

Connecting Research, Care, and Community

From Boston to Boulder, Lurie Center researchers and clinicians are sharing their expertise, collaborating with peers, and connecting with families. Whether presenting new findings, mentoring trainees, or engaging the community in research, our team is committed to collaboration, discovery, and empowering families through education and research.

Advancing Neuropsychiatric Research: Lurie Center for Autism Scientist Presents at Gordon Conference

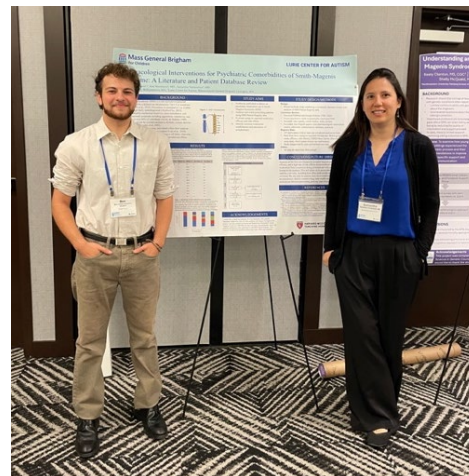
In late August 2025, The Lurie Center's Angélica Torres-Berrío, PhD presented her research at the 2025 Gordon Conference in Newry, Maine. The theme of the conference was Catecholamines: Molecular, Circuit, Behavior and Brain Disorders. In addition, Dr. Torres-Berrío who is also an Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, participated in a mentor-mentee program where she spoke with trainees about career pathways in research.



Lurie Center for Autism Team Presents at Smith-Magenis Syndrome Research Symposium

On September 25–26, 2025, Dr. Ann Neumeyer, Dr. Samantha Vanderslice (now at Rush University), and Lurie Center intern Ben Litvak-Hinenzon attended the 12th Annual Smith-Magenis Syndrome (SMS) Research Symposium in Boulder, Colorado.

Hosted by Parents and Researchers Interested in Smith-Magenis Syndrome (PRISMS), this annual meeting brings together clinicians, scientists, and advocates dedicated to understanding and improving outcomes for individuals with SMS—a rare neurodevelopmental disorder caused by a deletion on chromosome 17.



Drs. Neumeyer and Vanderslice, together with Mr. Litvak-Hinenzon, presented their research on pharmacological interventions for psychiatric comorbidities in Smith-Magenis Syndrome, contributing to the broader goal of advancing collaborative research and deepening scientific understanding of this complex condition.

Dr. Robyn Thom Presents at International Williams Syndrome Conference

Lurie Center for Autism psychiatrist Robyn Thom, MD, recently represented the Lurie Center at the International Conference on Research in Williams Syndrome held September 29–30, 2025, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Thom chaired a session on Behavioral Health and shared her expertise in a talk titled *“Assessment and Treatment of Anxiety in Williams Syndrome.”* The Lurie Center’s Ya-Chin Chen, PhD, also attended and presented her work, *“Cerebral White Matter Lesions in Adults with Williams Syndrome: A Pilot FLAIR MRI.”*

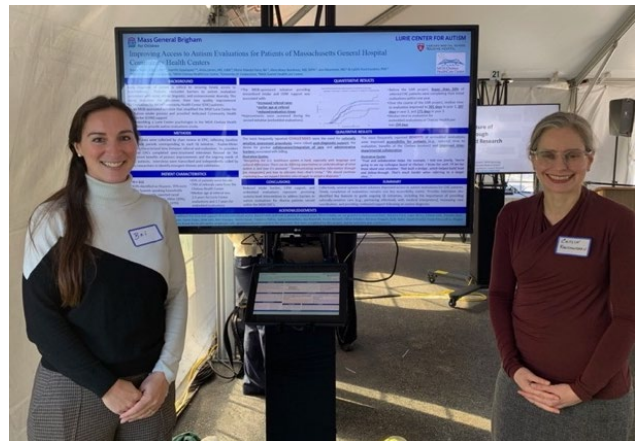
The conference, hosted by the Armellino Center of Excellence for Williams Syndrome at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), brought together clinicians and researchers from around the world to discuss the latest advances in care and science.

Dr. Thom serves as Co-Director of the MGH Williams Syndrome Program at Massachusetts General Hospital and is an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School. Pictured are Dr. Robyn Thom (*right*) with Karen Berman, MD, of the National Institute of Mental Health (*left*).



Lurie Center for Autism Researchers Highlight Access and Equity in Autism Evaluation

On October 9, 2025, Briana Traina, PhD, and Caitlin Ravichandran, PhD, represented the Lurie Center for Autism at the 10th Annual Community Research Day at MGH Chelsea. The event brought together clinicians and researchers from across Mass General Brigham and partner organizations to share work focused on health access, equity, and community well-being. Drs. Traina and Ravichandran presented their research on improving access to autism evaluations for patients served by MGB’s community health centers, highlighting the Center’s commitment to equitable and inclusive autism care.



Connecting Families and Research at the Autism Speaks Empower Walk

On Sunday, October 12th, our research team hosted a resource booth at the Autism Speaks Empower Walk & 5K Run on the Boston Common, sharing information about ongoing research studies—like [SPARK](#), the largest autism study in the nation! Big thanks to Colleen Buckless and Morgan Orcutt for braving the weather and spreading the word about research and resources for the autism community!



The Lurie Center for Autism Celebrates Halloween with a Sensory-Friendly Trunk-or-Treat Event

On Sunday, October 26, 2025 the Lurie Center for Autism partnered with Spaulding Outpatient Center for Children to host a Trunk-or-Treat event at our joint location in Lexington, MA. This, our third annual Trunk-or-Treat event, offered patients and families a free, fun and inclusive way to celebrate Halloween.



Thanks to all those who came out and to our faculty and staff volunteers. Spooktacular teamwork!

Lurie Center for Autism Voices Shape Conversations on Inclusion

On November 5, 2025, a team from the Lurie Center attended an Assembly in Washington, D.C. focused on new opportunities for Latin America.

The team, consisting of Christopher McDougle, MD, Director of the Lurie Center, Nicole Simon, EdM, LABA, BCBA, senior behavioral consultant, and Nora Friedman, MD, psychiatrist, presented “Beyond the spectrum: a clinical approach to understanding and inclusion.” Marcela G. Del Carmen, MD, MPH, President of Massachusetts General Hospital and Professor at Harvard Medical School, served as moderator.



Pictured are Dr. Del Carmen, Dr. Friedman, Ms. Simon, and Dr. McDougle (L-R).