

**COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING
SCIENCE WHEREVER IT LEADS**

SINCE 1967



ANNUAL REPORT 2024
JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31



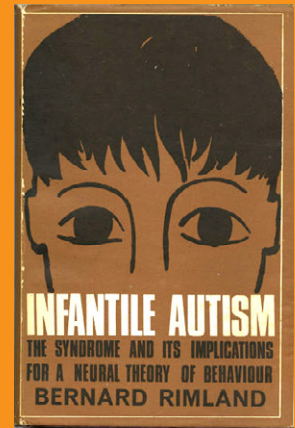
**AUTISM RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**
Advancing Science & Education

COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING SCIENCE WHEREVER IT LEADS

SINCE 1967

In his first book, *Infantile Autism* (1964), ARI's founder, Dr. Bernard Rimland, posited that behaviors observed in autistic children indicate differences in their underlying biology, likely influenced by genetics, environmental factors, and neurology.

For nearly 60 years, ARI's dedication to transparency, collaboration, independence, and persistence has kept us at the forefront of autism research and education. We fund exploratory biomedical research, disseminate important discoveries to clinicians and families, and bring experts from various fields together to discuss findings and their implications for research and care. With the help of generous donor support, ARI continues to advance autism research and education.



Original 1964 edition

1 in 31
children has
been identified
with autism*

*According to estimates from CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network.
[CDC.gov/ncbddd/autism/data](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data)



**AUTISM RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**
Advancing Science & Education

OUR MISSION

To advance the health of autistic people through biomedical research and free education.

OUR VISION

Inclusive research and education are the drivers of an evolving, highly individualized standard of care for autistic people.

OUR VALUES

RISK-TAKING: We fund inclusive, early stage, novel research;

OPTIMISM: We believe ARI's work can positively affect the health of autistic people;

ETHICS: We democratize information and learning to amplify the need for appropriate, individualized healthcare for autistic people;

INDIVIDUALITY: We respect and include autistic people, and their families, in our work;

HONESTY: We put science first. We fund research and facilitate the transfer of evidence-based information. We are focused on generating and sharing scientific findings that are peer-reviewed. We fund studies aimed toward quality output in respected journals and publications;

TRANSPARENCY: We serve the autism community and the general public.

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



2024-
2025

Dear ARI supporters:

I am deeply honored to have served as board chair for the Autism Research Institute (ARI) over the past year. Everyone at ARI continues to focus on our core mission. We serve autistic individuals, families, and caregivers committed to understanding and empowering the autism community as well as supporting researchers and clinicians who pursue careers in this complex and diverse area of science. We do all of this by providing high-quality educational opportunities and financial support for cutting-edge research through the generosity of our donors. We all remain very grateful for your ongoing support of our organization.

ARI has successfully implemented significant service growth over the 2024-25 fiscal year, including expanding our grant-making efforts to support both established and early-career researchers, sustaining our continuing medical education (CME) program, and enhancing the breadth and depth of our free online educational webinars, which are delivered by highly qualified presenters.

Our 31st Scientific Think Tank gathered in Seattle in May of this year, bringing together a diverse group of clinicians and researchers to discuss the advancement of work in this arena. This year's meeting included professionals from across the globe, with many new faces and early-career scientists joining us. Additional regional and online think tanks are planned for the 4th quarter of 2025. A new initiative focusing on a collaborative effort for an international think tank with the UN is underway. The work every professional involved in these efforts pursues each day serves the health and well-being of autistic individuals worldwide.

We significantly expanded research funding in 2024. Our maximum award increased to \$100,000 per grant, and overall, our grant funding in the research community grew by nearly 75%. Our call for Letters of Interest (LOIs) for 2025 grants elicited a total of 59 LOI receipts - from researchers in 12 countries, including from the US, Italy, Canada, Germany, Israel, Malaysia, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. We also received 23 applications for young investigators' grants. These, again, are record numbers of requests for our grant-making program, and decisions regarding requests for formal applications will be made soon.

Our educational initiatives continue to grow, with enhancements to our CME programming and a growing international clinical education webinar series that aims to increase in scope, depth, and impact. We remain committed to accessibility for all by offering free access to live online webinars, with same day playback available on our YouTube channel. Over the past year, participants from more than 100 countries have engaged with ARI's live and recorded events.

