



AIR-B NEWSLETTER

December 2022



NETWORK UPDATES

- ★ **NEW WEBSITE!** To learn more about AIR-B projects, visit us at: www.airbnetwork.org
- ★ **NEW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!** If you would like to subscribe, please email cogarcia@mednet.ucla.edu. Digital copies will be available on our AIR-B website!



WE ARE A TEAM OF RESEARCHERS COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFESPAN, EMPHASIZING INCLUSION FOR THOSE TRADITIONALLY MARGINALIZED AND MINORITIZED.

COMMUNITY PARTNERED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

CPPR brings academics and communities together.

AIR-B uses the CPPR method which goes beyond community-based participatory research (CBPR) and includes the community as a key partner in the entire research process, with equal decision making power. CPPR is a way to build trust and get the community involved in research, increasing our ability to sustain the interventions in the community.

Community Directed

CPPR is a collaborative approach to research. This starts during the planning stages with researchers and community members continuing to work together throughout every step.

Community Focused

CPPR equitably involves everyone. AIR-B focuses its efforts in under-resourced communities traditionally not included in research.

Community Driven

It is important to recognize everyone's strengths and bring people together. Each research site works with their local community and forms partnerships to share information and resources.



COMMUNITY CONFERENCES

AIR-B works with the community to give updates on autism research and raise awareness about developmental disabilities. Planning is done hand-in-hand with community partners. Conference speakers include academic researchers, community experts, family members, and self advocates. This interaction enables researchers to learn about the community's strength and concerns and helps the community learn how to engage in research.

COMMUNITY WORKGROUPS

AIR-B research sites have established community workgroups and Community Advisory Boards (CABs) to provide input on specific projects.

Workgroups and CABs meet regularly with researchers to create and evaluate ongoing research. These workgroups give the community a way to direct research and have a dialogue with researchers.

SITE UPDATES

UCLA

UCLA and Healthy African American Families (HAAF) hosted their 8th annual autism conference in collaboration with other academic and community partners of AIR-B.

Three conferences were held to accommodate English, Korean and Spanish speakers, attracting over 700 registrants from various states and countries, including South Korea, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Ecuador, Spain, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia and Poland. About half (48%) of registrants enrolled in the English conference, 30% Korean, and 22% Spanish. In each language conference, over 60% of attendees were parents of autistic children/adults – meeting the AIR-B Network’s goal of reaching diverse families.

Video recordings of the conference and resource guide are available on the AIR-B website.

A FREE CONFERENCE ON AUTISM FOR PARENTS, ADVOCATES, AND COMMUNITY

OPTIMIZING SCHOOL & COMMUNITY INCLUSION

FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

English Conference: Friday, March 25, 2022, 10am-12:30pm
Optimizing School & Community Inclusion for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
REGISTER via link: tinyurl.com/kyckzccu
OR use your camera app to scan the QR code

Korean Conference (한국어): Friday, April 1, 2022, 10am-12:30pm
자매 학생들과 함께 어우러지는 학교와 지역 사회를 향해
한국어 레퍼런스 등록 링크: tinyurl.com/fuddzsp8
또는 오픈북 QR 코드를 스마트폰 카메라로 스캔

Spanish Conference (español): Friday, April 8, 2022, 11am-1:30pm
Mejorando la Inclusión de Estudiantes con el Trastorno del Espectro Autista en las Escuelas y la Comunidad
REGÍSTRESE a través del enlace: tinyurl.com/bbb2xdhm
O usa la aplicación de la cámara Para escanear el código QR

Logos: KAISEC, UCLA, AIR-B, Autism Intervention Research Network On Behavioral Health, FRANK D. LANTIERI CENTER, HRSA, EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER, WESTSIDE MEDICAL CENTER, UCLA CART, hope, Healthy African American Families, Inc., Poudre Hospital.

UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

URMC has worked with partners to translate and provide materials for community members. The AIR-B team at Rochester has applied for a grant to translate materials and create free virtual conferences for the community.

URMC has also worked with community partners to survey health outcomes and guide families to the services they need. And one of URMC's partners has created a web-based platform to help disseminate the autistic perspective. The University of Rochester team was recently honored by a community partner, Starbridge, as one of their Community Champion Award recipients.



