



seaver autism center for research & treatment @ mount sinai

Vol.7, No.2, 2016

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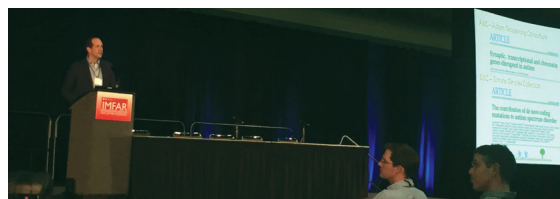
4 2016 SEAVER AUTISM CENTER CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

Seaver Researchers at 2016 International Meeting for Autism Research

At this year's International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) in Baltimore, MD, sponsored by the International Society for Autism Research, several projects were presented by Seaver Autism Center researchers. In addition, Joseph D. Buxbaum, PhD, Director of the Seaver Autism Center, gave an oral presentation.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

This year, Seaver researchers presented six poster presentations and one oral presentation. Dr. Buxbaum gave an oral presentation titled, "Combining Autism and Intellectual Disability Exome Data Yields Insight into Both Disorders." In addition to those pictured on page 2, Teresa Tavassoli, PhD, Instructor, gave a presentation titled, "Sensory and Motor Difficulties Predict Severity of Autism Symptoms."



Joseph D. Buxbaum, PhD, presents at IMFAR meeting.



The Seaver Autism Center hosted our Fourth Annual IMFAR Reunion Reception for current and former members, as well as friends and collaborators.

Autism Awareness Month at the Seaver Autism Center

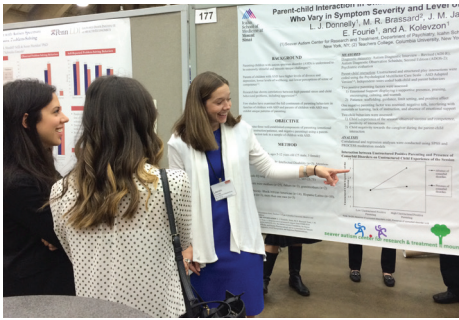
This year for Autism Awareness Month we continued the social media campaign, #SeaverStories, featuring photos and stories from family members of individuals with autism and researchers working in the field at the Seaver Autism Center (See page 3). In addition, we hosted weekly information tables at Mount Sinai, and we hosted a Seaver Seminar by Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele, MD. His presentation was titled, "Precision medicine versus symptomatic treatment in autism spectrum disorder."



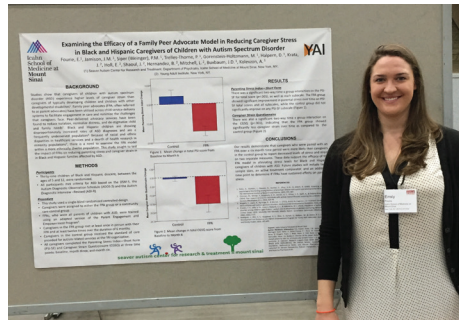
Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele, MD, Mortimer D. Sackler, MD, Associate Professor, Columbia University, Research Psychiatrist II, New York State Psychiatric Institute, Center for Autism and the Developing Brain, Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology

International Meeting for Autism Research

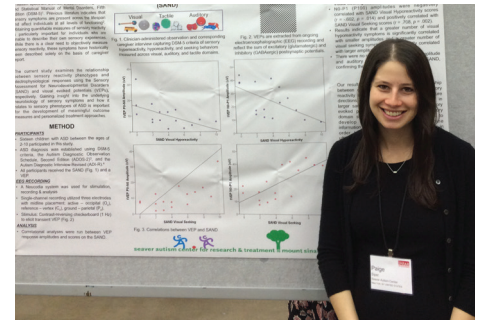
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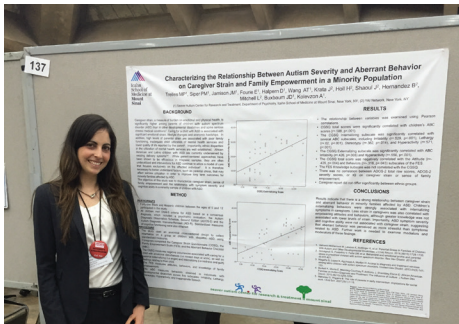
“Parent-Child Interaction in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder Who Vary in Symptom Severity and Level of Functioning”
Lauren Donnelly, PhD, Seaver Clinical Fellow



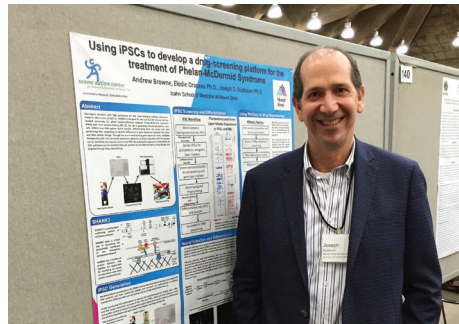
“Examining the Efficacy of a Family Peer Advocate Model in Reducing Caregiver Stress in Black and Hispanic Caregivers of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder”
Emily Fourie, BA, Clinical Research Coordinator



“Integrating Behavioral and Electrophysiological Assessments of Sensory Reactivity in ASD”
Paige Siper, PhD, Chief Psychologist



“Characterizing the Relationship Between Autism Severity and Aberrant Behavior on Caregiver Strain and Family Empowerment in a Minority Population”
Pilar Trelles, MD, Seaver Clinical Fellow



“Using iPSCs to Study Pathobiology and Drug Targets for Phelan-McDermid Syndrome”
Presented by Joseph D. Buxbaum, PhD
(First author: Andrew Browne, BS, Seaver Graduate Fellow)

Seaver on the Web

Visit our website at www.seaverautismcenter.org to learn more about current studies and new developments.



