussion on how research in FXS has developed recently and summarized the importance of clinical trials overall. She was followed by Drs. Alex Kolevzon, Clinical Director of the Seaver Center, and Ted Brown, Director of IBR, who spoke more specifically about the way the drugs work in the brain and the specific requirements of the trials each

site is conducting. Lastly, Debbie Stevenson, Chairperson of FRAXA, spoke more personally about her son's experience in a Fragile X clinical trial and the success he had in it. There was a question-and-answer session at the end of the event, and parents were able to speak openly with each of the speakers. Overall, the event was a great success!

Recent Publications

FAMILY-BASED ASSOCIATION TESTS FOR SEQUENCE DATA, AND COMPARISONS WITH POPULATION-BASED ASSOCIATION TESTS. Ionita-Laza I, Lee S, Makarov V, Buxbaum JD, Lin X.

RARE COMPLETE KNOCKOUTS IN HUMANS: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS. Lim ET, Raychaudhuri S, Sanders SJ, Stevens C, Sabo A, MacArthur DG, Neale BM, Kirby A, Ruderfer DM, Fromer M, Lek M, Liu L, Flannick J, Ripke S, Nagaswamy U, Muzny D, Reid JG, Hawes A, Newsham I, Wu Y, Lewis L, Dinh H, Gross S, Wang LS, Lin CF, Valladares O, Gabriel SB, Depristo M, Altshuler DM, Purcell SM; NHLBI Exome Sequencing Project, State MW, Boerwinkle E, Buxbaum JD, Cook EH, Gibbs RA, Schellenberg GD, Sutcliffe JS, Devlin B, Roeder K, Daly MJ.

INTRANASAL OXYTOCIN VERSUS PLACEBO IN THE TREATMENT OF ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS: A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL. Anagnostou E, Soorya L, Chaplin W, Bartz J, Halpern D, Wasserman S, Wang AT, Pepa L, Tanel N, Kushki A, Hollander E.

THE AUTISM SEQUENCING CONSORTIUM: LARGE-SCALE, HIGH-THROUGHPUT SEQUENCING IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS. Buxbaum JD, Daly MJ, Devlin B, Lehner T, Roeder K, State MW; Autism Sequencing Consortium.

INDIVIDUAL COMMON VARIANTS EXERT WEAK EFFECTS ON THE RISK FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS. Anney R, Klei L, Pinto D, Almeida J, Bacchelli E, Baird G, Bolshakova N, Bölte S, Bolton PF, Bourgeron T, Brennan S, Brian J, Casey J, Conroy J, Correia C, Corsello C, Crawford EL, de Jonge M, Delorme R, Duketis E, Duque F, Estes A, Farrar P, Fernandez BA, Folstein SE, Fombonne E, Gilbert J, Gillberg C, Glessner JT, Green A, Green J, Guter SJ, Heron EA, Holt R, Howe JL, Hughes G, Hus V, Iglizzi R, Jacob S, Kenny GP, Kim C, Kolevzon A, Kustanovich V, Lajonchere CM, Lamb JA, Law-Smith M, Leboyer M, Le Couteur A, Leventhal BL, Liu XQ, Lombard F, Lord C, Lotspeich L, Lund SC, Magalhaes TR, Mantoulan C, McDougle CJ, Melhem NM, Merikangas A, Minshew NJ, Mirza GK, Munson J, Noakes C, Nygren G, Papanikolaou K, Pagnamenta AT, Parrini B, Paton T, Pickles A, Posey DJ, Poustka F, Ragousis J, Regan R, Roberts W, Roeder K, Roge B, Rutter ML, Schlitt S, Shah N, Sheffield VC, Soorya L, Sousa I, Stoppioni V, Sykes

N, Tancredi R, Thompson AP, Thomson S, Tryfon A, Tsiantis J, Van Engeland H, Vincent JB, Volkmar F, Vorstman JA, Wallace S, Wing K, Wittmeyer K, Wood S, Zurawiecki D, Zwaigenbaum L, Bailey AJ, Battaglia A, Cantor RM, Coon H, Cuccaro ML, Dawson G, Ennis S, Freitag CM, Geschwind DH, Haines JL, Klauck SM, McMahon WM, Maestrini E, Miller J, Monaco AP, Nelson SF, Nurnberger JI Jr, Oliveira G, Parr JR, Pericak-Vance MA, Piven J, Schellenberg GD, Scherer SW, Vicente AM, Wassink TH, Wijsman EM, Betancur C, Buxbaum JD, Cook EH, Gallagher L, Gill M, Hallmayer J, Paterson AD, Sutcliffe JS, Szatmari P, Vieland VJ, Hakonarson H, Devlin B.

