

# Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

www.childrensnational.org/CASD



## Children's National: CASD CHAT

### A Fond Farewell to CASD's Dr. Haniya Raza!



Haniya Raza, DO

After seven years at Children's National, Dr. Haniya Raza, Medical Director of the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD), will begin an exciting new phase of her career at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)!

Prior to joining CASD's Faculty, Dr. Raza completed her Fellowship at Children's National in Child and Adolescent Psychology. In 2016 and 2017, Dr. Raza was named one of the "Top Doctors", a list of the region's best providers, by Washingtonian Magazine.

Dr. Raza will be deeply missed, and CASD would like to wish her the best as she moves forward in her career!

### Research Report

### What About the Girls?

In a new article, "[What About the Girls? Sex-Based Differences in Autistic Traits and Adaptive Skills](#)", featured in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, CASD researchers, led by Dr. Allison Ratto, and collaborators at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Virginia Tech University, and the National Institute of Mental Health, reported that there is growing evidence of a camouflaging effect among females with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), particularly among those without



intellectual disability, which may affect performance on gold-standard diagnostic measures. Allison Ratto, PhD

The findings show that although females and males were rated similarly on gold-standard diagnostic measures overall, females with higher cognitive ability were less likely to meet criteria for ASD on one measure. Parents also rated females as having more autistic traits and weaker adaptive skills than males. Therefore, the findings suggest that some autistic females may be missed by current diagnostic procedures. This research and prior work published by CASD, ("[Sex Differences in Parent-reported Executive Functioning and Adaptive Behavior in Children and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)"), have contributed to new work in which CASD researchers will be working as part of a multi-site team, funded by the NIH Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) Program, to better understand the presentation of autism in females and in gender-variant individuals and to improve our diagnostic procedures for these groups.

CASD's faculty and staff would like to congratulate Dr. Ratto on the publication of this important article!

## **Calendar of Events**

### **January 2018**

#### **AJE Special Education Thursdays**

**Understanding DC's Student Advocate Office and What You Need to Know as a Parent in Special Education**

**Guest: Faith Gibson Hubbard, Chief Student Advocate**

**Thursday, January 11th at 12:30pm**

These 30 minute sessions are available online every other Thursday to give parents and professionals: information, education and a better understanding of DC special education issues in a "bite-size" format. For more information, please visit, <http://www.aje-dc.org/programs-3/special-education-thursdays/>

#### **Kids in Action: Friday Night Fever**

**The HSC Pediatric Center**

**Washington, DC**

**Friday, January 12th at 7pm**

Join Kids in Action for Friday Night Fever, a chance for teens with disabilities to hang out with their peers. Designed for teens ages 11 and older, the program provides opportunities to participate in social events and make new friends. Activities vary month to month and include: teen dances, karaoke night, movies, game night, ice cream socials, various educational topics and more! Advance registration required. Email Robyn Winston-Cohen, CTRS at [RWinston@Hshealth.org](mailto:RWinston@Hshealth.org) or call 202-557-1851.

For more information, please visit, <http://www.hshealth.org/medical-programs-therapy/services-programs/adaptive-sports>

**AMC Sensory Friendly Films: Ferdinand**

**AMC Theatres Nationwide**

**Saturday, January 13th at 10am**

The program provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout, or sing!

For more information, please visit,

[www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films](http://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films)

**Partnership for Extraordinary Minds (XMinds): Growing Up on the Autism Spectrum: A Family Experience with Caron Starobin, LCSW-C**

**Silver Spring, MD**

**Thursday, January 18th at 7pm**

During the workshop you will learn what to expect when raising a child on the spectrum from birth to independence. You will gain understanding of the stages of a family life cycle and their relevance to how you support your autistic child and other family members. You will also discover ways to nurture you and your family's emotional needs while raising your child with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Advance registration is recommended.

Cost: \$15 for non-members. For more information, please visit,

[www.xminds.org](http://www.xminds.org).

**AJE Special Education Thursdays**

**What Parents Should Think About when Exploring a Certificate vs. Diploma for a Student with a Disability**

**Guest: Dr. Lauren Lestremau, Licensed Psychologist and Director of Ivymount School's Multiple Learning Needs Program**

**Thursday, January 25th at 12:30pm**

These 30 minute sessions are available online every other Thursday to give parents and professionals: information, education and a better understanding of DC special education issues in a "bite-size" format. For more information, please visit,

<http://www.aje-dc.org/programs-3/special-education-thursdays/>

**AMC Sensory Friendly Films: Paddington 2**

**AMC Theatres Nationwide**

**Saturday, January 27th at 10am**

The program provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout, or sing!

For more information, please visit,  
[www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films](http://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films)

## CASD in the Media

Dr. John Strang, CASD Faculty Member and Director of the Gender and Autism Program was quoted in the Spectrum News article, [Some adults with autism traits reject conventional sexual labels.](#)

## Call for Applications



## 2018 Scholarship Program

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) announced its 2018 Scholarship Program, which provides \$3,000 scholarships to students across the autism spectrum. OAR is pleased to invite persons with an autism diagnosis (DSM-IV or later criteria) pursuing full-time, post-secondary, undergraduate education or vocation-technical training in any of the following:

- Four-year undergraduate college or university
- Two-year undergraduate college
- Trade, technical or vocation school
- Cooperative life skills programs

To learn more please visit the [OAR Scholarships](#) page. Applications are due on May 7, 2018.

# THE KENNEDY CENTER

## 2018 VSA International Young Soloists Competition

The Kennedy Center Office of VSA and Accessibility is now accepting applications for the 2018 VSA International Young Soloists Competition. This program is open to musicians with disabilities, ages 14-25. Soloists and ensembles of any instrument or genre are welcome to apply, including classical, jazz, hip-hop, rock, and more! Each year four outstanding musicians receive the VSA International Young Soloists Award, consisting of:

- \$2,000 to further your studies and career
- A trip to Washington, DC to perform at the Kennedy Center on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 which is live-streamed and archived on the Kennedy Center website
- Professional development opportunities at the Kennedy Center during your trip

Visit the [Kennedy Center Office of VSA and Accessibility website](#) for more information. The deadline to apply is February 7, 2018.

## You May Be Interested...

### [The Cumulative Probability of Arrest by Age 28 Years in the United States by Disability Status, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender](#)

According to results reported in the American Journal of Public Health, people with disabilities have greater odds of being arrested compared to those without disabilities. Further, racial disparities also exist within the disability population, the findings show: Black people with disabilities have the greatest probability of being arrested, and white people with disabilities the least.

### [Agencies May Want to Think Neuro-Differently About the Cyber Workforce](#)

A French company has been placing IT consultants with Asperger's syndrome in government positions. Could it work in the U.S.?

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