

Autism Centers of Excellence

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Spectrum Disorders

National Institute of Mental Health
National Institutes of Health

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 NICHD, NIDCD, NIEHS, NIMH, NINDS

ACE Centers and ACE Networks

Centers

Multidisciplinary
research programs;
Interdependent and
interrelated
subprojects

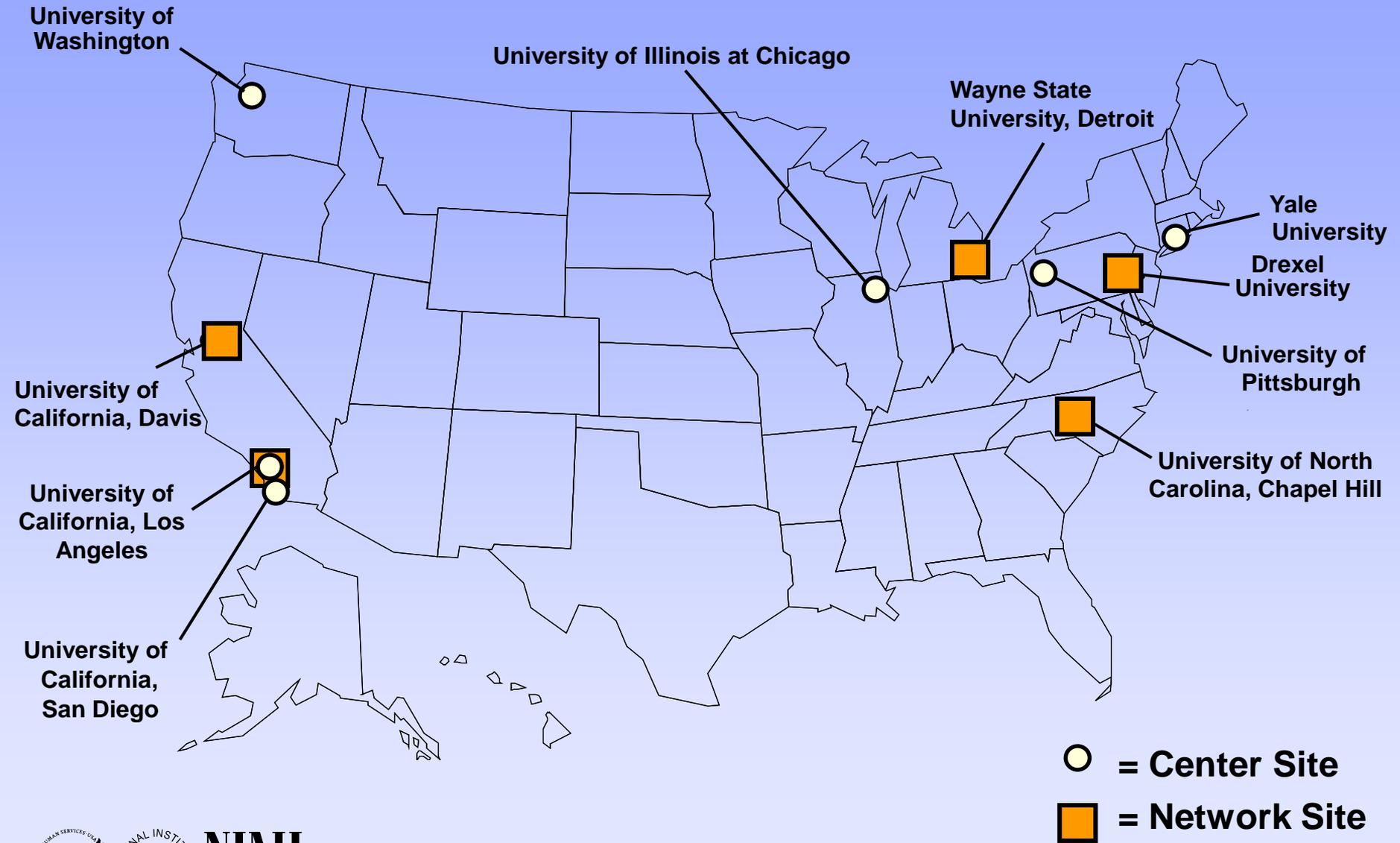
Networks

Multiple sites
focusing on a
specific topic of
research

ACE Program Requirements

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

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

Fred Volkmar

Yale University
Behavioral, brain, and
molecular studies

Eric Courchesne

University of California,
San Diego
Early brain development

ACE Networks

Joseph 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

Future of the ACE Program

- NIH Notices of Intent to Publish Request For Applications for both ACE Centers and Networks.
- NOT-HD-11-003 (R01 Networks)
- NOT-HD-11-004 (P50 Centers)

Notice of Intent for ACE Center/Network Program

- Project must be “strongly related to gap areas identified in the 2011 IACC Strategic Plan”
- ACE Center: “must include at least one project related to interventions and/or services research”