

Michigan State University Autism Lab



Fall 2023 Newsletter

Welcome our New Lab Members!!



Meet The Lab:

Left to Right: Ahmad Warraich (Graduate Student), Jessie Greatorex (RISE Provider Liaison), Isabelle Saligumba (Lab Manager), Anthuanet Espinel (RISE Caregiver Liaison), Ana Pomales Ramos (Graduate Student), Dr. Brooke Ingersoll (PI), and Hannah Tokish (Graduate Student)

About the Autism Research Lab:

The MSU Autism Research Lab, directed by Brooke Ingersoll, PhD, studies the development of social communication in young children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and the development of interventions to improve these skills. We are also interested in the dissemination of evidence-based interventions and the impact of ASD on the family.

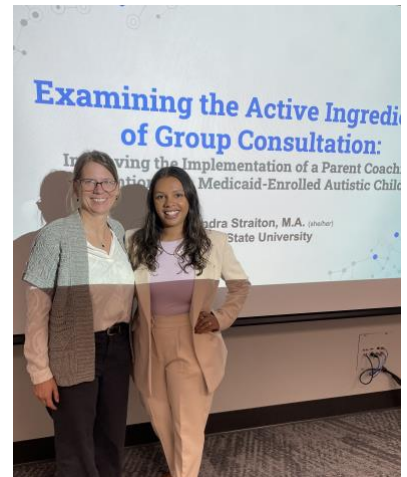
In This Issue:

About the Autism Research Lab	1
MSU Autism Lab Shout Outs	2
New Lab Members	3
Lab Presentations at the International Society for Autism Research Conference	4
Pakistan Special Education Schools	5
Research Updates.....	6
Recent Publications	6
Visit Our Website	7
Contact Us.....	7
Follow Our Social Media	7

MSU Autism Lab Shout Outs!

Grad Student Diondra Straiton Successfully Defends Her Dissertation:

A huge congratulations to our graduate student, Dr. Diondra Straiton, for successfully defending her dissertation entitled “Examining the Active Ingredients of Group Consultation: Improving the Implementation of a Parent Coaching Intervention with Medicaid-Enrolled Autistic Children.”



Ahmad spreads news about Project ImPACT at the MSU Salaam Peace Festival:

Visiting international graduate student, Ahmad Warraich, spreads information about Project ImPACT at MSU’s Salaam Peace Festival at the Islamic Center of East Lansing. The MSU Autism Lab was well represented by Ahmad while he shed light on ongoing studies and various research initiatives.



Dr. Brooke Ingersoll Named the 2023 Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor of the Year:

Congratulations to Dr. Brooke Ingersoll, a clinical psychologist, on receiving the 2023 Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor of the Year Award for Michigan State University. Dr. Ingersoll works hard to cultivate a positive environment in her lab that allows for a multi-tiered mentorship between her, the graduate students, and the undergraduate students.



New Lab Members:

Jessie Greatorex, B.A., is a Research Assistant at MSU's Autism Lab. She received her B.A. from Michigan State University in Psychology with minors in Youth & Society and Cognitive Science from Michigan State University. During all four years of her undergraduate career, Jessie served as a Research Assistant in MSU's Autism Lab, while concurrently working as a Registered Behavior Technician delivering ABA therapy to young autistic children. Her research interests include ASD in adolescence and the implementation of parent-mediated interventions in the Community Mental Health system. When she's not in the lab, she enjoys gardening, exercising, and spending quality time with friends and family.



Isabelle Saligumba, B.A., is the current Lab Manager of MSU's Autism Lab. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a degree in Sociology. As an undergraduate, Isabelle did research at the Koegel Autism Center working with adults with ASD. Her research interests center around working memory and executive functioning impairments within children and adolescents with ADHD. In her free time, she enjoys working out, rock climbing, and hanging out with friends. She hopes to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology.



Ahmad Warraich, M. Phil., currently serves as a visiting Research Scholar at the MSU Autism Lab. He is pursuing his doctoral studies at the National Institute of Psychology, Islamabad. Mr. Warraich obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Laurentian University in Canada. His research interests revolve around the development and cultural adaptation of early interventions designed for children diagnosed with ASD. His recent research endeavors have centered on investigating the experiences of parents with children on the autism spectrum. In his spare time, he indulges in leisure cycling for relaxation and enjoys discovering new destinations.



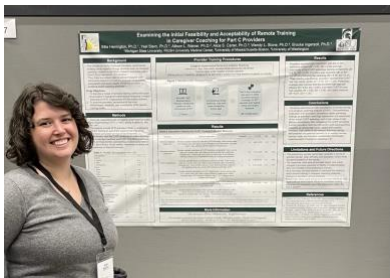
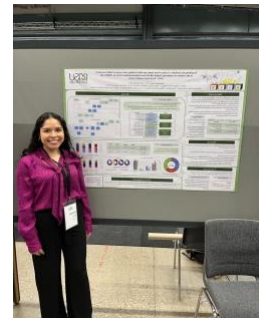
The International Society for Autism Research 2023 Conference:

The MSU Autism Lab took part in the 2023 INSAR Conference in Stockholm, Sweden. You can read more about these wonderful abstracts and presentations at https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.autism-insar.org/resource/resmgr/docs/annualmeeting/insar_2023_full_abstract_book.pdf. Below are pictures of our presenting researchers and the posters they presented, as well as who you should contact if you would like more information about a project of presentation.