Since 1967, ARI has advocated for cutting-edge scientific research, understanding the complexities of medical needs and care, and education and information for all. In providing this comprehensive report and information for you, we express our gratitude for your support, ARI's exceptional staff, Scientific Advisory Board, and Board of Directors. It is a privilege to share this path with you, and we honor every individual in the autism community.

Always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly McCracken Barnhill".

Kelly Barnhill, MBA, CN, CCN
Board Chair
Autism Research Institute



“ TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A WORLD WHERE EVERY AUTISTIC PERSON, REGARDLESS OF AGE, CAN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.”

Message from Dr. Edelson

For over half a century, the Autism Research Institute has been a relentless champion for autistic individuals and their families. As pioneers in autism research and advocacy, we have driven groundbreaking discoveries, forged global collaborations, and empowered countless communities with essential knowledge and resources.

Autistic individuals deserve specialized, compassionate care to overcome unique challenges. It is our privilege to equip physicians with the tools to provide highly personalized care for their autistic patients. Our mission is to offer the autism community unparalleled research and free educational resources that support every step of their journey.

With the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers, board members, and generous donors, we are transforming lives by advancing research, education, and support systems. Together, we are building a world where every autistic person, regardless of age, can reach their full potential.

Stephen M. Edelson, PhD
Chief Science Officer
Autism Research Institute

“ PRIVATE FUNDING HAS ALWAYS BEEN ESSENTIAL FOR NOVEL RESEARCH. I WANT TO THANK ARI DONORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT – THEY CAN BE ASSURED THAT IT IS MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL.”

MARTHA WELCH, MD
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Stewardship Overview

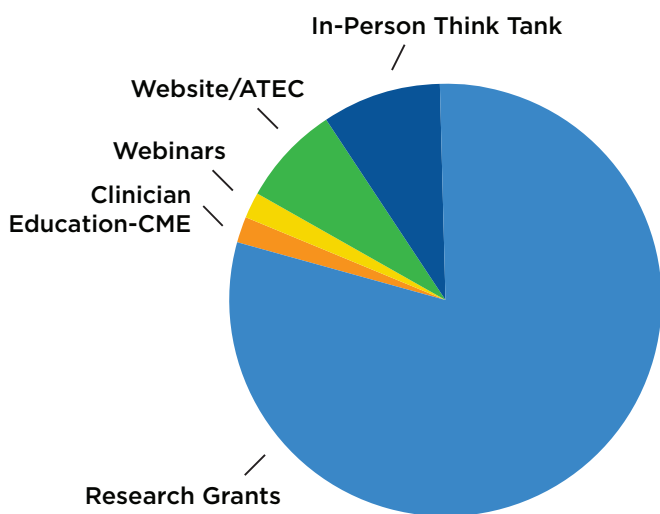
Transparency

Thousands of supporters have donated to ARI over the past 57 years, sharing our values and our commitment to improving the health and well-being of people with autism.

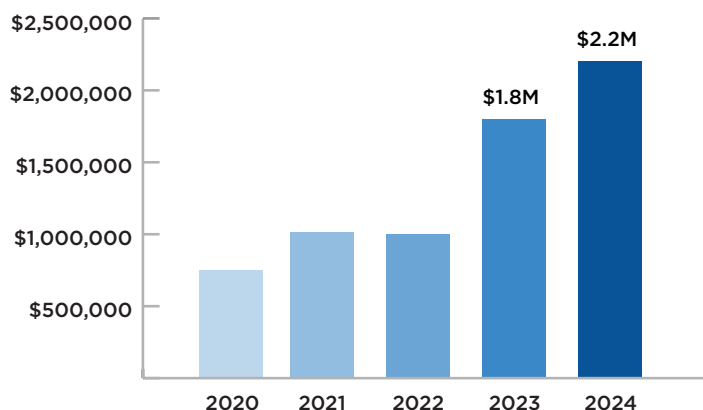
We are deeply committed to transparency as we work to support impactful autism research while educating professionals, autistic individuals, and their families.

