

Sonnenberg Consultants Newsletter

Research and Media Updates

Supreme Court Upholds Parents' Right to Challenge IEPs

The Supreme Court upheld the Second Circuit Court decision in the case of *Board of Education of City of New York v. Tom F.*, 06-637, thereby affirming parents' statutory right to challenge a school district's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) without first "trying out" the school district's proposed placement. The New York City Department of Education had argued that even if the child's IEP is demonstrably inappropriate, a parent should not have standing to challenge their child's IEP unless the parent has first "tried out" the school district's IEP. Autism Speaks filed an amicus brief in this case, arguing that children with autism have no time to waste "trying out" inappropriate placements.

- New research by Antonio Persico, M.D. and a team of international scientists has found that a large body size—in addition to a large head—is associated with autism. They also found that this group of individuals had a higher incidence of immune disorders. This research takes an important step toward defining subtypes within the autism spectrum, which will help pinpoint the cause of and appropriate treatments for autism.

Date: 10/18/07

- Using pregnant mice as a model system, researchers at the California Institute of Technology have identified interleukin-6 as an immune system signaling molecule that, when present in high doses during pregnancy, may lead to abnormal brain development and neurobehavioral disorders such as autism in the offspring.

Date: 10/04/07

- Scientists from the University of Western Ontario say compounds produced in the digestive system have been linked to autistic-type behavior in laboratory settings, potentially demonstrating that what autistic children eat can alter their brain function.
Date: 09/27/07
- A new study entitled "Early Thimerosal Exposure and Neuropsychological Outcomes at 7 to 10 Years" has been published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 357 no. 13.
Date: 09/26/07
- Only three months after its launch, the Interactive Autism Network (IAN) has been cited in its first major research publication. A team of researchers, led by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, has published a paper in the July 31, 2007 issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* which describes a unified genetics model that predicts two different risk patterns for autism. The model is based on earlier evidence that identified spontaneous mutations, new mutations in the germ line of a parent, as occurring more frequently in families with no known history of autism as compared with families where there is a clear pattern of genetic transmission.
- Researchers at the Kennedy Krieger Institute published a study this week showing that autism can be diagnosed in children as young as one year old.
- In this *Psychiatric Times* article, preliminary results of a small ongoing study of vitamin B12 injections for children with autism

October 2007

showed no signs of significant benefit, researchers reported on Oct. 30, at the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry meeting in San Diego, but they remained hopeful.

Stimuli:



Company Updates: (WI families)

- ✚ Thank You "Floore family" for all the hard work fundraising for all of us at Sonnenberg Consultants! Thanks a million times over!!!!
- ✚ There are hours available in Kenosha! If interested contact your senior!
- ✚ The incentive program is still in affect. Therapists will receive FREE gas cards for attendance. Ask your senior for details.
- ✚ Any therapy done outside of the home needs approval, contact your senior!
- ✚ Keep hours consistent; only cancel if your child is sick!!!!
- ✚ Evals coming in December, all therapists MUST pass the line exam to receive a raise!

Autismspeaks.org



www.cafepress.com

Joke of the month:

- Q: Why is it tough to compete against a vampire?
A: Because they're always out for blood!

Happy Halloween!

Send in your Halloween photos-we'll post it on the website or the newsletter!

Happy Halloween!