

Summer Student Research Program  
Project Description

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**PROJECT TITLE (200 Characters max):**

*Characteristics of the PDQ-1 in High Risk Populations*

**HYPOTHESIS:**

*PDQ-1 scores reliably identify children with Autism in high-risk populations.*

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (Include design, methodology, data collection, techniques, data analysis to be employed and evaluation and interpretation methodology)

This study will conduct prospective, screening of young children (age 18 to 36 months) at risk of developmental delay and/or disorder with the Psychological Development Questionnaire for Toddlers (PDQ-1), a novel, parent report questionnaire. Successful implementation of this study will determine the psychometric properties and efficacy of the PDQ-1 as a level II Autism screener for young children.

This study is approved by the New Jersey (NJ) Medical School Institutional Review Board (IRB). The participation of parents of toddler-age children will be voluntary and secured through written, informed consent, procedures. Screening will be conducted through a network of early intervention program providers. Screen positive cases will receive expedited developmental (diagnostic) evaluation. Screened subjects will receive follow-up to identify missed cases). Hypothesis-driven data collection and analysis, using appropriate statistical tests will be reported.

**SPONSOR'S MOST RECENT PUBLICATIONS RELEVANT TO THIS RESEARCH:**

*Preliminary Evaluation of a Brief Autism Screener for Young Children*

**IS THIS PROJECT SUPPORTED BY EXTRAMURAL FUNDS?**

Yes  or No

*(IF YES, PLEASE SUPPLY THE GRANTING AGENCY'S NAME)*

**THIS PROJECT IS:**  Clinical  Laboratory  Behavioral  
 Other: Public Health

**THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE USE OF ANIMALS**   
PENDING  APPROVED  IACUC PROTOCOL #

**THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS**   
PENDING  APPROVED  IRB PROTOCOL # M 0120040148

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**THIS PROJECT IS SUITABLE FOR:**

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS       ENTERING FRESHMAN   
SOPHOMORES       ALL STUDENTS

**THIS PROJECT IS WORK-STUDY:**      Yes       or      No

**THIS PROJECT WILL BE POSTED DURING ACADEMIC YEAR  
FOR INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS?:**      Yes       or      No

**WHAT WILL THE STUDENT LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?**

Successful, community-based, screening studies require the collaborative support and interaction of many individuals and agencies. Effective research requires clear, informed, hypotheses, consistent methods and procedures for data collection and analysis. The student will participate in multiple aspects of this public health research project and learn about the expression of Autism in young children. The student will learn about the many steps required to evaluate the usefulness of a basic clinical questionnaire and to prepare information for effective professional presentation.