To view ARI's comprehensive financial statements, visit Autism.org/financial-information

2024 Programs and Services



Annual Growth in Contributions and Gifts



2024 Financial Summary

Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2024

ASSETS	2024	2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,143,476	281,218
Restricted Cash	0	21,162
Contributions Receivable	1,044,275	50,000
Prepaid and Deferred Expenses	0	26,906
Investments (at Market)	3,812,505	4,345,041
Property and Equipment (Net)	15,551	16,453
Total Assets	6,015,807	4,740,780

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2024	2023
Accounts Payable	24,630	12,759
Other Payables	79,420	51,951
Research Grants Payable	483,000	0
Total Liabilities	587,050	64,710
Net Assets	2024	2023
Without Donor Restrictions	5,418,646	4,596,323
With Donor Restrictions	10,111	79,747
Total Net Assets	5,428,757	4,676,070
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	6,015,807	4,740,780

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2024	2023
Contributions and Gifts	2,215,550	1,770,487
Membership Dues	3,493	3,415
Contributed Materials	0	478
Interest, Dividends, net	115,831	109,532
Gains on Investments	320,745	367,699
Other Income	2,239	10,186
Total Support and Revenue	2,657,858	2,261,797

EXPENSES	2024
Programs and Services	
Research Grants	808,563
Educational Webinars	21,657
Continuing Medical Education	17,240
Scientific Think Tank	89,363
Online Journal, Tools and Resources	74,261
Program Support and Personnel	664,649
Total Program Expenses	1,675,733
Supporting Services	
Management & General	114,962
Fundraising	114,476
Total Supporting Services Expenses	229,438
Total Expenses	1,905,171
Non-Operating In Net Assets	
Investment Income and Other	115,831
Changes in Net Assets	
Total Change in Net Assets	752,687
Net Assets Beginning of the year	4,676,070
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$5,428,757



Research that Makes a Difference

We are focused on supporting innovative autism research while providing the latest science-based information for the entire autism community. Scientific advances support ARI's longstanding position that addressing co-occurring medical conditions is essential to effectively supporting autistic individuals.

Think Tanks: Scientists and Clinicians Face to Face

Since 1995, ARI has brought together experts at its annual scientific Think Tank meetings to address novel questions and discuss issues related to promising interventions. ARI also funds and sponsors consensus meetings to facilitate ongoing discussions about the latest findings. Our work has influenced how researchers approach investigating the causes of and effective treatments for autism.

Learn more at Autism.org/ARI-Scientific-Think-Tanks

Free Online Continuing Education for Physicians and Healthcare Providers

ARI works in partnership with leading experts to provide professional education that gives thoughtful, inquisitive clinicians the means to offer support to individuals with autism that is safe and effective.

In joint providership with the Cleveland Clinic, we continue to offer complimentary CME-certified online education to amplify understanding of the medical nature of autism.

Learn more at Autism.org/CME

Expert Consensus Reports

ARI is facilitating the collaboration among researchers and clinicians to write summary reports on known findings as well as areas requiring further investigation regarding co-occurring medical issues related to autism, including:

- Gastroenterology
- Genetics
- Immunology
- Metabolism
- Neurology
- Neuropathology
- Nutrition
- Sleep

“**THINK TANKS ARE IMMERSIVE EVENTS AMONG PEOPLE WHO HAVE A PASSION FOR AUTISM, WHERE WE CAN EXCHANGE IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES. THEY ARE PRICELESS. THIS IS THE WAY SCIENCE ADVANCES.**”

MAURO LINS, MDD
INSTITUTO ESTUDOS EN AUTISMO
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL



ARI's 31st Scientific Think Tank, Seattle, WA, May 2025

Global Researcher Network

ARI continues to develop a Global Researcher Network to keep researchers up to date with the latest news in the scientific community; this includes sharing articles on conducting research, informing them of various funding sources, and notifying them of the latest studies published in peer-reviewed journals.

Research on Aging and Autism

ARI's leadership actively participates in a group of international researchers focused on improving the quality of life and healthcare experiences for seniors with autism and/or intellectual disability spectrum. As part of this effort, ARI co-sponsored an international think tank on aging in 2023. A summary of this meeting, titled "Advancing care priorities for health and quality of life among older adults in the autism and/or intellectual disabilities communities: proceedings of an international Think Tank" was published June 2025, in *BMC Proceedings*.

