

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Psychiatry Residency: Inter-disciplinary Training in Diagnosis and Treatment

Why we need this kind of training during residency

- Limited training and experience in ASD during residency
- High demand for evidence based diagnostic evaluation
- Limited treatment access in the community
- ASD is the fastest-growing developmental disability
- Prevalence in the United States is estimated at 1 in 54 births
- Prevalence in U.S. children increased by 119.4 percent from 2000 (1 in 150) to 2010 (1 in 68)
- In Ohio, the prevalence of ASD has doubled since 2000

Financial burden and Education cost burden

- Autism Society estimates U.S. annual cost \$90 billion for autism
- Majority of cost are in adult services – \$175-196 billion vs \$61-66 billion for children
- Lifelong cost care reduced by 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention
- The U.S. cost of autism over the lifespan is about \$2.4 million for a person with an intellectual disability, and \$1.4 million for a person without intellectual disability
- Educating a student with ASD adds more than \$8,600 extra to the average cost of \$12,000 per neurotypical student
- 35 % young adults (ages 19-23) with autism have not had a job or received postgraduate education after leaving high school

How Psychiatry residents will be trained during residency

Team based learning didactics in April - Autism awareness month

Clinical experience in PGY2 for 2 months Child and Adolescent Psychiatry rotation

Once a week interdisciplinary autism assessment

Once a week Hispanic MAAC Clinic for Spanish speaking patients

Multidisciplinary Adult autism assessment clinic

Elective opportunities for PGY4 residents

Crisis assessment for individuals with developmental disabilities in the emergency room setting

MetroHealth Autism Assessment (MAAC) Data

- 2155 ASD related patient encounters were in this clinic in 2020
- 169 Adults patients with suspected ASD seen since initiation in June 2020
- 65 Spanish speaking patients seen in Hispanic MAAC
- 496 Children with suspected ASD seen in this clinic

Inter-disciplinary Collaboration

- Child and Adult Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Comprehensive Care Clinic
- Developmental- Behavioral pediatrics
- Speech and language
- Occupational and Physical therapy
- Neurology
- Genetics
- Nursing
- Research
- Child Life
- Outreach and Advocacy

Community Resources and Advocacy

- Milestones Autism Resources
- Autism Learning Health Network/Autism Speaks
- Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)
- ECHO RUBI (Research Units in Behavioral Intervention) Nationwide Children's
- Association for Science in Autism Treatment
- Center for Disease Control and prevention, Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Autism Resource Center AACAP



Rajesh Mehta, MD
MetroHealth Medical Center
Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychology
MetroHealth Autism Assessment Clinic