



## OAR Announces 2016 Applied Research Grant Recipients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is pleased to announce the research grant recipients of the 2016 Applied Research Competition. This program awards up to \$30,000 to researchers and professionals conducting applied autism research. This year, the Board of Directors of OAR authorized funding for six new grants totaling \$178,866. With these six new studies, OAR has awarded more than \$3.5 million in grants to support 104 applied research studies since 2002. These studies, which will be conducted across the country, will examine timely issues that affect the autism community.

This year, OAR received 148 pre-proposals during the initial round, making it the most competitive competition cycle in OAR history. From those 148 pre-proposals, OAR invited 69 researchers to submit full proposals, and 27 ultimately advanced to the final review. Members of the OAR Scientific Council, a group of autism professionals from a variety of fields and backgrounds, reviewed and evaluated the proposals. In the end, they identified six studies as the most outstanding.

Congratulations to the 2016 applied grant recipients:

***Usage Trends and Characteristics of SSI Beneficiaries on the Autism Spectrum***

Kristy A. Anderson, Ph.D.

A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

***Facing Your Fears: Supporting Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Intellectual Disabilities***

Audrey Blakeley-Smith, Ph.D.

University of Colorado Denver, Denver, Colorado

***Open Trial of the CHANGE (Changing Health in ASD through Nutrition, Getting Fit & Expanding Variety) Obesity Program***

Kristen Criado, Ph.D.

Marcus Autism Center at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

***A Feasibility Study of Headsprout Reading Program in Children with ASD and Reading Delay***

Bethany Hansen, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Marcus Autism Center at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

***Association of State-level Factors with Vocational Outcomes for Transition-age Youth with Autism***

Anne Roux, M.P.H., M.A.

A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*RCT of Mindfulness-Enhanced Pivotal Response Treatment Group Training for Parents of Children with ASD*

Angela Scarpa, Ph.D.

Virginia Tech Center for Autism Research, Blacksburg, Virginia

The 2017 Applied Research Competition opens December 5. The Request for Proposals (RFP) can be accessed [here](#). Pre-proposal applications will be accepted through Monday, March 27, 2017 at 11:59 EST. Please use the online WizeHive application for submissions.

For inquiries regarding the Applied Research Competition, please contact Kimberly Ha, Research and Programs Director at (703)243-9762 or e-mail [kha@researchautism.org](mailto:kha@researchautism.org).

**About OAR:** The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national non-profit organization formed and led by relatives of children and adults with autism. OAR is dedicated to promoting research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much-needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions. Learn more at their Web site: [www.researchautism.org](http://www.researchautism.org).

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