

New & Notable

Lurie Center for Autism researchers have been on the move this spring, engaging in events both locally and across the country. Can you guess where some of our colleagues visited from the photo on the right? (*Hint: it's an iconic West Coast landmark.*)



Lurie Center Team Joins Global Autism Research Community in Seattle

A strong contingent of Lurie Center for Autism clinicians and researchers presented their research at the annual meeting of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) in Seattle, WA. (*Did you guess it? It was Seattle's space needle!*). The conference, which was held April 30 – May 3, 2025, brought together more than 2,200 autism researchers and autistic individuals from over 50 countries to present and discuss research on autism spectrum disorder. The central mission of INSAR is to promote and disseminate the highest quality of autism research globally. Their [website](#) lists the full agenda of the meeting and more about INSAR's mission, including "By maintaining a clear focus on rigorous autism science across disciplines worldwide, and by guarding against oversimplistic and reductionist views of autism and its related conditions, autism research can support a good life for all autistic people and their families around the globe".



Lurie Center Researchers Present at Pediatric Research Day

Lurie Center for Autism researchers were proud to take part in the 16th annual Mass General for Children's Pediatric Research Day on April 8, 2025. This inspiring event brought together clinicians, scientists, and students from across the hospital to share the latest advances in children's health. This year's theme, "*Genetics and Epigenetics: From Genetic Disease to Risk Factors*," sparked important conversations about how our genes and environment shape development. Lurie Center team members gave talks and presented research posters highlighting their work to better understand and support individuals on the autism spectrum.



Lurie Center for Autism Convenes 3rd Annual Scientific Retreat

On April 11, 2025, the Lurie Center hosted its 3rd annual scientific retreat bringing together clinicians, researchers, and other stakeholders from the autism community for a day of cutting-edge science. The event, which was held in Somerville, MA at MGB Assembly Row, featured 16 talks, a panel discussion, a poster session, and a networking reception. Huge thanks to the event co-chairs, Lurie Center for Autism faculty, Drs. Nicole Zürcher and Angélica Torres-Berrío, for organizing this wonderful event and to our philanthropic sponsors who made this day possible.



Lurie Center Joins National Conversation on Profound Autism

Lurie Center for Autism researchers and clinicians were proud to participate in the second annual Profound Autism Summit this April in Boston, MA. The Summit was created by [Nashoba Learning Group](#), a nonprofit organization, in partnership with the [Profound Autism Alliance](#)



The 2-day conference which brings together leaders from the areas of research, medicine, treatment, advocacy, and education to discuss the needs and support of those with Profound Autism across the disciplines and throughout the lifespan. (*Profound Autism refers to autistic individuals who have significant intellectual and communication challenges, requiring 24/7 support*). Among the speakers were Dr. Christopher McDougle speaking on psychopharmacology in ASD, Dr. Jill Pineda speaking on desensitization for medical procedures and improving access to medical care, and Dr. James Bath speaking on strategies to optimize the primary care visit. Only in its second year, the Summit is becoming the “go to” place for parents, caregivers, and direct care providers across the country to connect about Profound Autism.

Spotlight on Dr. Robyn Thom: 2024 RFS Award in Science Recipient

This spring, Dr. Robyn Thom, a psychiatrist at the Lurie Center for Autism with expertise in autism spectrum disorder, Williams syndrome, and Down syndrome, was recognized with a [2024 RFS Award in Science](#) from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. journals. The award honors outstanding peer-reviewed research by women and individuals from underrepresented backgrounds in STEM. Dr. Thom was selected by the editorial board for her impactful article, *"Guanfacine for the Treatment of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Children and Adolescents with Down Syndrome: A Retrospective Chart Review."* As part of the award, her article will be made freely accessible for 90 days, and she will receive a \$1,000 prize. Congratulations Dr. Thom!

