



ORGANIZATION FOR AUTISM RESEARCH

History and Mission

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) began in 2001, and uses research to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find answers to their immediate questions. Committed to excellence in all that it does, OAR funds studies that offer to enhance quality of life, provides resources that are timely, and is an active partner in the autism community.

OAR's mission is to apply research to the challenges of autism.

Programs and Accomplishments

- Funded more than \$3.3 million for new autism research: 92 grants totaling \$3,135,000 for pilot studies and \$191,660 in grants to 95 graduate students,
- Awarded \$487,000 in scholarships to 156 persons with autism attending college or vocational-technical schools after high school,
- Published eight guides in the *Life Journey through Autism* series: *A Parent's Guide to Research*, *An Educator's Guide to Autism*, *An Educator's Guide to Asperger Syndrome*, *A Guide for Transition to Adulthood*, *A Parent's Guide to Assessment*, *A Guide for Military Families*, *Navigating the Special Education System*, and *A Guide to Safety*,
- Created *Operation Autism*, www.operationautismonline.org, a Web site that provides military families impacted by autism with information 24/7,
- Created *ThinkSafety*, www.thinkautismsafety.org, an online forum that allows autism community members to discuss and promote safety.
- Introduced the comprehensive *Parent's Package* and *Educator's Package* of autism resource guides, which provide a basic understanding of autism and best practices for supporting children with autism.
- Finalized and delivered three new resources related to siblings of individuals with autism, one for parents, one for teen siblings, and a fun workbook for younger siblings.

Near Term Objectives

- Fund eight new research studies (\$240,000 in total grants) in 2016
- Award 10 grants (\$20,000) in the Graduate Research Grants Program in 2016
- Award 40 more OAR scholarships to individuals with autism attending college in 2016
- Continue and expand the highly successful "Autism in the School House" program
- Develop and launch an employment initiative for adults with autism

OAR is a national charity dedicated to raising money for practical research into the many challenges of autism. OAR is established in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia (EIN#54-2062167). As provided for under Virginia law, a copy of OAR's financial statement is available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in Richmond, VA. Donations to OAR are tax deductible.