FUNCTIONAL DEFICITS OF THE ATTENTIONAL NETWORKS IN AUTISM. Fan J, Bernardi S, Dam NT, Anagnostou E, Gu X, Martin L, Park Y, Liu X, Kolevzon A, Soorya L, Grodberg D, Hollander E, Hof PR.

ADVANCING PATERNAL AGE AND SIMPLEX AUTISM. Puleo CM, Schmeidler J, Reichenberg A, Kolevzon A, Soorya LV, Buxbaum JD, Silverman JM.

If you would like to read these publications and others by Seaver researchers, please visit www.tiny.cc/seaverpublications.



• **THE SEAVER AUTISM CENTER NEWSLETTER** brings you timely updates about new developments related to research and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, as well as activities at the Seaver Autism Center. To be placed on our mailing list, please contact SeaverCenterEditor@mssm.edu or The Seaver Autism Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1668, New York, NY 10029. Our phone number is 212.241.0961 and our web site is www.SeaverAutismCenter.org.

• **SEAVER IS CONTINUING TO GO GREEN!** Please send your email address to seavercentereditor@mssm.edu to receive this newsletter electronically.



THE SEVENTEENTH **SAVE THE DATE**

Advances in Autism Conference

JOIN US ON **Sunday, October 6, 2013**

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:
LINMARIE SIKICH, MD

DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIFIC SPEAKERS:
JOSEPH BUXBAUM, PHD
AVI REICHENBERG, PHD
TING WANG, PHD

New Grant Awards

► The Seaver Autism Center is proud to announce that Drs. Alex Kolevzon and David Grodberg were each awarded Community-Engaged Research Grants, which are funded through the Mount Sinai Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program.

• Dr. Kolevzon will collaborate with YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities (YAI/NIPD)-Premier Healthcare clinics (PHC) in a new study to develop “Evidence-based Practices for Interventions to Improve the Health and Well-Being of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.” The objective of the proposed study is to integrate trained Family Peer Advocates (FPAs) into service delivery systems providing care to low-income, racial and ethnic minority children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). FPAs are being utilized across child service delivery systems to facilitate engagement in care and enhance collaboration between caregivers and service providers. The goal of this project is to expand the resources available to families within the ASD service

systems, with a focus on helping African-American and Latino caregivers understand ASD and access treatment.

• Dr. Grodberg will collaborate with the New York League for Early Learning (NYL), which is part of the YAI Network, to investigate the utility of a new streamlined diagnostic assessment tool called the Autism Mental Status Exam (AMSE). Several NYL pre-school evaluation sites will integrate the AMSE into their evaluations and then analyze whether scores predict how children are ultimately diagnosed. This important collaboration holds promise to develop a streamlined tool for ASD diagnosis in community based settings.

► The Seaver Autism Center has become part of two Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) network grants, awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2012. These ACEs are two of only ten awarded nationally for the 2012-2017 period.

• Dr. Abraham Reichenberg, Professor of Psychiatry and of Preventive Medicine, is the Principal Investigator of “Multigenerational Familial and Environmental Risk for Autism (MINERvA) Network.” This project will examine multigenerational familial and environmental risk factors for autism.

• Dr. Alex Kolevzon, Clinical Director of the Seaver Autism Center and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, is the Principal Investigator for the Mount Sinai site in the grant entitled “Study of Oxytocin in ASD to improve Reciprocal Social Behaviors (SOARS-B).” This study will be a definitive trial of oxytocin for the treatment of social impairment in ASD.