

INSAR Early Career Committee Mentoring Initiative 2018-2019 Senior Mentors

Name	Photo	Bio
Raphael Bernier		<p>Raphael Bernier, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Washington (UW) and holds adjunct appointments in the Departments of Psychology and School Psychology; is the Executive Director of the Seattle Children’s Autism Center, one of the largest outpatient autism programs in the country; is the Associate Director of the Center on Human Development and Disability; and is a licensed clinical psychologist. He received his PhD at UW, his clinical training at UCLA, and also holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Tufts University. As the author of over 100 scientific articles and chapters and the book Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Reference Handbook, the Principal Investigator of several NIH and privately funded studies focused on the etiology and neuroscience of autism spectrum disorder, and an active clinician, Dr. Bernier is at the intersection of science and practice of autism. The overall focus of his research program is the study of the causes, pathophysiology, and treatment of autism. Additionally, in his role at the Seattle Children’s Autism Center, he focuses on the successful care of patients and families impacted by autism. The success of his studies and clinical experiences demonstrate his ability to effectively complete creative and innovative projects; develop successful collaborations that necessitate interfacing with neuroscientists, geneticists, and clinicians; and integrate disparate pieces of information to successfully disseminate knowledge and advance the field of mental health in the broader population.</p>
Brian Boyd		<p>Dr. Boyd's research agenda has involved two inter-related tracks—(1) clinical trials research to determine the efficacy of behavioral interventions for children with ASD as well as (2) descriptive and observational research on ASD core and secondary symptoms, in particular, sensory issues as well as ritualistic, repetitive behaviors. Specifically, Dr. Boyd's expertise related to the conduct and implementation of randomized trials within real-world settings (i.e., homes and schools) and the direct and indirect measurement of repetitive and sensory behaviors in young children with ASD. For his work, he has received funding from both the National Institutes of Health and the Institute of Education Sciences.</p>
Bhisma Chakrabhati		<p>Bhismadev Chakrabarti is Professor of Neuroscience and Mental Health and Research Director of the Centre for Autism at the University of Reading. After a first degree in Chemistry, he studied Neurobiology, and did his PhD with Professor Simon Baron-Cohen. He received the Charles and Katharine Darwin Research Fellowship at the University of Cambridge and has won multiple grants from the Medical Research Council UK. In 2015, he was awarded the Philip Leverhulme Prize in Psychology. The fundamental arm of his research focuses on studying empathy and reward processes in autism. His research uses multiple techniques that measure behaviour, autonomic, and neural activity (eye-tracking, psychophysics, facial EMG, EEG, and fMRI). In a parallel, applied arm of research, his lab has been working in India to build an autism research toolkit, through validating widely used screening and diagnostic tools, as well as cognitive measures linked to autism, and using these to conduct the first systematic study of autism prevalence in Indian schoolchildren. He currently leads a consortium that aims to develop a tablet-based platform to detect early autism risk in India.</p>

		<p>Lab website: www.bhismalab.org www.reading.ac.uk/autism</p>
<p>Cheryl Dissanayake</p>		<p>Professor Dissanayake is the Founding Director of Australia’s first research centre dedicated to autism, established in 2008. She has been an autism researcher since 1984, when she began her PhD at Monash University. On completion she undertook a postdoctoral fellowship in the Sigman lab at UCLA, and has established and led an active research program since joining La Trobe University in 1996. In addition to her scholarly activities, with numerous grants and publications, Prof. Dissanayake was instrumental in bringing together Victorian and Australian autism researchers, having co-founded the Autism Victoria ASD Research Group (in 2003), the Australasian Autism Research Alliance (in 2005), the Australasian Autism Research Collaboration (in 2009) and the Australasian Society for Autism Research (2011), a member based society of which she is vice-President. She is also a Project Leader in the Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism. Professor Dissanayake is amongst the first scholars to be inaugurated as a Fellow of the International Society for Autism Research at its annual conference in Rotterdam in May, 2018.</p> <p>Key Research Areas: Autism in infancy and early childhood; Early identification and intervention; Social-emotional and social-cognitive development</p>
<p>Antonio Hardan</p>		<p>Dr. Hardan is a Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, Stanford University. He is the Carl Feinstein Director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Stanford University. He is also the Director of the Autism and Developmental Disorders Clinic at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford. Dr. Hardan is a Board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist as well as a general psychiatrist with more than 20 years experience assessing and treating children and adults with developmental disorders including autism. Over the years, he has won several teaching awards including the John Romano Award at the University of Rochester and the “Outstanding Teacher” at Stanford University.</p> <p>Dr. Hardan research expertise is in the neurobiology of autism and in the development of innovative treatment for individuals with developmental disorders. He served as a principal investigator on numerous projects examining the neurobiology of autism and assessing the effectiveness of a wide range of interventions. He is the recipient of several grants including two recent awards examining the neuroimaging predictors of Pivotal Response Treatment and the role of vasopressin in the social deficits of autism. He has completed several investigations that aim at increasing our understanding of the pathophysiology of individuals with developmental disorders while applying multimodal imaging techniques. He also has led several clinical trials examining the effectiveness of novel interventions such as N-Acetylcysteine, arginine vasopressin and pivotal response treatment in children with autism. Finally, Dr. Hardan has published more than 100 journal articles and has co-authored several book chapters in the field of developmental disorders and autism.</p>

