Foothill Autism Alliance, Inc.

Family Resource Meeting

Note date change to 3rd Wednesday

January 18, 2012

Family Resource Meetings are Free and Open to the Public!

The Immune System and Autism

Exciting research regarding the role of the immune system in autism may have profound implications for diagnosis and treatment. Decades of research links immunological abnormalities to ASD. There is extensive crosstalk between the immune and neural systems, including shared signaling and developmental pathways. **Daniel Braunschweig, Ph.D.,** will speak about current science relating to the immune system in autism, maternal auto-antibodies to fetal brain proteins, and how understanding the immune system may lead to a better understanding of what is happening in the brain.

The body of research, which Dr. Braunschweig's presentation is part of in Dr. Judy Van de Water's lab at UC Davis, has suggested that there are multi-factorial immune anomalies in children with autism which are different for children who have what is called 'classic' autism and those who have later onset or 'regressive' autism. The researchers are looking for the mechanisms that lead to such anomalies–according to Dr. Van de Water.

Daniel Braunschweig, PhD, is a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Judy Van de Water's lab at UC Davis and a member of the National Institute of Health funded Autism Research Training Program at the **UC Davis MIND Institute**. Extending previous findings of immunologic abnormalities among mothers of children with autism, Dr. Braunschweig's research focuses on the role(s) of maternal antibodies in aberrant neurodevelopment, with an emphasis on the target specificity and pathogenic mechanisms of these antibodies in model systems. Recent observations of specific behavioral repertoires among children of mothers with brain-reactive antibodies are guiding ongoing mechanistic studies into the function of these antibodies with an eye towards prevention strategies and therapeutics. Dr. Braunschweig has co-authored 10 original research publications as well as several review articles and presented work performed with Dr. Van de Water's laboratory in national and international conferences.

Please Note Date Change To The 3rd Wednesday of the Month For This Meeting Only!

When: Wednesday, January 18, 2012
Networking 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Speakers 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Where: Pasadena Child Development Associates(PCDA)*
620 North Lake Avenue, 2nd floor
Pasadena, CA 91101
(Just north of the 210 Freeway)

FAA is a non-profit **501(c) 3**, all-volunteer organization of parents, professionals, and care givers who are dedicated to providing education, resources, and support to the autism community.

For more information on the FAA, visit www.foothillautism.org or call (818) 66-AUTISM.

**PCDA is not affiliated with the Foothill Autism Alliance but has graciously allowed the use of its facility. All topics and speakers are presented for informational purposes and do not constitute an endorsement of any intervention, therapy, or treatment.*

Unfortunately, childcare is not available at Resource Meetings.
Out of respect for the speaker and fellow attendees, please do not bring any young children.