

## 2016-2017 IACC Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder

### Outline of Question 1

#### In each of the topical sections below, discuss:

- What are the key research advances that have helped us make progress in the field?
  - Are there areas where research is ready to be moved into practice?
  - Are there opportunities for practice to inform research?
  - What are the most significant barriers to progress in this field?
  - What are the most pressing scientific questions, gaps, opportunities, and needs in this area?
- What are the most pressing services needs today? Are there any emerging needs?
- Implementation of diagnostic and screening tools
    - Community settings without the assistance of researchers
    - Provider barriers and challenges
  - Disparities
    - Access to early screening and diagnostic tools
    - Culturally appropriate instruments
  - Workforce
    - Increase training and funding
    - Preparing a culturally competent workforce
  - Service System
    - Greater collaboration among different sectors of service system to increase access for early screening and diagnosis
    - Changes in ACA
    - Impact of States Part C funding
  - Addressing the USPSTF report: while many may not agree with the feasibility and need for all of the task force's recommendations, it is important to address some aspects of the task force's request.
  - Is there new research evidence that can inform policy?
  - What are the near-term and long-term ways that some of these services implementation and policy issues can be addressed? Through research or through policy changes?

#### Topics for Overview of Progress in the field:

1. Development, evaluation, and implementation of diagnostic and screening tools
2. Biomarkers
3. Early signs of autism; symptomology
4. Early childhood development, development of skills such as language skills, social skills
5. Evidence base for early screening, diagnosis (including USPSTF report implications)
6. Identification (including early identification) of distinct subgroups of people with ASD/phenotyping

7. Implications of changes in diagnostic criteria and recommendations (what we have learned about DSM V impact)
8. Disparities in early screening and diagnosis, barriers to early detection
9. Access to early screening and diagnostic services
10. Screening/diagnosis services workforce needs
11. Trajectories (may overlap with Q2)

**Progress toward the Question's Aspirational Goal**

**Question 1 Aspirational Goal: Children at risk for ASD will be identified through reliable methods before ASD behavioral characteristics fully manifest.**

- The working group members discussed if the aspirational goal should be focused on biomarkers considering the current state of the field is unsure if this will ever be achievable.
- Discussion on if the aspirational goal should focus on improving screening detection so no children are missed for early diagnosis so that they are given the opportunity for the best outcome. The group questioned if this would be a better new objective or aspirational goal.