Poster Presentations:

Abstract: 404.254 Examining the feasibility of using virtual teams, provider training, and caregiver/child assessment in the conduct of a multi-site, hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial of an NDBI in the Part C Early Intervention Systems

MSU Researchers: **Anthuanet Espinel, BS**, Julia Nauman, BS, & Brooke Ingersoll, PhD
Presentation Type: Poster
Contact: espinelc@msu.edu

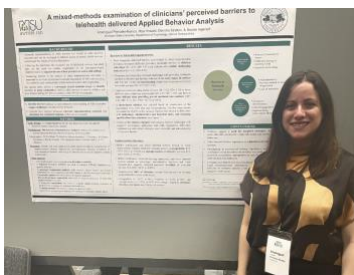
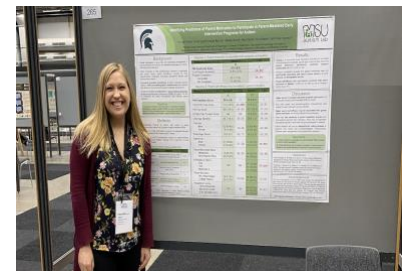


Abstract: 407.409 Exploring the Initial Feasibility and Acceptability of Remote Training in Caregiver Coaching for Part C Providers

MSU Researchers: **Ellie Harrington, PhD** & Brooke Ingersoll, PhD
Presentation Type: Poster
Contact: harr1798@msu.edu

Abstract: 404.265 Identifying Predictors of Parent Motivation to Participate in Caregiver-Meditated Early Intervention Programs for Autism

MSU Researchers: **Hannah Tokish, BA**, Anamiguel Pomales-Ramos, BS, & Brooke Ingersoll, PhD
Presentation Type: Poster
Contact: tokishha@msu.edu



Abstract: 406.330 A Mixed-Methods Examination of Perceived Barriers to Telehealth Delivered Applied Behavior Analysis

MSU Researchers: **Anamiguel Pomales Ramos, BS**, Mya Howard, BS, Diondra Straiton, PhD, & Brooke Ingersoll, PhD
Presentation Type: Poster
Contact: pomalesr@msu.edu

Ahmad Warraich Shares Pictures of Sample Recruitment in Pakistan Special Education Schools



In a promising development, the National Institute of Psychology in Islamabad is actively engaged in the translation and adaptation of Project ImPACT, a parent-mediated intervention designed for children grappling with autism spectrum disorder and social communication challenges. This initiative holds significant potential, as the project has already been successfully translated into six other languages, underscoring its versatility and global applicability. The endeavor to bring Project ImPACT to Urdu-speaking communities in Pakistan is particularly crucial, given the pressing need for accessible interventions in a country where assistance for this population is not only limited but often confined to major urban centers, leaving many families in remote areas without adequate support.

The efforts to make Project ImPACT available in Urdu align with the broader mission of addressing the scarcity of affordable interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder and social communication deficiencies in Pakistan. As the project progresses in Islamabad, its impact is poised to reach far beyond the city limits, extending a lifeline to families in regions where specialized assistance is scarce. This initiative represents a commendable step towards bridging the gap in autism-related services, making strides towards inclusivity and support for children and families facing these challenges in Pakistan.

Reciprocal Imitation and Social Engagement (RISE) Study:

Michigan State University's Autism Research Lab is participating organizations in a multi-site clinical trial examining effective early intervention methods for toddlers with or at-risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This multi-site study investigates the effectiveness of Reciprocal Imitation Training (RIT) in publicly funded early intervention programs in four states. The project will provide information on the effectiveness of parent-mediated RIT when delivered in community settings and may find moderators of outcomes and other factors that influence the quality of intervention. Participation in RISE is only available to families with an Early Intervention (EI) provider that is already enrolled in the study. If applicable, your EI provider will discuss your potential participation and connect you with a local research site. Participation lasts about 9 months from the first assessment to the third and final assessment. Visit our website at riseresearchnetwork.com for more information and go to riseresearchnetwork.com/Contact to learn more about the RISE study at our other research sites.



If you would like more information on the RISE Study within the state of Michigan, please contact the following individuals:

- General Information on RISE in Michigan: Contact Isabelle Saligumba at saligumb@msu.edu
- Michigan EI Providers: Contact Jessie Greatorex at greateor1@msu.edu
- Michigan Families and Parents: Contact Anthuanet Espinel at espinelc@msu.edu or call (734) 489-1601



The RISE Project involves researchers from around the country. The MSU Autism Lab collaborates with researchers from the University of Washington, Rush University Medical Center, the University of Massachusetts Boston, and Boston University.

Recent Publications -update:

Nauman, J., & Ingersoll, B. (2023). Examining the role of attention problems in motor stereotypy in children with autism spectrum disorder. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rasd.2022.102091>

D'Agostino, S.R., Dueñas, A.D., Bravo, A., Tyson, K., Straiton, D., Salvatore, G.L., Pacia, C., Pellecchia, M. (accepted). Short report: Toward deeper understanding and wide-scale implementation of naturalistic developmental behavioral interventions. *Autism*.

Visit Our Website:



For more information on upcoming projects, research, workshops, and more, visit our website: <https://autismlab.psy.msu.edu/>

Contact Us:



Email Us at autlab@msu.edu



Give us a call at **517-432-8031**

Follow Our Social Media:



Check out our Facebook page: [MSUautismlab](#)



Follow us on Instagram: [@msuautismlab](#)



Follow us on Twitter: [@msuautlab](#)



Subscribe to our Youtube Channel: [MSU Autism Lab](#)