We are also conducting an online survey of seniors to collect data about autism throughout the entire lifespan. We hope the results will provide insight into the needs and challenges of seniors with autism (aged 50 years or older) and their support providers. For more information, see ASDSeniorSurvey.com

In 2024, ARI awarded more than \$700,000 in research grants to scientists whose work will have a direct impact on the lives of individuals diagnosed with autism.

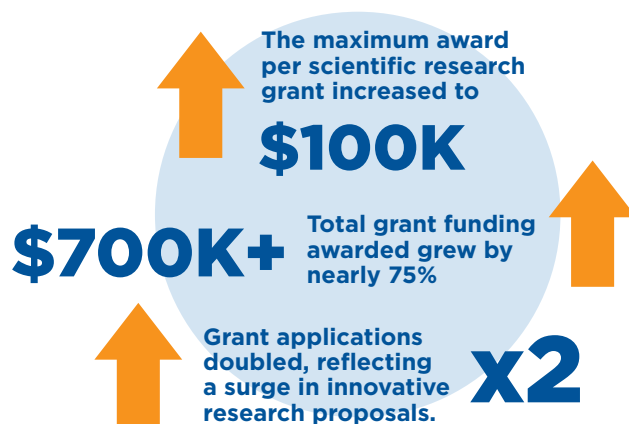
To read more about these studies, please visit: Autism.org/ARI-funded-research-studies-2024

Robert L. Hendren Research Grant Award

2024 Recipients

Philippe Campeau, MD, FCCMG
Marilena Griguoli, PhD

In honor of his many years of support for our work, serving as a member of ARI's Scientific Advisory Board and Board of Directors, the top-scoring research grant proposals funded each year are now recognized as Robert L. Hendren Research Grant Award recipients.



Vardan Arutiunian, PhD
 Seattle Children's Research Institute
Excitation / Inhibition Imbalance as a Neural Marker of Language Impairment in Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): Relation to Sex and Language Phenotype



Valentina Ferretti
 Università degli Studi di Roma
Investigating the Interplay Between Oxytocin and Neuroinflammation in the Effects of Social Buffering in a Mouse Model of 22q11.2DS



Alessia Butera, PhD
 Centro Nazionale per la Ricerca e la Valutazione Preclinica e Clinica dei Farmaci
 National Center for Drug Research and Evaluation
 Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Gut inflammation as a pharmacological target for ASD



Marilena Griguoli, PhD
 Institute of Molecular Biology and Pathology (IBPM-CNR)
 European Brain Research Institute (EBRI)
Role of Septal Cholinergic Neurons in ASD Social Novelty Deficits



Philippe Campeau, MD, FCCMG
 CHU Sainte-Justine
 Université de Montréal
Dissecting the Neuronal Consequences of Altered NuRD Complex Function in Autism



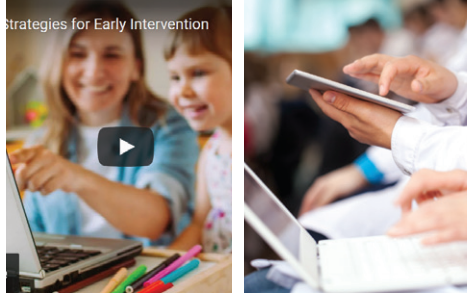
Laura Hewitson, PhD
 Johnson Center for Child Health and Development
A Role for the Exposome in Understanding the Biology of Autism Spectrum Disorder



Bradley Ferguson, PhD
 University of Missouri
Ecological Monitoring of Autonomic Nervous System Activity and Relationship with Social Communication and Gastrointestinal Symptoms in Autism Spectrum Disorder



Taichi A. Suzuki, PhD
 College of Health Solutions
 Biodesign Center for Health Through Microbiomes
 Arizona State University
 Biodesign Institute B230C
Linking Human Ancestry and Microbiome to Predict Autism Treatment Outcomes

