

The Kelly O'Leary Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

in the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Newsletter Aug. 2005

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- NEW STAFF
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR:

As many of you probably know, I have been on maternity leave this summer following the adoption of our daughter, Grace Catherine Meipiao Courtney. The trip to China was amazing, and Grace has been doing wonderfully. Thank you all for the well wishes, and thanks to all at TKOC for 'holding down the fort' in my absence.

Returning to work in September, I will continue to follow patients diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Before my leave, along with our division director Dr. Oppenheimer, I made the difficult decision to close my clinic to new patient evaluations, due to the lengthy waiting list that had developed. The other developmental pediatricians in the division are continuing to see new patients for possible autism spectrum diagnosis, and the wait list is much shorter. These are all physicians with whom I have trained and practiced, and I have complete confidence in their skills. They will continue to use TKOC staff to assist in the diagnostic process (administering ADOS, psychological and speech/language evaluations). Patients diagnosed with autism by other physicians will continue to be able to access TKOC services and programs.

TKOC has added much needed staff this summer including a new developmental pediatrician, Dr. Shelly Zimmer. Dr. Zimmer will be assisting me in following patients diagnosed with autism as well as continuing her research on the effects of the gluten and casein free diet. Dr. Pam Campbell, child psychiatrist, will also join us to provide medication consultation for children with more complicated medication needs. A new Director for the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Dr. Schonfeld, started in July.

As we continue to grow and change, we appreciate your patience and support. We are working hard to meet the needs of this ever growing population. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Patty

Patricia Manning-Courtney, MD
Director, TKOC

TREATMENT UPDATE:

TKOC summer programs are winding down, and it's been a very busy time for us. In addition to individual skill acquisition tutoring, speech and occupational therapy and co-treatment, we expanded our pragmatic language/social skill groups. This summer we offered three different social skills groups designed for children with ASD ranging in age from 6-13. Also new this summer is the addition of three intervention groups. We developed a speech therapy group for children that are non-verbal or have limited verbal skills to establish communication systems and developed two educational tutoring groups for children with ASD. Overall, TKOC more than doubled our summer offerings this year.

This fall will bring additional exciting opportunities. In addition to speech language and occupational therapy, co-treatment interventions, intensive ABA programs, pragmatic language/social skill groups, toilet training and school based consultation services, we hope to add an after school social group for adolescents with Asperger Syndrome and plan to expand our training and early intervention opportunities.

We realize that there continues to be a high demand for programming, especially summer options, and TKOC was unable to meet all of those needs. We continue to be committed to increasing our ability to provide the highest quality services to children with ASD. This requires recruitment and training of highly qualified staff. We continue attempts to procure the additional funding necessary to expand our programs. If you would like to help with this financial support or know someone who would, please contact the Development Office of Cincinnati Children's 513.636.4561.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROGRAM

TKOC's Community Consultation Program is designed to assist local schools in providing the best supports for students with ASD. Areas of focus include behavior, education/skill acquisition, communication, and self-regulation. TKOC consultants work with the school team to develop strategies to increase the students' success. In Hamilton County, this service is funded by MR/DD. Outside of Hamilton County, schools may fund individual contracts. Last year, approximately 80 students were served. Referrals for the 2005-06 school year are being accepted and referral packets are available: call Jan Cook-Richards at 513.636.5340. Questions, call Melissa Foti Hoff, PsyD also at 513.636.5340. We look forward to another exciting year of improving the outcome for children with ASD.

EVENTS:

September 12, 2005
Enhancing Communication for Young Children with ASD. This class focuses on strategies to enhance communication in young children with ASD who have limited verbal skills.

October 3, 2005
Understanding Behavior in Children with ASD. This class focuses on understanding behaviors in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

*** (September 12 and October 3 classes are from 7-9PM at Drake Hospital, 151 W. Galbraith Rd, Conference Room G Level A. There is no charge to attend but you must register to attend: call Mark Brasington 513.636.5352. The Kelly O'Leary Center staff members facilitate all sessions)*

October 14-15, 2005
Autism Society of Ohio Bi-Annual Conference, Kingsgate Marriott, Cincinnati. Information, call 419.242.9587.

NEW STAFF:

New Physicians

Michelle, Zimmer, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Developmental/Behavioral Pediatrician

Pamela Campbell, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Child Psychiatrist

New Therapy Team Additions

Jennifer Freson, MA, CFY-SLP
Kimberly Kroeger-Geoppinger, PsyD,
Psychology Post-Doc
T.J. Nestheide, PsyD, Psychology Post-Doc

In addition, we are currently recruiting an additional Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Behavioral Psychologist.



www.cincinnatichildrens.org/autism
513.636.5340



CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

One of the goals established for Autism Research at The Kelly O'Leary Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Division of Developmental Disabilities is the development of an ASD Research Registry of children in the Greater Cincinnati region with autism spectrum disorder. This registry will allow us to identify patterns and differences among the children with ASD and monitor any changes in symptoms over time.

Participation in the ASD Research Registry involves the following:

- 1) Signing a consent form that allows your child's clinical medical records to be included in the research database. All information remains strictly confidential.
- 2) Completing a 2 hour in-depth interview, the Autism Diagnostic Interview - Revised (ADI-R) about your child's developmental history.

If you would like to participate in this registry or get more information, please call Terry Mitchell, Clinical Research Coordinator at 513.636.1665.

FUTURE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

CCHMC and TKOC have been asked to participate in a multi-site clinical trial assessing the effectiveness of a medication on children diagnosed with Autism and chronic gastrointestinal symptoms like constipation and diarrhea. Information about this project will be available in the near future.



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Division of Developmental Disabilities
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