UC DAVIS

UC Davis' MIND institute hosts yearly conferences on developmental disabilities. The UC Davis AIR-B team has worked on providing parent-friendly access to these conferences. Video recordings of the conference are available on the AIR-B website.

UC Davis has also partnered with California Family Resource Centers to implement the 'Mind the Gap' program within their agencies. The AIR-B team at UC Davis has partnered with UC LEND to start an autism screening program. They have been sharing Mind the Gap materials to help families better understand the service system and autism.

Drexel has built social network models for community partners and research sites to better track community involvement.

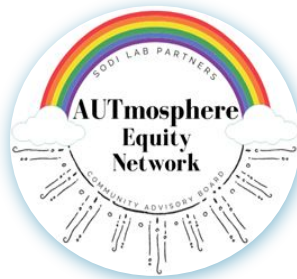
Drexel also receives advice and review from a Community Advisory Board (CAB) and workgroup established with autistic adults called the AUTmosphere Equity Network.

In addition to the normal functions of a CAB this workgroup is also working on blogs and community outreach.

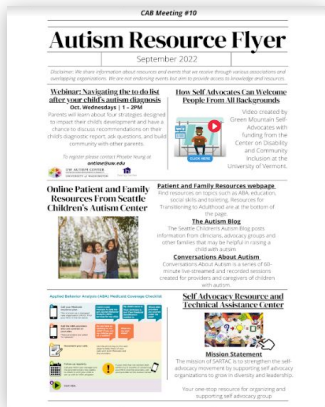


KU has gathered two CABs. One focuses on families with young children and the other's focus is on adults and teenagers.

KU and community partners are developing crisis management aides and guides that highlight inclusive environments and the 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.



UPenn has worked with the city agencies from Philadelphia as well as community members to establish a CAB. In addition to giving guidance on projects, this CAB has together worked to host conferences for the community.



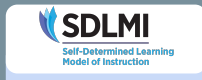
UW has gathered a CAB with an emphasis on community members that are self-advocates or have a family member with autism. UW has worked with this group of partners as they create recruitment flyers, and organize group discussions.

UPCOMING / CURRENT EVENTS

- Our next Newsletters will provide more focus on each AIR-B intervention.

• UCLA & HAAF CONFERENCES:

- Korean – March 10th at 10:00am PST
- Spanish – March 17th at 10:00am PST
- English – March 24th at 10:00am PST



- International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) annual meeting
May 3rd - 6th (Stockholm, Sweden)

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

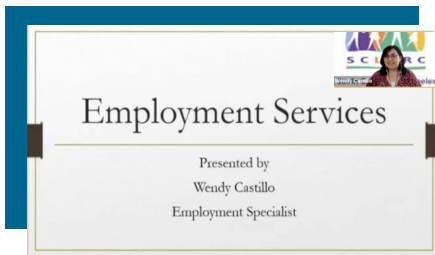
DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON UCLA PARTNERS



Sonia Dickson and Robin Shipley

Discussing Employment

Wendy Castillo, employment specialist at the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC), and directors of the EVOLVE program, Sonia Dickson and Robin Shipley, presented on employment resources for adults on the autism spectrum at the monthly autism community meeting led by UCLA and HAAF.



KASEC Art Exhibition

UCLA AIR-B supported the Korean American Special Education Center (KASEC)'s art contest and exhibition for artists with developmental disabilities as a partner.



Ingrid Channa (former UCLA research assistant), Grace Suh (current UCLA research assistant), Soo Lee (project scientist, UCLA) and Rosa Chang (executive director, KASEC) in Buena Park, CA

Spectrum of Hope Foundation

The Spectrum of Hope Foundation and Seesaw Communities co-hosted a developmental disabilities awareness fundraising event in Yorba Linda, CA.



Left: Justin Son, a self-advocate and son of Cecilia Chang, delivering a thank you message to the audience.



Below: Sam Yoon (founder/director, Seesaw Communities), Rachel Lee (program director, Seesaw Communities), Soo Lee (project scientist, UCLA / board member, Spectrum of Hope Foundation) and Cecilia Chang (founder/director, Spectrum of Hope Foundation)

