

Bone Density Study

A potential link has been discovered between autism and bone. After observing an increase in bone fractures, the Lurie Center for Autism, under the direction of Ann Neumeyer, MD, looked at whether children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have a lower bone density than children without ASD. The study, which is the first of its kind, took place over the past four years. Eighteen boys with ASD between the ages of 8-14 years participated in the study.



"It looks like children with autism, both four years ago and today, have a lower bone density than typical children", said Dr. Neumeyer. Full results of the study are expected to be published later this year.

Dr. Neumeyer now has a second study relating to bone density and autism. This study examines the effect of oxytocin upon bone density in children with autism. Oxytocin is presently being studied at the Lurie Center as a treatment to help improve social behavior in people with ASD. Dr Neumeyer and her colleagues hope that oxytocin can also increase bone density in children with ASD since studies have shown that oxytocin has increased bone density in mice lacking oxytocin.

"What we are hoping to find is that oxytocin, which is being given to children with ASD as part of a clinical trial to help with social behavior will also have a positive impact on bone density", said Dr. Neumeyer. The Lurie Center for Autism is currently looking for boys and girls with ASD between the ages of 3-18 to participate in the study which will take place over 12 months.

For more information on the oxytocin study email: luriecenter@partners.org

New Smart Phone App from The Affinity Project™



"If I had this seven years ago, he would be a lot further along." - a mother, after using Sidekicks for the first time.

Our friends at The Affinity Project have developed a new way for those on the autism spectrum and their parents to connect. Sidekicks, an online service and app, lets you integrate video and audio clips from your child's favorites - like Disney, Lego or Star Wars - in order to have more meaningful, emotional resonant conversations.

Want to get involved? The Affinity Project is seeking families with kids on the spectrum to participate in a Sidekicks home pilot program this fall. There is no cost or obligation for participation. To learn more and/or to sign up, check out: www.sidekicks.com or email info@sidekicks.com

Save The Date!

Our annual holiday party for patients is coming up on December 15 from 4-6 PM.

Please RSVP by email at Luriecenter@partners.org or call 781-860-1700 by Dec. 8.

Join Friends of the Lurie Center

Friends of the Lurie Center is group of volunteers dedicated to providing quality services to people with autism and related disorders across the lifespan. To learn more about Friends of the Lurie Center e-mail FOL@partners.org.

New faces at the Lurie Center for Autism

Diana Wasserman, MD, FAAP

Dr. Wasserman is a specialist in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics joined us in September 2015. She will be seeing new patients for evaluations and following children with autism spectrum disorder over time.

Dr Wasserman graduated from Yale University School of Medicine in 1977. She trained in general pediatrics at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and The Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Her subspecialty training in developmental behavioral pediatrics was completed at Yale School of Medicine and the Yale Child Study Center. At the Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Dr. Wasserman served as a Pediatric Consultant and a Clinical Associate while receiving training in psychoanalytically oriented child therapy.

Dr. Wasserman has worked in private practices in Connecticut, New York, Ohio and locally in Bedford, MA where she has integrated care of children with emotional and developmental difficulties with the primary practice of medicine. She provided consultations to schools in the Rochester, N.Y. and Finger Lakes region when she worked in a multidisciplinary developmental and learning center.

Dr. Wasserman is board-certified in general pediatrics as well as in developmental behavioral pediatrics. Dr. Wasserman's experience allows her to view children in the context of their families, schools and community



Christopher Keary, MD

Dr. Keary is a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist who joined the Lurie Center after completing his residency and fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital/McLean Hospital joint training program.

He provides psychiatric consultation and ongoing treatment for children, adolescents and adults across the range of autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disorders. He has an interest in improving clinical care for people with ASD through research and improved medical education.



New Challenge Grant from the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation to Boost Clinical Services

The Lurie Center for Autism was established in 2009 with a very generous philanthropic gift from Nancy Lurie Marks and the Nancy Lurie Marks Family. The Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation has just put forward a new challenge grant, and will match each dollar raised for clinical programs (up to \$5 million) with an additional dollar. We hope you will consider the Lurie Center in your annual giving plans.

To make a gift, please visit www.luriecenter.org and click on Support the Lurie Center for Autism.