THE SEVENTH ANNUAL AUTISM PUBLIC HEALTH LECTURE

The Epidemiology of Autism: Investigating Perinatal Risk Factors

Wednesday, March 27, 2019
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Continental Breakfast provided 8:30 am – 9:00 AM
Behrakis Grand Hall
3210 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Lisa Croen, PhD, is a senior research scientist at the Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente Northern California, and the director of the Kaiser Permanente Autism Research Program. Her research interests include the epidemiology of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders, environmental exposures and gene/environment interaction, and the delivery of health services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder across the life span. Currently, Dr. Croen is the Co-Principal investigator at Kaiser Permanente of the NIH-funded ECHO study, and principal investigator of several NIH- and federally-funded studies including Early Markers for Autism study and Immune and Metabolic markers during Pregnancy and Child Neurodevelopment (IMPaCT). Dr. Croen received her master’s degree in public health and her doctorate in epidemiology, both from the University of California, Berkeley.

Although the initial manifestations of autism spectrum disorders typically do not appear until several months or years after a child is born, the results of research studies conducted over the past 50 years provide overwhelming evidence that factors operating around the time of pregnancy and birth are at play. Epidemiologic studies have played a crucial role in the identification of perinatal risk factors for autism, and in directing basic science studies focused on elucidating underlying biologic mechanisms. In this talk, the process by which epidemiologists go about studying perinatal risk factors for autism spectrum disorders will be described. Findings from recent studies investigating environmental exposures, genetic factors, and their interplay, will illustrate different approaches and study designs. Studies utilizing biospecimens collected from expectant mothers and their newborns and investigating the role of immune system function in autism will be highlighted.

For more information contact AutismInstitute@drexel.edu
drexel.edu/AutismInstitute/events