NIH Autism Programs: History

- Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism (CPEA)
  - 1997-2007
  - Funded by NICHD & NIDCD

- Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment (STAART)
  - 2002-2008
  - Mandated by the Children’s Health Act of 2000
  - Funded by NICHD, NIDCD, NIEHS, NIMH, NINDS
  - Coordinated by the NIH Autism Coordinating Committee
Autism Centers of Excellence Program

• Consolidation of CPEA and STAART
• Funded by NICHD, NIDCD, NIEHS, NIMH, NINDS
• Funding started in FY07 for 5 years
• Renewed in FY12
Autism Centers of Excellence Program

• **ACE Centers**
  – Integrative, multi-disciplinary, coordinated research program
  – Cohesion and synergy across subprojects and cores
  – A minimum of 3 but no more than 6 research projects

• **ACE Networks**
  – Multi-site projects for optimal design and conduct of the study
  – Focusing on a specific topic of research
  – Commonly used for recruitment purpose
ACE Program: Requirements

- Research training
- Active dissemination of research findings
- Supporting the IACC Strategic Plan
- Data sharing via National Database for Autism Research
ACE Program: Common Measures

• Medical/Family History
• Physical/Neurological examination
• Genetic Test Results
• Autism Diagnostic Interview-revised
• Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule
• IQ or developmental assessment measures with nonverbal and verbal components
ACE Program

FY12 Competition Funded Sites
Autism Centers of Excellence Program

University of California, Davis
Sally J. Rogers, Ph.D.

University of California, Los Angeles
Susan Bookheimer, Ph.D.
Connie Kasari, Ph.D.
Daniel Geschwind, M.D., Ph.D.

Boston University
Helen Tager-Flusberg, Ph.D.

Children's Hospital of Boston
Mustafa Sahin, M.D., Ph.D.

Yale University
Kevin Pelphrey, Ph.D.

Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Abraham Reichenberg, Ph.D.

University of North Carolina
Joseph Piven, M.D.
Linmarie Sikich, M.D.

Emory University
Ami Klin, Ph.D.

= ACE Centers and Principal Investigators (3)
= ACE Networks and Principal Investigators (8)
ACE Centers

• Susan Bookheimer, Ph.D. UCLA
  Biomarkers of Developmental Trajectories and Treatment in ASD

• Ami Klin, Ph.D. Emory University, Atlanta
  Mechanisms of Risks and Resilience in ASD: Ontogeny, Phylogeny and Gene Disruption

• Helen Tager–Flusberg, Ph.D. Boston University
  Minimally Verbal ASD: From Basic Mechanisms to Innovative Interventions
ACE Networks
Autism Genetics, Phase II: Increasing Representation of Human Diversity
(Daniel Geschwind, M.D., Ph.D., Principal Investigator)
Adaptive Interventions for Minimally Verbal Children with ASD in the Community
(Connie Kasari, Ph.D., Principal Investigator)
Multimodal Developmental Neurogenetics of Females with ASD
(Kevin Pelphrey, Ph.D., Principal Investigator)
A Longitudinal MRI Study of Infants at Risk for Autism
(Joseph Piven, M.D., Principal Investigator)
Multigenerational Families and Environmental Risk for Autism (MINERvA) Network
(Abraham Reichenberg, Ph.D., Principal Investigator)
Intervention Effects of Intensity and Delivery Style for Toddlers with ASD
(Sally J. Rogers, Ph.D., Principal Investigator)
Early Biomarkers of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Infants with Tuberous Sclerosis
(Mustafa Sahin, M.D., Ph.D., Principal Investigator)
Study of Oxytocin in Autism to Improve Reciprocal Social Behaviors (SOARS-B)
(Linmarie Sikich, M.D., Principal Investigator)
ACE Centers and Networks

Nationwide distribution of sites
ACE Sites Nationwide

University of California, Davis
Sally J. Rogers, Ph.D.

University of California, Los Angeles
Susan Bookheimer, Ph.D.
Connie Kasari, Ph.D.
Daniel Geschwind, M.D., Ph.D.

Boston University
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Linmarie Sikich, M.D.

Emory University
Ami Klin, Ph.D.

Legend:
- Red square = ACE Center Sites
- Blue circle = ACE Network Sites
ACE Program Team

- Frank Avenilla, Ph.D.
- Judith Cooper, Ph.D.
- Lisa Gilotty, Ph.D.
- Deborah Hirtz, M.D.
- Alice Kau, Ph.D.
- Cindy Lawler, Ph.D.
- Laura Mamounas, Ph.D.
- Melissa Parisi, M.D., Ph.D.
- Ann Wagner, Ph.D.
The End