

# Autism Centers of Excellence

**Alice Kau, Ph.D.**

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National  
Institute of Child  
Health and Human  
Development



# Trans-NIH Collaboration

- *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- National Institute of Mental Health
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

# Consolidation of CPEA and STAART

CPEA: Collaborative Programs of Excellence in  
Autism

1997-2007

Funded by NICHD & NIDCD

---

STAART: Studies to Advance Autism Research  
and Treatment

2002/03-2007/08

Mandated by the Children's Health Act of 2000

Funded by the five Institutes of the NIH ACC

# ACE Centers and ACE Networks

## Centers

Multidisciplinary research programs;

Consisting of interdependent and interrelated subprojects

## Networks

Multiple sites focusing on a specific topic of research;

Achieving optimal design and conduct of studies

# Common Requirements

- Data sharing via National Database for Autism Research
- Common Measures
- Annual meetings

# Common Measures

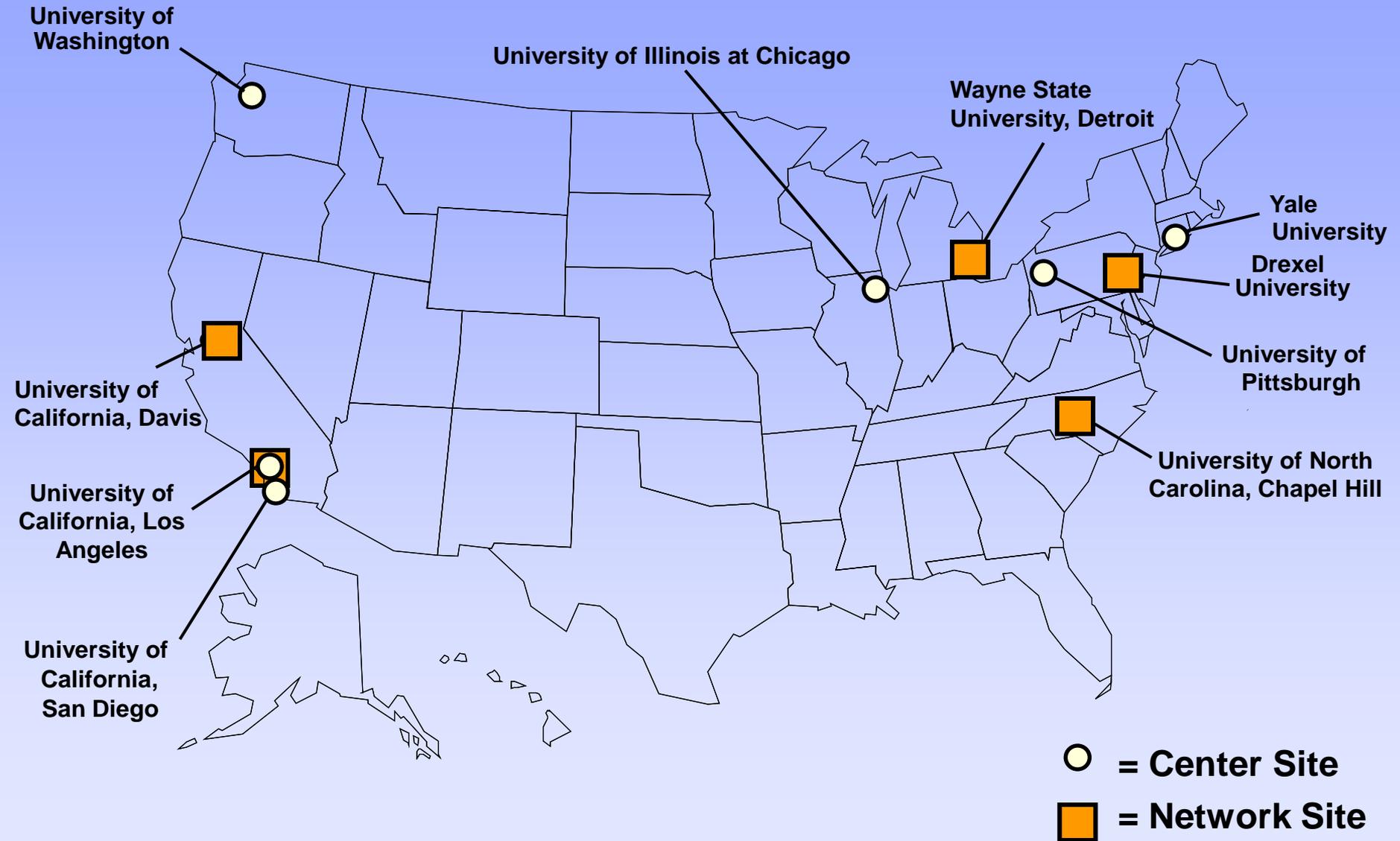
---

- Medical/family History
- Physical/Neurological examination
- Karyotyping
- Autism Diagnostic Interview-revised
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule
- IQ or developmental assessment measure with nonverbal and verbal components

# ACE Program

- Trans-NIH Collaboration
- Consolidation of CPEA and STAART
- ACE Centers and ACE Networks
- Common requirements
- Funding for the ACE program started in FY07 and FY08

# Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE): Center and Network Sites



# ACE Centers

---

## **Nancy Minshew**

University of Pittsburgh  
Information processing  
and learning

## **Edwin Cook**

University of Illinois at  
Chicago  
Insistence on sameness

## **Susan Bookheimer**

University of California,  
Los Angeles  
Communication deficits

## **Bryan King**

University of Washington  
Protective versus risk  
factors

## **Ami Klin**

Yale University  
Behavioral, brain, and  
molecular studies

## **Eric Courchesne**

University of California,  
San Diego  
Early brain development

# ACE Networks

---

## **Joe Piven**

University of North  
Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Early brain development

## **Diane Chugani**

Wayne State University  
Buspirone study

## **Daniel Geschwind**

University of California,  
Los Angeles  
Identification of autism  
susceptibility genes

## **Craig Newschaffer**

Drexel University  
Genes & environmental risk  
factors

## **Sally Rogers**

University of California,  
Davis  
RCT : intensive behavioral  
vs standard community-  
based interventions

# ACE Program Team

---

Judith Cooper, Ph.D.  
NIDCD

Lisa Gilotty, Ph.D.  
NIMH

Deborah Hirtz, M.D.  
NINDS

Cindy Lawler, Ph.D.  
NIEHS

Alice Kau, Ph.D.  
NICHD



**THANK YOU**