



“ **ARI is doing things that no one else in the country is doing, or in the world.**

ARI’s commitment to supporting people with autism and related conditions is priceless, and I am extremely grateful.”

— **Vicki Kobliner, MS, RD**
2025 ARI Think Tank Participant



**AUTISM RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

Advancing Science & Education

This is what you helped us **achieve** this year.

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

Autism Research and Investigation

WE FUNDED INVESTIGATIONS

Scientific Research Grants

With support from our donors, ARI funds early-stage biomedical research that advances autism understanding and promotes better health outcomes for autistic people. This year, we plan to award nearly \$600,000 in grants exploring biological foundations, new therapies, and other vital areas—driving innovation that truly makes a difference.

WE PUBLISHED FINDINGS

Quarterly *ARRI Journal* and e-newsletters

ARI shares the latest autism research with a global audience through its award-winning journal, *Autism Research Review International (ARRI)* — available for free online. Each quarterly issue highlights emerging discoveries and advances in understanding autism.

Our bi-monthly *Clinical Research in Autism* newsletter brings research insights to practitioners, while our monthly e-newsletter reaches more than 140,000 subscribers with updates on new studies, tools, and resources.

“These are valuable and direct resources that provide education to a wide range of professionals, parents, and autistic persons.”

— Kathryn Vuckovich, BCBA, LBA, LCPC, LMHC
Chicago, Illinois

WE UNITED LEADERS

Scientific Advisory Board and Board of Directors

The Autism Research Institute is guided by two dedicated volunteer boards that help advance our mission.

Our **Board of Directors** provides invaluable leadership and oversight, ensuring that ARI's research and programs remain aligned with our core purpose. Our **Scientific Advisory Board** includes leading experts representing every area of autism research. These volunteer members support ARI's rigorous grant review process, contribute to research initiatives, and share their latest findings through ARI think tanks and webinars. Together, our boards unite leaders from the scientific and medical communities, strengthening our commitment to advancing impactful autism research.

Collaboration and Education

WE GATHERED THE COMMUNITY

Think Tanks and a Scientific Symposium

This May, ARI hosted our annual in-person Think Tank, bringing researchers and clinicians together to discuss emerging trends and their implications for autism understanding and care. We will close out the year with an online **Scientific Symposium in November**. In October, ARI sponsored the first-ever **United Nations Think Tank on Autism** in partnership with the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation. Held in New York City, the think tank brought together experts from across the globe to discuss the challenges facing autistic adults and older adults. This collaboration drives our mission forward through timely knowledge exchange, allowing practitioners and researchers to advance the *health and well-being* of autistic people across the *entire lifespan*.



WE FOSTERED LEARNING

Educational Webinars and YouTube

ARI offers free, bi-monthly webinars featuring expert researchers and professionals who share the latest findings and discuss current best practices. Our webinars, available live and on-demand, provide realtime captioning and translation support in over 20 languages. **Clinical webinars** also offer simultaneous translation by fluent speakers, and four presentations each year are presented in partnership with the World Autism Organization.

ARI's **YouTube channel** extends this learning with free access to recorded webinars, educational videos, social stories, and talks from past conferences. With more than 1.3 million views, our channel is a powerful resource for spreading knowledge and advancing understanding.

Explore our offerings at AutismWebinars.org.

WE EDUCATED CLINICIANS

Continuing Medical Education

ARI offers free, CME-certified webcasts for healthcare professionals and caregivers. Covering topics such as co-occurring medical and neurological conditions, gastrointestinal issues, and aging in autism, these programs provide actionable insights that can improve care and outcomes. Webcasts are available on demand, with resources accessible in multiple languages.

Visit autism.org/cme to explore current and past presentations and join a global community committed to advancing autism understanding and care.



