

# Autism Research Institute

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## Accomplishments/2011

The Autism Research Institute (ARI) has a 44-year track record of pioneering and leadership in the autism field. We provide families and professionals with the information needed for making informed choices, in order to better the lives of individuals of all ages on the autism spectrum. ARI accomplishes these goals by conducting and sponsoring cutting-edge research and by disseminating these findings in many languages for the benefit of researchers and families worldwide.

### Outreach

- We sponsored two large conferences (Atlanta, Las Vegas), each with a three-day parent track, a 2-day science track, two clinician seminars (levels I and II), a nutritional training seminar, and an adult track.
- Adults on the Autism Spectrum
  - ARI sponsored monthly conference calls attended by parents, professionals and people with autism, to discuss housing issues and other concerns specific to adults with ASD.
  - We published a quarterly e-newsletter focused on topics related to adults.
  - ARI sponsored a full-day track on adult issues in both of our major 2011 conferences (Atlanta and Las Vegas).
  - We posted on our website ([www.Autism.com](http://www.Autism.com)) several videos on adult-related issues, featuring people on the spectrum, parents, and professionals. The topics included medical advocacy, age-transitioning, employment, and law enforcement.
- Parents and professionals can reach a live person for information and support at either of our two toll-free call centers, one for English-speakers (866.366.3361) and one for Spanish-speakers (877.644.1184, ext. 5). Callers can also reach ARI directly (619.281.7165).
- ARI moderated its popular Yahoo Internet discussion group for parents; we began two additional support groups including one for parents with older kids and adults, and one for parents of recovered or near-recovered children.
- More than 250 professionals attended our clinician seminars.
- We translate our publications into a remarkable 15 languages, including Armenian, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindu, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.
- We sponsored a two-day retreat with scientists who were born and trained in Russia. The retreat focused on ways ARI can help families and those on the autism spectrum in Russia.
- We began publishing an e-newsletter focused on individuals on the autism spectrum who also have hearing and/or visual impairments.

- We updated our popular website, [www.Autism.com](http://www.Autism.com) and are working on a new design and structure to be released in 2012.
- We maintained several apps on autism for mobile phones, both iPhones and Droids.

## **Research**

- ARI awarded \$200,000+ in grants to scientists whose work will have a direct or near-future impact on the lives of those on the autism spectrum.
- We offered sponsorship to the annual International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) conference, one of the top scientific conferences on autism.
- We continue to publish our quarterly science newsletter, *Autism Research Review International (ARRI)*, which summarizes current biomedical and educational research.
- We sponsored a think tank, attended by more than 50 researchers and experienced medical clinicians. In order to make considerable progress in the field, ARI knows it is critical for scientists and experienced physicians to meet and to discuss issues related to treatment.
- We support an active dialogue among researchers and clinicians in a private Internet discussion group limited to those with advanced science degrees.
- ARI helps fund two tissue banks. This included a whole-body tissue bank for 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.
- ARI sponsored a research colloquium titled ‘Autism, Neurochemistry, and Animal Models’ at the American Society for Neurochemistry in St. Louis, MO.
- Dr. Edelson, ARI’s director, worked on several research projects this year, consisting of studies on sub-typing autism, self-injurious behavior, and diagnosing and treating ambient visual problems.

## **Networking with Other Autism Organizations**

- ARI, with other autism organizations, helps maintain the Global Autism Collaboration. The aim is to provide information and support to autism organizations worldwide.
- ARI established the Global Autism Alliance with representatives from over 10 countries worldwide, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dubai, France, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria and Puerto Rico. The goal of the Alliance is to work together on specific projects related to autism awareness, assessment/evaluation, and professional and parent training.

The staff at ARI is dedicated to improving the quality of lives for families and individuals with autism spectrum disorders. We rely on the generosity of donors in order to continue helping individuals with autism spectrum disorders, and to advance autism research. We need and appreciate your support.

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*ARI is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization, Fed ID No. 95-2548452,  
and donations are tax-deductible.*

*ARI's work relies on charitable contributions from concerned  
individuals and organizations.*