

BAAC Grant Announcements

The BAAC is pleased to announce **John Hegarty**, PhD (Stanford), **Hye Young Lee**, PhD (UCSF), and **Emily Pai**, Graduate Student (UCSF) as the recipients of the 2016 BAAC IMFAR Travel Awards. These awards provide financial support for current Student/Trainee BAAC Members' registrations and travel expenses to attend this year's IMFAR conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Learn more about their experiences on page 2.



The 2016 **Collaboration Counts Grant** recipient is **Dr. Vanessa Hus Bal**, PhD, of UCSF's STAR Center.

Dr. Bal's project, *Characterization of Minimally Verbal Adults with ASD*,

is a collaborative project between Dr. Bal and Dr. Jennifer Phillips, PhD of Stanford's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinic. In the words of Dr. Bal:

"By increasing understanding of the strengths of MV [minimally verbal] adults with ASD, we aim to move the field beyond broad classifications of "poor" outcomes in order to more carefully consider the individual achievements of this understudied population. The proposed study will yield information that will directly inform development of interventions that capitalize on individual strengths and better address the unique challenges of MV adults with ASD."

The BAAC looks forward to hearing more about the progress of this excellent project over the next year.

Congratulations to all award recipients!

FEATURED WEBSITE ITEM **MEMBER PROFILES**



Our goal is to have a **Member Profile** page for every BAAC member. You can enter information about your work, your projects, and resources you may be looking for or are willing to share. The more information you provide, the more we can learn about you and your work. Please take some time to **fill out your individual on-line member profile**.

As our membership database grows, we will include a way for you to search all of the member profiles and projects in order to find other colleagues working in the same research area or find someone who is looking to collaborate or share resources.

We want to see our **"In the News"** section of the website grow along with the BAAC. We would be happy to add



your articles, videos, or audio recordings that feature your work. Do you have a media release or other article you want to share? Send them to:

baacprogrammanager@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE!

**Friday, November 18th is the 2016 Annual
BAAC Autism Research Symposium**

The BAAC website will continue to grow and be developed into what we hope will be a **valuable autism research resource** for professionals and families in the Bay Area. Please visit our *Contact Us* page if you'd like to send in any questions or comments. **Stay tuned for more developments and the next newsletter!**

Familial Aspects of Autism (from the INSAR website)

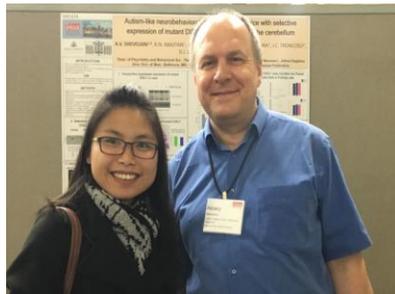
The International Society for Autism Research is hosting a free series of six weekly online seminars on the familial aspects of autism. Each seminar is two (2) hours long, and will run every Thursday from June 23 to July 28, 2016, and will cover a variety of topics on autism and the family, from sex differences to family interventions, to the broader autism phenotype. The presentations are designed for students, post-doctoral fellows and other early-career investigators interested in autism research. Clinicians and established researchers who want to get a snapshot of the current state of science in topics outside their area of expertise may also find these sessions of value. Check out the Research tab on the INSAR website for more details and registration

WANTED!

RESEARCH RECRUITMENT FLYERS

Did you know that the BAAC website has space for your research flyer? Our website serves as a collection hub for regional, IRB approved projects and is referred to by clinicians, case-workers, and support groups when a family displays interest in participating in research. If you would like your project's information posted, please send the flyer and the most recent IRB approval letter to: baacprogrammanager@yahoo.com

Inside IMFAR: BAAC Travel Award Grantees



“My primary goals of attending this meeting were; 1) converging my ideas between autism animal behavioral study and clinical or social questions in autism, 2) actively discussing about the possible future collaborations on *in vivo* animal behavioral studies in ASD, 3) presenting my current unpublished work on behavioral studies in autism mouse model and get feedback from a different point of view. Having a mixture of study areas on basic science, clinical studies, behavioral and social science, the IMFAR meeting induces meaningful communication between scientists from multiple study areas. And I think that's what makes this meeting attractive to autism scientist/society.

- Hye Young Lee

“As a graduate student in early stage without enough former trainings, this is really, really a precious opportunity for me to learn scientific thinking...I also got to interact with quite a few clinical workers like occupational therapists while skimming through their poster sessions. It was fun and informative to know how they are developing physical and occupational therapies for patients...I like that IMFAR made it intensive so I can absorb all different kinds of information within faster pace...I really want to thank BAAC for supporting my trip to the conference. This learning experience totally widened my view for the ASD research, and I do now have a more formed idea how I would want to present my proposal in my upcoming qualifying exam!

-Emily Pai

“I would like to sincerely thank the Bay Area Autism Consortium for this award as it allowed me to attend IMFAR and present my first oral presentation. This was a very exciting, albeit anxiety-invoking, experience. I was afforded the opportunity to discuss my research with experts in the field... and receive feedback and encouragement that would otherwise not be available. Additionally, I was able to meet individuals interested in conducting similar work and provide my own feedback for their investigations. This year at IMFAR was by far my most productive and I look forward to building on this momentum next year. Your support and the support of the entire Bay Area Autism Consortium made this possible.”

—John Hegarty