

# **DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF CHRONIC PARENTAL DENIAL IN AUTISM**

NIH/NIMH/IAAC Full Committee Meeting 01/12/2016



**By Dr. Linda VARSOU-PAPADIMITRIOU**  
**Scientist, Ass. Professor, PhD, MPH, DABCC**  
**Mother of a 30-year-old son with autism**



Join This FREE Online Event >> [TheAutismIntensive.com](http://TheAutismIntensive.com) | January 10th-18th, 2016



THE AUTISM  
INTENSIVE  
EXPERT INTERVIEW SERIES

<http://theautismintensive.com/event>

Gain Lifetime Access to All HD  
Video Interviews, MP3 Files and  
350 pages of Transcripts for Just  
\$79.95

“Parents know their children better than anyone”

**YES**

**BUT**

**NOT IN AUTISM**

**BECAUSE**

**IN 50% OF FAMILIES AT LEAST ONE  
PARENT**

**IS IN “DENIAL” OF ITS CHILD AUTISM OR  
OF THE EXTEND OF ITS SEVERITY**

# Is anyone in the audience in denial?

Definitely NOT, because just the fact that you are here proves the opposite.

**BUT**

Because you are **NOT** in denial, you might ignore the family **prevalence of Chronic Parental Denial** of child's autism and the devastating effects to the child with autism who becomes the ultimate victim.

The entire family suffers as result of Chronic Denial from at least one parent, usually the father.

***“Resolution of the Diagnosis Among Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Associations with Child and Parent Characteristics”, J Autism Dev Disord (2010) 40:89–99***

- This is the only paper from Israel, giving a prevalence of parents denial close to 53%.
- Taking out the bias of parents “volunteering” to this study, the actual prevalence must be much higher.....
- Prevalence of denial: 50% in Europe, 45% in USA (data provided by professionals in the field of autism, not from research)

# Urgent need for studies on denial in autism and measures to be taken

- A study on “Denial in Autism”, will start soon in Greece, where parents consider Denial very serious issue, second only autism diagnosis.
- The study on Denial will be part of the **ASDEU project**, a new trans-European program initiated by Autism-Europe, to assess all issues related to Autism Spectrum Disorders in European Union
- Why not to collaborate and share research protocols on “Denial” with the NIH/NIMH/IACC?

Assess and include the factor of  
**Chronic Parental Autism DENIAL**  
to the Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) and to  
the 2016 Strategic Plan Objectives

**IN ORDER**

- To have more reliable studies and results in autism.
- To better understand and deal with autism issues.
- To avoid more autism related family dramas.
- To protect and save our children with autism from the deleterious effects Denial has.

