RI-CART’s mission is to improve the lives of Rhode Islanders with autism spectrum disorders by promoting collaborative, cutting-edge research, improving health care and support services, and providing data-driven education and advocacy.

Greetings from the Team

This newsletter will provide periodic updates about RI-CART, information about other ways to get involved with research, and events in the community. We look forward to staying connected with all of the families and partners who make this research possible.

News Updates

Research News:

- We are proud to announce that we have reached 500 participants in RI-CART! We want to thank all of the families who have donated their time to be a part of this project.
- We have opened up a new partner site at the Brown Center for Children and Families at Women & Infants Hospital Rhode Island. We hope this new site will make it more convenient for some families to participate and help us reach our next goal of 1,000 participants.

Community Events:

- The annual Imagine Walk will be hosted by The Autism Project on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at Goddard Memorial State Park in Warwick, RI. Visit www.theautismproject.org/events/imagine-walk for more information.
- Stay tuned for news about our “Meet the Doctors” event coming this March.
**Researcher Spotlight**

Dr. Lindsay Oberman is a Co-Investigator in RICART, the Director of the Neuroplasticity and Autism Spectrum Disorder Program at Bradley Hospital and Faculty in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown School of Medicine. Her research interest focuses on identifying and isolating the brain mechanisms underlying the social and communication impairments associated with autism and related disorders with the ultimate goal of developing novel treatment strategies. In her research, she uses neurophysiological techniques including electroencephalography (EEG) and electromyography (EMG) as well as noninvasive brain stimulation techniques (Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) and Transcranial Current Stimulation (TCS)) to study brain mechanisms in individuals with autism and related disorders. She is also the Scientific Director of the Clinical TMS Program at Rhode Island Hospital and is developing protocols for clinical trials using noninvasive brain stimulation as novel treatments for autism and related disorders. She currently has two studies enrolling participants. See the currently enrolling section or email her directly for more information loberman@lifespan.org.

**Currently Enrolling Research**

**Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Studies in Autism Spectrum Disorders**

The study uses Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) to study how the brains of children and adults with autism spectrum disorder respond to a single session of TMS. This study is enrolling children ages 6-16 and adults ages 21-45 across the autism spectrum. This study is not designed to be a clinical trial, but a first step to determine the parameters that would be necessary for such a trial.

**Contact:** Anacecilia 401-432-1073 apanameno@lifespan.org

**Attention and Word Learning Study**

Researchers at Women & Infants Hospital and Brown University are studying the importance of visual attention for language learning. We are looking for 1 to 8 year-old-children with autism, children with language delays, and typically developing children to participate in a study that will help us discover how children use visual information to learn new words.

**Contact:** Elena at 401-453-7637 WHautism@carene.org

For information about other studies currently enrolling, please visit our website.

**Participate in RI-CART**

**Get involved with RI-CART today!**

For more information visit www.autismRI.org.

You can also contact us anytime at 401-432-1200 or RICART@lifespan.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!