WE PRESERVED HISTORY

National Autism History Museum and Outreach

ARI's **National Autism History Museum** offers an engaging and comprehensive look at the prolific history of autism research and discovery. Its interactive exhibits highlight prominent autistic figures and underscore critical moments in the evolution of autism research. Leading researchers from many areas are collaborating with ARI to curate a collection of historical artifacts. The program offers on-site educational displays at libraries to increase awareness and understanding of autism's history. Between 2024 and 2025, ARI installed four pop-up exhibits at public libraries in San Diego, California and Memphis, Tennessee.



Investment in the Autism Community

WE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Global Autism Networks

ARI's networks connect the global autism community by sharing timely research findings and essential resources. Our research network includes more than 130 members worldwide who receive monthly updates on grant opportunities, recent peer-reviewed studies, and insights into research methods and best practices. Meanwhile, our global support network links 265 groups across 78 countries, keeping them informed about current understanding of autism, evidence-based care strategies, and organizational initiatives. Together, these networks strengthen communication, highlight emerging discoveries in autism's underlying biology, and promote effective, research-driven approaches to care.

WE SHARED RESOURCES

Autism Resources

ARI supports crucial research initiatives, including a brain tissue bank at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the University of Maryland and a gastrointestinal tissue bank at the Digestive Function Laboratory Repository at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Beyond research, ARI provides practical support through social media channels that share the latest news, findings, and resources on autism. ARI also played a leading role in organizing the first-ever autism think tank at the United Nations, bringing together autistic individuals, family members, researchers, and advocates from around the world. We aim to make this an annual event at the UN, continuing to foster global collaboration and advance progress in autism understanding and care.

WE ENCOURAGED ASSESSMENT

Evidence-based Tools and Assessments

ARI's **Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist (ATEC)** is freely available in 28 languages and is used by up to 150 individuals daily. Over the past two years, ARI has also released free online tools to help professionals and parents identify interventions that may reduce or eliminate self-injurious behaviors (SIB) and improve sleep.

2025 ARI Research Grant Recipients



AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Advancing Science & Education

With the help of our generous donors, ARI continues to fund important research with real-world application.

For more details about each study, please visit: Autism.org/ari-funded-research-studies-2025

Robert L. Hendren Research Grant Award

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.



2025 RECIPIENT

Melissa Franch, PhD

Young Investigator
(Postdoctoral Scholar)
Baylor College of Medicine

Single neuron encoding of language semantics and social signals in autism



David Beversdorf, PhD

University of Missouri

Understanding the impact of protective genes for autism spectrum disorder



Melissa Krauth, MS

Young investigator (Graduate Student)
The University of Texas at Dallas

Therapeutic Potential of Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Autism-Related Social Dysfunction



Chad Camp, MPH, PhD

University of Colorado
Young investigator (Postdoctoral Scholar)
Anschutz Medical Campus

Probing the GluN2B-CaMKII Interaction in GRIN2B C-Tail Variants



Katie McNair, PhD

Young investigator (Research Fellow)
Boston Children's Hospital

Autism-Related Sensory Processing Challenges as a Window into Selective Attention



Michael Coulter, MD, PhD

Young investigator (Postdoctoral Scholar and Specialist)
University of California, San Francisco

Memory-guided decision making and cognitive flexibility in SCN2A haploinsufficiency



Isabella Myers, MS

Young investigator (Graduate Student)
The University of Texas at Dallas

The Effect of Early Intervention on the Auditory Cortex Proteome in a Transgenic Rat Model of Autism



Emanuel DiCicco-Bloom, MD and Jennifer Mulle, PhD

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Defining Molecular and Cellular Pathways in ASD: Insights from High Risk 3q29 Copy Number Variant



Matthew Prendergast, MS

Young investigator (Graduate student)
University of Missouri

Pupillary light reaction as a predictive biomarker for response to propranolol in autism spectrum disorder



Paige Townsend, PhD

Young investigator (Postdoctoral Scholar)
Massachusetts General Hospital

Sleep and wake biomarkers of thalamocortical circuit dysfunction in autism