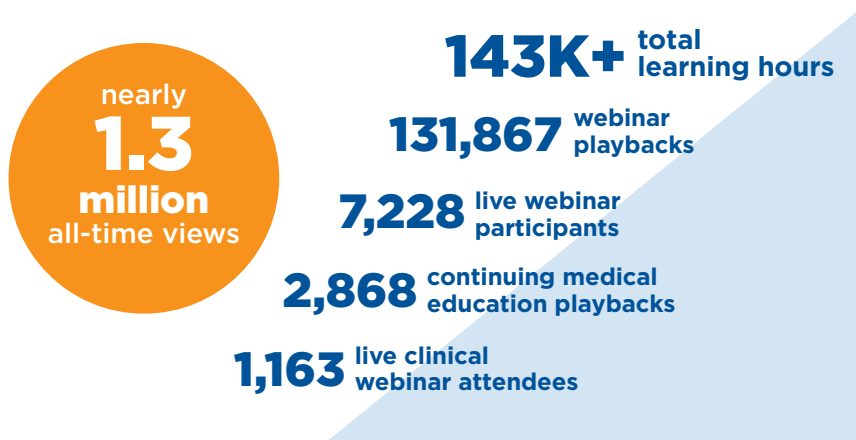


Sharing Resources and Advancing Education

Free Online Webinars

ARI’s webinars focus on the unique needs and strengths of autistic people and empower the community to develop appropriate strategies to support health, well-being, and overall quality of life.

Learn more at Autism.org/Webinars



“**ARI WEBINARS ARE FILLED WITH INSIGHTFUL INFORMATION WITHOUT ADDED ‘FLUFF’ — IT IS TIME WELL SPENT. THEY ARE A FANTASTIC RESOURCE FOR SO MANY COMMUNITIES.**”

KATIE VUCKOVICH, MS, MCCMH, BCBA, LBA, LCPC
ILLINOIS

International Outreach

ARI is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that provides educational resources and tools to users worldwide. Outreach includes targeted efforts working with network groups and clinicians worldwide, especially in regions where awareness and support are still emerging, such as areas of Eastern Europe and South America – and the translation of our Autism Evaluation Checklist (ATEC). See opposite page for more details.

ARI’s Global Support Network connects with 260 groups in 78 countries, including Argentina, Belgium, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Israel, Moldova, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

Worldwide Impact
260 Groups
78 Countries
28 Languages

WEBINAR TOPICS 2024

Continuing Education

- Brain Imaging Research in Autism: Promises and Pitfalls with Q&A
- Case Study: Co-Occurring Metabolic Conditions and Autism - PKU
- Case Study: Co-Occurring Metabolic Disorders and Autism
- Case Study: Co-Occurring Nutrient Deficiency & Autism

Webinars for Parents and Professionals

- Aging and Autism - Cognitive and Well-being
- Applying Neuroscience to Improve Clinical Understanding of Autism
- Autism and Board Gaming as a Therapeutic Strategy
- Autism and Gender
- Autism and Trauma
- The Benefits and Challenges of Using Social Media: Reducing Risks through Joint Problem-Solving and Digital Literacy
- Biomarkers Start Telling Us a Story
- Blood-brain barrier dysfunction in Pediatric Acute Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Regulation
- Changes in Autism Symptoms Across Childhood
- Co-occurring Motor and Cognitive Development
- Early Intervention - Remote Administration
- Food Adverse Reaction and Intestinal Microbiota
- The Gut, Autism, and Mental Health
- The Low-Hanging Fruit: Exploring Monogenic Syndromes with Elevated Rates of Autism
- Obesity and Autism
- Research Updates on GI and Autism
- Self-regulation Strategies for Self-Injurious Behaviors
- Sensory Considerations for Social Communication and Autism
- Sexuality and Gender in Autism
- Sleep Research and Autism
- Social Skills and Autism
- Strategies for Managing and Coping with Sensory Challenges
- Understanding Autism: From Confusion to Awareness
- Updates on PANS and Behavior
- Wellbeing Wins: Integrating Positive Psychology into the Autism Community
- White Matter and Language Development

Free Online Assessment Tool: Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist (ATEC)

Researchers frequently publish findings aimed at evaluating different biomedical, behavioral, and educational interventions intended to benefit autistic people. The Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist was developed by Dr. Rimland and Dr. Edelson to serve as a means to assess effectiveness of evidence-based interventions. The ATEC is offered for free, online, in 28 languages, including Chinese, Czech, Hebrew, Lithuanian, Romanian, and Vietnamese – more than 155 people use this tool each day.

