

The Stanford Autism Center at Packard Children's Hospital Newsletter

November 3, 2010, Issue 2

4th Annual Autism Spectrum Disorders Update: Save the date! The Stanford Autism Center at Packard Children's Hospital will be holding the 4th Annual Autism Spectrum Disorders Update on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center on the Stanford Campus. Registration and program will soon be available on our website at <http://childpsychiatry.stanford.edu>.

Autism Weekly Parenting E-mail: The Stanford Center for Autism at Packard Children's Hospital is offering a free weekly parenting e-mail. When a child receives a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), parents feel a range of emotion, from disbelief and confusion to sadness and a feeling of being overwhelmed. This is absolutely normal. Many parents ask "what do I do next?" While there is no simple answer to that question, it may be helpful to learn about the many promising advances in the treatment of children with ASDs. When you sign up for this service, you will receive a weekly e-mail for eight weeks, then an e-mail twice a month for a year. You may opt to discontinue the e-mail or sign up for an additional year. These e-mails are meant for moms, dads, as well as other supporters, your parents, and friends too. You may sign up on line to receive these e-mails at [TPR Autism Series](#)

Participants need for Autism Twin Research: Stanford University researchers are currently recruiting same-sex twin pairs with autism *and* twin pairs without autism (i.e. typically developing) to participate in a research study. The study compares twins with Autism Spectrum Disorder to typically developing twins so we better understand the causes of autism. Please see press release link on these studies for more information: <http://med.stanford.edu/ism/2010/january/autism-study.html>. We are also looking for typical twins as control subjects. If you know of someone who would be interested in participating in the study, please call Sue Cleveland, Project Coordinator at (650) 723-7809.

Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT) Group for Parents: Autism Research Project: Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT) Group for Parents Stanford Autism Center researchers have launched a new study, funded by the organization Autism Speaks, to investigate the effectiveness of group parent education in Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT). PRT is a naturalistic form of applied behavior analysis which focuses on motivating children with autism to interact and communicate during daily routines. PRT is an evidence-based treatment which has been demonstrated to be effective in individual parent-child therapy sessions. With the high demand for treatment services, more efficient and cost-effective methods of delivery are needed, and systematic research regarding PRT delivered in a group format has not yet been conducted. The study, led by principal investigator Dr. Antonio Hardan, will consist of a randomized controlled 12-week trial to examine whether the language skills of children with autism improve after their parents participate in group PRT training sessions. These results will be compared with parents who are participating in a psychoeducational group. The groups will be led by Dr. Grace Gengoux, child psychologist and clinical instructor in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Stanford, and Stanford Autism Center postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Kari Berquist. The study is currently seeking participants. Parents who have children ages 2-6 with autism spectrum disorder and significant language delays may be eligible to participate. More information is available by calling (650) 736-1235.

Videoconferencing the Autism Spectrum Disorders: Educational Series for Parents at the San Andreas Regional Center: The Stanford Autism Center at Packard Children's Hospital is offering a 10-part educational series for parents of children and adolescents with a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The series is designed to provide parents with information about ASD diagnoses, treatments and services. Many sessions are for parents of all children and adolescents; others are for certain age

groups or language abilities. Sessions will begin on November 9, 2010 from 6:00 – 7:00PM at the San Andreas Regional Center, 344 Salinas Street, Salinas, Suite 104. The sessions will be taught by Dr. Linda Lotspeich, Clinical Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science. For more information, please call Special Kids Crusade at (831) 372-2730. Register on line at [Autism Spectrum Disorders](#).