Improving Early Detection of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Invitation to Participate in Research Study

The goal of this study is to develop a community service system that coordinates identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), eligibility evaluation, and linkage to treatment and services in the first two years of life.

A collaboration of four universities (Florida State University, Emory University, Drexel University, and Weill Cornell Medical College) has received a five year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIH/NIMH) to determine the effectiveness of utilizing a system of community providers to improve early identification efforts.

The Facts:
- Recent data estimates that about 1 in 68 children has been diagnosed with ASD
- Research suggests that early intervention significantly improves outcomes
- Diagnosis of ASD at 18-24 months can be accurate in many children. In spite of this, the average age of diagnosis is after age 4 (and even older in underserved populations)
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends ASD screening for all children at 18 and 24 months

Benefits to You:
- Opportunity to participate in a nationwide, multisite NIH/NIMH study
- Opportunity to collaborate on a research publication with internationally known leaders in autism research (A. Wetherby, A. Klin, C. Lord, C. Newschaffer)
- Access to the new, innovative Smart ESAC (Early Screening for Autism and Communication Disorders) online screening tool
- Technology and associated support is provided at no cost
- Continuing Education credits will be available
- Nominal financial incentives are provided

Your Role in the Study:
- Invite the parents/caregivers of 9-18 month old children to complete an online screening at well-child visits over the course of two years
- Access a specially designed online portal to follow-up with families whose child received a positive screen to ensure access to early intervention services
- Complete up to 6 hours in an online course using real video footage to increase the capacity of providers to recognize the early signs of ASD and help families access early intervention

If you are interested in participating in this study, please photocopy the enclosed enrollment letter on your letterhead and return by scan/email or mail. Please do not hesitate to contact us:

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This research is conducted by a researcher who is a member of Drexel University