

2016-2017 IACC Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Outline of Question 4 (Which Treatments and Interventions Will Help?)

Intervention types:

- Behavioral/social interventions
- Medical/Pharmacological treatments
- Educational/Classroom interventions
 - Development of educational interventions in school settings
- Occupational, physical, and sensory-based treatments
- Complementary, dietary, and alternative treatments
- Technology-based interventions and supports/use of robotics/AAC
 - Need increased coordination between federal agencies that fund basic technology development and those that fund trials of technology-based interventions to ensure a developmental path for these interventions
- Innovative combinations of therapeutic modalities

Within these intervention types - approaches and target symptoms, target populations

- Parent- and caregiver-mediated interventions
- Treatments for co-occurring conditions
- Interventions for minimally verbal individuals with autism
- Community-based approaches
- Treatment for different age groups – children, adolescents, adults
- More intervention research needs to be conducted in low-resourced contexts, including the inclusion of more underrepresented groups.

Outcome measures, treatment response, and personalized medicine

- Identifying markers/metrics to measure treatment response
- Studies that address behavioral changes, early indicators of treatment response, moderators, active ingredients, and objective outcome measures
- Sex differences in treatment responses
- Non-response to treatment
- Stratification of patients/choice of treatments/ tracking treatment response using or based on neural circuitry
- Personalized medicine – ensuring that intervention is tailored to individual needs
- What interventions are most effective in which age groups?
- Research outcome measures, quality of life outcome measures, long term outcomes

- Ensure that outcome measures that are meaningful to people on the autism spectrum are incorporated (e.g., interventions resulting in increased social relationships, greater independence, etc.)
- Inclusion of individuals on the autism spectrum in planning intervention research and determining outcome measures

Accelerating research and increasing uptake of and access to evidence-based interventions

- Ways to accelerate the pace of research
- Ways to increase interest of private industry in developing interventions
- Strategies for increasing access to evidence-based interventions, including disparity issues; telehealth, parent and peer-mediated, community-based intervention models to make intervention more accessible and cost effective
- (Strategies for successful of evidence-based interventions in community based setting will be covered in Q5, but this working group may also contribute ideas)
- Improvement of coordination of interventions across service providers
- Dissemination of information about evidence-based interventions to parents and providers; uptake
- Increase large scale clinical trials