Articles and Books on Critical Topics

Autism Research Review International – Now online!

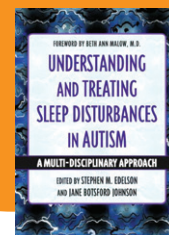
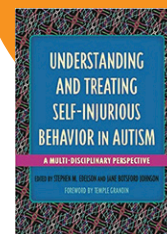
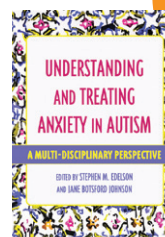
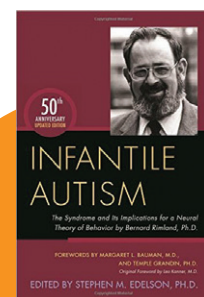
ARI began publishing a quarterly science newsletter, the *Autism Research Review International*, in 1987. In 2023, our Board of Directors envisioned increasing ARI's impact by expanding access to ARI's award-winning quarterly journal, and ARI's staff worked to make this vision a reality. Today, *Autism Research Review International* is available online for free at ARRIONline.org, with the print journal still available by subscription for those who prefer it.

Books Featuring Insight from Leading Autism Experts

ARI began with the publication of our founder Dr. Bernard Rimland's seminal book, *Infantile Autism*, and we have published numerous books over the decades since, featuring contributions from pioneering researchers and clinicians in the field. ARI's latest book series, *Understanding and Treating Autism*, provides a professional understanding of the impact of co-occurring medical conditions and autism.

ATEC in 2024

- >155 are completed per day on average
- Now available in 28 languages



Remembering Our Past... While Always Moving Forward

Since early 2023, ARI has operated the National Autism History Museum in San Diego. The museum offers an engaging and in-depth exploration of the rich history of autism research and discovery, highlighting key scientific breakthroughs and milestones that have fundamentally shaped our understanding of autistic health over the past century.

“WE CANNOT BUILD UPON THE FUTURE WITHOUT LEARNING ABOUT THE TRIUMPHS AND MISTAKES OF THE PAST.”

STEPHEN M. EDELSON, PHD



Active Engagement with Our Community

Autism.org and Social Media

We post updates and information to our website and on social media, including descriptions of recent research studies and important autism-related news.

Toll-free Telephone Hotline: 833-281-7165

ARI offers a free hotline for parents and professionals.

E-newsletters

ARI publishes the monthly *ARI E-newsletter* for more than 143,000 subscribers and *Clinical Research in Autism*, a bimonthly e-newsletter sent to more than 10,000 nurses, obstetricians, and pediatricians, to keep them informed on research relevant to their practice.

Subscribe:

[Autism.org/ari-monthly-e-newsletter](https://autism.org/ari-monthly-e-newsletter)

[Autism.org/clinical-research-e-newsletter](https://autism.org/clinical-research-e-newsletter)



WE WORK EVERY DAY TO PROVIDE THE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND TREATMENT ADVOCACY THAT IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

2024 Board of Directors



Kelly Barnhill, MBA, CN, CCN
Scientific Advisory Board Member
The Johnson Center for Child Health & Development
Elected Board Chair starting April 2024



Robert L. Hendren, DO
Scientific Advisory Board Member
University of California, San Francisco Medical Center



Marvin Natowicz, MD, PhD
SECRETARY
Scientific Advisory Board Member
Cleveland Clinic
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Elected Board Secretary starting April 2024



S. Jill James, PhD
Scientific Advisory Board Co-Chair
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Retired



James Walker
TREASURER
Chief Operating Officer
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Chicago, IL



Wenn Lawson, PhD
Teaching Fellow, Birmingham University, UK;
Research Officer, Macquarie University, NSW, Australia;
University of Western Australia, and Curtin University, WA

