

# Preparing the IACC Summary of Advances in ASD Research CY 2008

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee Meeting  
February 4, 2009

# IACC Responsibilities

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- **Combating Autism Act of 2006**

(Public Law 109-416 SEC. 399CC.(b)(1))

“develop and annually update a summary of advances in autism spectrum disorder research related to causes, prevention, treatment, early screening, diagnosis or rule out, intervention, and access to services and supports for individuals with autism spectrum disorder”

# First Annual Report Completed

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## **Summary of Advances in Autism Spectrum Disorder Research: Calendar Year 2007**

**July 15, 2008**

# Key Advances in 2007

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## Key Advances in ASD Research in 2007

### **When should I be concerned?**

- *ASD Diagnosis May Be Possible Soon After First Birthday ( p. 3)*

### **How can I understand what is happening?**

- *Brain Anatomy Holds Clues to ASD (p. 3)*
- *Deficits in Processing Information from Faces May Disrupt Social Interaction (p. 3)*
- *Immune System May Play Role in Prenatal Brain Development (p. 3)*
- *Unusual Head Growth Is Associated with ASD (p. 3)*

### **What caused this to happen, and can this be prevented?**

- *Changes in Many Different Genes Contribute to Autism (p. 3)*
- *Research on Model Organisms Helps Clarify Gene Function (p. 3)*

### **Which treatments and interventions will help?**

- *Interventions Can Reduce ASD Symptoms Substantially (p. 3)*

### **Where can I turn for services?**

- *Multistate Survey Confirms High Prevalence of ASD (p. 3)*

### **What does the future hold?**

- *Autism Costs U.S. Society More Than \$35 Billion Per Year (p. 3)*

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Source: IACC Summary of Advances in Autism Spectrum Disorder Research: CY 2007

# Information Gathering To Date

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- NIH Library Search
  - Original science (omitted reviews, editorials, etc.)
  - Published in peer-reviewed journals
  - Calendar year (CY) 2008
  - Broad search terms: “autism” and “autistic”
  - Multiple sources to identify which articles are significant:
    - Biomedical literature databases (e.g., PubMed, Scopus)
    - News sections of major journals (e.g., Science, Nature)
    - Publications that highlight findings from scientific journals (e.g., Science News)
    - Databases of ratings/reviews of scientific publications (e.g., Faculty of 1000 Biology, Cochrane Reviews)
    - Newspapers (e.g., NY Times, Washington Post)
- Result: 120+ peer-reviewed publications from over 80 journals

# Initial Sorting

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Sorted publications into six broad topic areas:

- Diagnosis and screening
- Biology of ASD
- Genetic and environmental risk factors
- Treatments and interventions
- Services and supports
- Outcomes and quality of life for adolescents and adults with ASD

# Proposed Next Steps

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- **Finalize the list of publications**
  - IACC members review publications identified to-date
  - Identify publications for addition, deletion, or resorting
- **Identify significant publications**
  - IACC members review final list of publications
  - Identify most significant publications (e.g., 3 per topic)
- **Prepare and finalize the report**
  - OARC prepare draft summary of advances based on IACC cumulative input
  - IACC review and vote on draft report
  - IACC review and vote on final report

# IACC Decisions Today

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- **Are the proposed steps for preparing the summary of advances acceptable?**
- **How will the IACC complete these steps?**
  - **Each member reviews separately via email?**
  - **Members review collaboratively via teleconference/webinar?**
- **What is the timetable for the report?**