

AUTISM INSTITUTE

The Florida State University College of Medicine

About our Mission

The mission of the **Florida State University (FSU) Autism Institute** is to: **promote** interdisciplinary research to advance scientific knowledge of autism spectrum disorder (ASD); **bridge** the gap between scientific knowledge and community practice; **build** the capacity of primary care physicians, other service providers, educators, employers, family members, and individuals with ASD to improve outcomes through research, professional development, and education; and **maximize** the use of innovative video and information technology in research, education, and service related to ASD.



Center for Autism and
Related Disabilities

FSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) is one of seven centers funded by the Florida Legislature and currently serves over 3,300 individuals ranging from toddlers to adults in 18 counties in the Florida panhandle. CARD provides free consultation, resources, and educational support to individuals with ASD, their families, and professionals who work with them, to build knowledge, confidence, infrastructure, and sustainability within the community.



FIRST WORDS® Project is a longitudinal research investigation to identify early signs of ASD and communication disorders in children under 18 months of age to improve early detection so families can access intervention sooner. With funding from the US Dept. of Education, National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, our research aims include defining the social communication phenotype of autism in the 2nd year, estimating the prevalence of autism in toddlers, improving and streamlining screening and diagnosis of communication disorders and ASD at 12-24 months of age, and comparing characteristics of autism in diverse cultures.



Early Social Interaction Project

Early Social Interaction Project (ESI) is an intervention model developed with funding from the US Dept. of Education to teach parents of toddlers with ASD how to support social communication, emotional regulation, and play in everyday activities to make the most of every teachable moment. With funding from Autism Speaks and the National Institute of Mental Health, we are finishing a 6-year randomized clinical trial (RCT) of the effectiveness of ESI beginning at 18 months of age. Our next study in collaboration with the Marcus Autism Center in Atlanta is part of the Emory Autism Center of Excellence funded by NIMH on the effectiveness of ESI beginning at 12 months of age. ESI is part of the Toddler Treatment Network, a consortium of 8 research sites sponsored by Autism Speaks.



Classroom SCERTS Intervention Project (CSI) is a comprehensive educational model for educators to support social communication and emotional regulation in everyday classroom learning opportunities for students with ASD in both general and special education settings. With funding from the US Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, we are conducting a large RCT in public elementary school classrooms in Florida, California, and Georgia.



Autism Navigator® is a unique collection of web-based tools and courses developed to bridge the gap between science and community practice. The collection is designed to increase the capacity of healthcare providers, early intervention providers, educators, and families to improve outcomes of children with ASD. We have integrated the most current research into a highly interactive web platform with extensive video footage to illustrate effective evidence-based practice. The video clips come from the unparalleled library of video footage collected from federally funded research projects of the FSU Autism Institute. To learn about Autism Navigator, go to www.whyautismnavigator.com

Training in Research, Autism, and Interdisciplinary Leadership (TRAIL) is a doctoral-level interdisciplinary technology-enhanced curriculum to offer a specialization in autism. TRAIL doctoral students are seeking PhDs at FSU in Communication Science and Disorders, Clinical Psychology, Special Education, Music Therapy, or other departments and are funded by research and training grants from the National Institutes of Health and U.S. Department of Education.

To Learn more about the Autism Institute, visit our website at www.FSUAutism.com

The FSU Autism Institute strives to increase our funds each year through private and corporate donations, annual fundraising, and endowments.