

Schedule

9 am Overview
9:30 am Block 1 Presenters
11 am Break
11:15 am Block 2 Presenters
12:45 pm Lunch
1:15 pm Breakouts
2:15 pm Break
2:30 pm Breakouts
3:30 Panel/Closing

Coffee and refreshments will be served during breaks and a boxed lunch will be provided.

There is no charge for this conference, but attendance is capped at 50 participants, so please RSVP as soon as possible. First come, first served.

RSVP with name and contact phone and email to:

Angela Scarpa
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ascarpa@vt.edu

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute
Washington Street (mc 0477)
Blacksburg, VA 24061
[540-231-2100](tel:540-231-2100)

Center for Autism Research Conference



August 15, 2012
9 am—4 pm
Virginia
Bioinformatics
Institute
Conference Center



Center for Autism Research Conference

Brief Program Idea

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has a known heritable component, but unfortunately there is still much left unknown about etiology and risk factors (e.g., genetic, environmental), biomarkers for identification and diagnosis, treatment (pharmaceutical as well as psychosocial), supports needed, and impact on families or society. We propose a multi-disciplinary program to study ASD from multiple perspectives in order to quantify the spectrum of disorder intensities and lead to functional understanding, clinical markers, and new therapeutic interventions. We will build upon current strengths at VT, including but not limited to: 1) pioneering approaches to imaging; 2) powerful new approaches to genetic biomarker discovery; 3) a large cohort of young adults that cover the spectrum of ASD from severely affected to highly functional; 4) unique expertise in related neurological disorders; 5) engineering approaches to drug discovery and delivery; 6) service cores in contemporary fMRI, bioinformatics/data sharing, high

performance computing, next generation genomics; 7) and a counseling and treatment clinic that services a significant local population of individuals with ASD. The overarching proposed program of research would be to fully investigate this multi-disciplinary approach, which will yield new translatable findings to the clinic and affected individuals/caregivers.

Purpose

The VT Center for Autism Research is being proposed as a central establishment to coordinate efforts to conduct multi-disciplinary state-of-the-art research revolving around autism spectrum disorders. The purpose of the Autism Conference is to foster the development of multi-disciplinary teams of investigators for such collaborative autism-related research projects, with the ultimate goal of generating preliminary data for successful grant funding.

The morning of the conference will be devoted to presentations on possible research topics and resources from individuals across VT. The afternoon will contain breakout sessions to foster discussion and formation of potential teams.

Blitz Presenters

Angela Scarpa
Luke Achenie
Skip Garner
Tina Savla
John Richey
Susan White
Denis Gracanin
Pearl Chiu
Bob Settlage and Stan Hefta
Mark Benson
Bruce Friedman
Ken Kishida
Felicity Adams
Julie Dunsmore
Roseanne Foti
Yong Lee
Martha Ann Bell
Robyn Hudson

Possible Break-Out Topics

- Forming a Central Registry
- Biological Approaches
- Developmental Approaches
- Psychosocial Treatment
- Technology and Computing Applications to ASD
- Issues for Young Adults with ASD