Like us on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/seaverautismcenter.



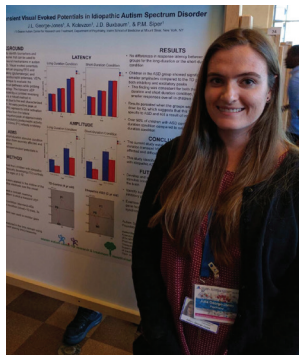
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Recent Presentation

Julia George-Jones, Clinical Research Coordinator, gave a presentation titled “Electrophysiological Assessment of Idiopathic ASD” as part of the Friedman Brain Institute’s 8th Annual Neuroscience Retreat.



Julia George-Jones

Farewell to Clinical Research Coordinators

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the departing Clinical Research Coordinators for all of their hard work during their time here at the Seaver Autism Center. Jesslyn Jamison, Emily Fourie, Hillary Rieger, and Shannon Gair will be leaving the Seaver Center this summer. Ms. Jamison will be pursuing a PhD in School Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. Returning to her roots, Ms. Fourie will be attending the University of California, Davis and pursuing a PhD in Psychology with a specialization in Developmental Psychology. Ms. Rieger will be attending the Postbaccalaureate Prehealth Studies Program at New York University, followed by medical school. Ms. Gair will be traveling around the world while she applies to PhD programs in Clinical Psychology.



We wish all of the departing coordinators the best of luck on their next steps!

Seaver Stories

► “I started in the lab last summer and right away embarked on a project on a rat model of Fragile X Syndrome. Though I had a background in neuroscience when I joined, I was completely new to the autism field. With great mentorship and support, I can now make a 3D reconstruction of a brain, run rats on mazes, and make a dynamite Excel spreadsheet. I am paying the mentorship forward by assistant teaching three graduate classes, running a neuroscience outreach program for the East Harlem community, and mentoring a high school student this summer.”



Carla Golden (right)

– **Carla Golden, Graduate Student in the Laboratory of Molecular Neuropsychiatry at the Seaver Autism Center**

► “Being part of the Seaver Autism Center has allowed me to be involved in a wide variety of exciting research studies. Although the projects we conduct are diverse, they share the goal of better understanding autism and developing novel tools to help affected individuals and their families. I have valued the opportunity to be exposed to such varied research, and to be able to contribute to the work being done. I also feel lucky to be able to work with so many wonderful families! My work at the Seaver Center has fueled my passion to continue in the field by pursuing a PhD in School Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin this fall.”



Jesslyn Jamison (right)

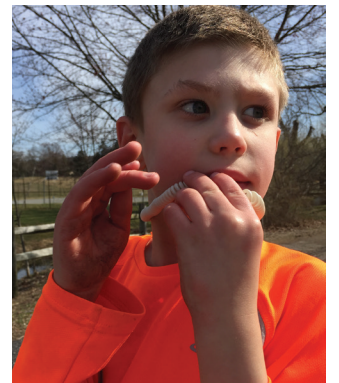
– **Jesslyn Jamison (right), Clinical Research Coordinator at the Seaver Autism Center**

► “My 11 year-old child was involved in an IGF-1 Clinical Trial for idiopathic autism through the Seaver Autism Center. I have incredible admiration and respect for the research and clinical staff at the Seaver Center—they are all amazing people. They made my son feel so important, loved and valuable. Hillary Rieger and Stacey Lurie greeted us with sincere affec-

tion and validation. The Clinical Director, Dr. Kolevzon, is so incredibly bright and attentive—we felt extremely safe involving our child in this experimental study. Dr. Danielle Halpern and the other clinical psychology staff were extremely thorough and patient. Dr. Frank, the pediatric neurologist, got us through the least comfortable elements of examination with humor and compassion. I can’t say enough—they all listened to our observations, provided guidance and support when needed and became our friends (and family) along the way. They even included my neuro-typical daughter in research so that she felt part of the process and involved in helping her brother. I appreciated our visits to the Seaver Center so much because I knew that we were part of something so much bigger than ourselves—we were on the cutting edge of autism treatment and we were so honored to be included.”

– **Julie S.**

► “After Ben was diagnosed with Phelan-McDermid syndrome (PMS) we didn’t know where to turn for reliable information. Our doctors at the time did their best, but they had never seen a patient with the syndrome before and usually they asked us more questions than we asked them. Being able to relocate to New York and be involved with the Seaver Center has been an amazing blessing to Ben and to his family. Not only have the staff at Seaver seen several cases of PMS, they are spending time to study this rare condition and help families around the world. At Seaver, Ben has been involved with a clinical trial studying the effects of IGF-1. Check-ins for the trial involved several trips to Seaver, and these quickly became highlights not only for Ben, but for his sisters as well. The staff at Seaver made sure that Ben’s sisters felt involved and participated in aspects of the research. We are grateful for the work that everyone at Seaver does, and it has made a lasting impact on our family.”



– **Marc and Chardell Buchanan**



Mount Sinai

Seaver Autism Center for Research and Treatment

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• **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 website is www.SeaverAutismCenter.org.

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



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COURSE DIRECTOR
JOSEPH D. BUXBAUM, PHD

Save the Date
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016