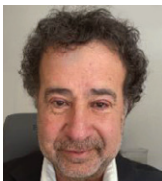


Margaret Bauman, MD
Scientific Advisory Board Member
Boston University School of Medicine



Kenneth Clayton Sassower, MD
Scientific Advisory Board Member
Massachusetts General Hospital;
Harvard Medical School

2024 Staff and Key Volunteers



Stephen M. Edelson, PhD
Chief Science Officer



Harland Winter, MD
Scientific Advisory Board Member
Massachusetts General Hospital;
Harvard Medical School



Denise Fulton
Chief Operating Officer



Melanie Glock
Communications and Development Specialist



Meaghan Weldele
Content Consultant



Laura Kanellos
Director of Development



Rebecca McKenney
Office Manager



Nataliya Vasylevskaya
International Outreach Consultant

Key Volunteers

Jane B. Johnson
Think Tank Coordinator

Caroline Bissett Bogart, JD
ARI Finance Committee Volunteer

Consultant

Chris Cava Preston
Art Direction



ARI's Scientific Advisory Board provides informed support and direction for our research initiatives. Dr. Stephen M. Edelson leads the group, assembling leaders in the medical and scientific community in order to further ARI's ongoing commitment to research that makes a difference.

2024 Scientific Advisory Board



James B. Adams, PhD
Arizona State University



Paul Ashwood, PhD
*University of California, Davis
MIND Institute*



David Beversdorf, MD
*University of Missouri
Scientific Advisory Board Co-Chair*



Robert E. Burrier, PhD
Stemina Biomarker Discovery



Emily Casanova, PhD
Loyola University



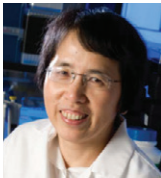
Bradley Ferguson, PhD
University of Missouri



June Groden, PhD
*Groden Center
Providence, RI*



Andrea Gropman, MD
*Children's National Hospital
Washington, DC*



Harumi Jyonouchi, MD
*Saint Peters University Hospital
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital*



Juergen Hahn, MS, PhD
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Laura Hewitson, PhD
*The Johnson Center for
Child Health and Development*



Mady Hornig, MA, MD



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Arizona State University



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Lauren Moskowitz, PhD
St. John's University



Robert Rubin, PhD
Whittier College



Andrey Rzhetsky, PhD
The University of Chicago



Judy Van de Water, PhD
*University of California, Davis
MIND Institute*



Daniel Vogt, PhD
Michigan State University



Marc Weisskopf, ScD, PhD
Harvard University

Not pictured: Mary Coleman, MD
Foundation for Autism Research



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Advancing Science & Education

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833-281-7165 fax

Autism.org

Connect with the Autism Research Institute



“ I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THIS INFORMATION! IT INSPIRES ME TO BE MORE CONFIDENT WHEN TRYING TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES THAT MY DAUGHTER FACES.”

NANCY W.
PARENT AND ARI WEBINAR VIEWER
VIRGINIA



Together we can make a difference.
Help us reach our goals. Every gift makes an impact.

\$1,000

will fund:

two webinars featuring expert presenters

Each talk serves up to 10,000 viewers in real-time with online playback offered later the same day.

\$5,000

will help fund:

Think Tanks

providing scientists opportunities to forge collaborations, understand the complexities of autism, and make greater strides faster.

\$15,000

will fund:

webinars for medical professionals

(complimentary continuing education)
We've supported more than 30,000 physicians and others in the past five years.

\$50,000

will fund:

a grant for promising new research

(early-stage investigational)
ARI provided researchers with more than \$2.5 million in grants in the past five years.

Please use the enclosed donation envelope or visit **Autism.org/donate** to give today.

Contributions are tax deductible as allowable by law. Fed ID No. 95-2548452.



The Autism Research Institute's strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have once again earned it Charity Navigator's highest rating (4-Stars) and Candid GuideStar's highest rating (Platinum).

The Autism Research Institute is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization focused on conducting and sponsoring research aimed at improving the quality of life for today's generation of children and adults with autism. Contributions are tax deductible as allowable by law. Fed ID No. 95-2548452.



Scan the QR code to view this annual report online.
Autism.org/2024_Annual