<p>Shafali Jeste</p>		<p>Dr. Jeste is a behavioral child neurologist specializing in autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders. She is an Associate Professor in Psychiatry and Neurology in the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, and a lead investigator within UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment (CART).</p> <p>Dr. Jeste's research is focused on the use of novel electrophysiological biomarkers to better define early predictors of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and to define more homogeneous, brain-based subgroups within the autism spectrum in order to inform treatment targets. She has designed innovative studies in early predictors of ASD to focus on the integration of biomarkers with behavior to define atypical development prior to the onset of clinical symptoms. Within this framework, she has been investigating and treating infants and children with neurogenetic syndromes associated with ASD. She is the principal investigator of several studies, including early development and intervention for infants with tuberous sclerosis complex and the UCLA Autism Center of Excellence study of high-risk infant siblings. Dr. Jeste serves as the UCLA site director for a multisite National Institutes of Health Autism Biomarkers Consortium for Clinical Trials research study. Clinically, she evaluates and treats patients with ASD and neurological comorbidities, and directs the UCLA CARING Clinic. Dr. Jeste has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and has been the recipient of the Child Neurology Foundation's Researcher-in-Training Award and the American Academy of Neurology's Clinical Researcher-in- Training Award. She serves on the board of directors for the Child Neurology Foundation and was elected to serve on the board of directors for the International Society for Autism Research.</p>
<p>Christine Wu Nordahl</p>		<p>Dr. Nordahl's research interest is in understanding the neural basis for autism spectrum disorders. She utilizes structural and functional neuroimaging to investigate alterations in brain structure and connectivity in very young children with autism. She completed a double major at Cornell University in Neurobiology & Behavior and Psychology and received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from UC Davis. She was a postdoctoral fellow in the MIND Institute's Interdisciplinary Autism Research Training Program and spearheaded the development of pediatric imaging protocols to acquire MRI scans in infants and toddlers during natural sleep, without the use of sedation or anesthesia.</p>

<p>Liz Pellicano</p>		<p>I recently returned to Australia having been Director of the Centre for Research in Autism and Education (CRAE) at University College London. I am a developmental psychologist determined to conduct genuinely world-class research in order to improve our knowledge of the challenges faced by autistic children, young people and adults and to translate that research into meaningful changes in practice. I trained as an educational psychologist at the University of Western Australia (where I also completed my PhD in 2005), before becoming a Research Fellow in Psychiatry at the University of Oxford and Lecturer in Development Psychology at the University of Bristol. I joined CRAE at the then-Institute of Education as Senior Lecturer in 2009. I became Director of CRAE at UCL Institute of Education in 2013 and Professor of Autism Education in 2015. I joined Macquarie University in Sydney in October 2017 as Professor of Autism Education.</p> <p>My work uses a range of methodologies (experimental, longitudinal, qualitative, participatory) across a range of areas, including autistic perception and cognition, autism education, and social and ethical issues related to autism, to understand better autism and how we might improve the lives lived by autistic people. My recent work has emphasized the importance of working with autistic people, rather than on or for them, involving them in the research process and valuing their experience and expertise.</p>
<p>Paul Shattuck</p>		<p>Paul Shattuck is an Associate Professor at Drexel University's AJ Drexel Autism Institute where he leads the Life Course Outcomes Program. His advanced training is in sociology, social policy and public health. The Life Course Outcomes research program uses an ecological life course perspective to examine how outcomes unfold across life – lately with a particular emphasis on adolescence and emerging adulthood. He has particular expertise in analyzing secondary data, program evaluation, policy analysis and public health research methods. Most of his research now revolves around a recent HRSA award: Autism Transitions Research Project. His team is documenting young adult outcomes using population-based datasets and to understand contextual and antecedent factors that influence those outcomes. He has received grants from NIH, NSF, HRSA, Autism Speaks and other sources. Shattuck has pioneered approaches for research dissemination and regularly presents his work to legislators, agency leaders and advocacy groups. His work has been cited over 5,000 times and you can see his record of publication on Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=RkxM8zIAAAAJ&hl=en</p>
<p>Andrew Whitehouse</p>		<p>Andrew Whitehouse is the Angela Wright Bennett Professor of Autism Research at the Telethon Kids Institute and Professor of Autism Research at The University of Western Australia. He is also Chief Research Officer of the Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism (Autism CRC) and Adjunct Professor at Curtin University and Edith Cowan University. Andrew's team maintains a strong focus on developing and trialling new behavioural interventions for infants at high risk of ASD, as well as children with a diagnosis of ASD, and has a great interest in building large datasets for widespread research use. Andrew has considerable experience in translating research findings into policy outcomes, and was recently the Chair of the national committee that developed Australia's first national guideline for ASD diagnosis. Information about Andrew's research team and their research output can be found at autism.telethonkids.org.au</p>

Petrus de Vries



Prof Petrus J de Vries is the Sue Struengmann Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He trained in Psychiatry and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and completed a PhD in Developmental Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge. He runs three main research programmes: 1) Centre for Autism Research in Africa (www.cara.uct.ac.za), an interdisciplinary research programme on screening, diagnosis, intervention, health/education systems and use of technology for ASD in low-resource environments; 2) Adolescent Health Research Unit (www.ahru.uct.ac.za), an interdisciplinary research programme on adolescent health, mental health, risk and risk behaviours; 3) Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Programme, an international programme on TSC-Associated Neuropsychiatric Disorders (TAND).