

Rhode Island



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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kids

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New Directions in Early Detection and Intervention in Autism

National Expert to Discuss Latest Autism Screening Tools and Early Intervention Methods, Focusing on the Infant-Toddler Period

RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT

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Providence, RI (Monday, April 30, 2012) – *The 2012 Lewis P. and Edna Duchin Lipsitt Lecture in Child and Youth Behavior and Development* will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in Brown University's Salomon Center, Room 101, in Providence. More than 200 people are expected to attend the lecture, including educators, youth, parents, service providers, advocates, policymakers and community leaders. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT and Brown University's Center for the Study of Human Development are sponsoring the lecture. A pre-lecture panel, featuring several local autism experts, will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Salomon 101. The panel will be led by Thomas Anders, Director of the Rhode Island Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment (RI-CART) and former Director at Bradley Hospital. It is sponsored by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, Brown University's Center for the Study of Human Development and Bradley Hospital.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Geraldine Dawson, Chief Science Officer at Autism Speaks, will discuss the latest insights into the very early development of autism, new screening tools for identifying high risk infants and early intervention approaches being tested with children as young as 12 months old. At Autism Speaks, Dr. Dawson oversees \$25 million in annual research funding. She helped develop the Early Start Denver Model, the first comprehensive intervention for toddlers with autism, and oversaw a multi-disciplinary autism treatment center at the University of Washington (UW).

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“Dr. Dawson’s critical work on the early detection and diagnosis of autism provides a sound scientific base to support evidence-based early intervention efforts,” said Dr. Stephen Buka, Professor and Chair of Brown's Department of Epidemiology and Director, Center for the Study of Human Development. “By sharing the latest scientific research, we hope to be able to expand this work to improve outcomes for children at risk.”

Following Dr. Dawson’s remarks, Joanne Quinn, Executive Director of The Autism Project, a Rhode Island-based collaboration of parents and professionals that works to develop a comprehensive system of care and resources for children and adults with autism, will discuss strategies being used in Rhode Island to improve outcomes for children with autism.

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, said, “According to the latest data from the CDC, 1 in 88 children in the United States has been identified as having an autism spectrum disorder. That’s why it is more important than ever to be aware of the latest research surrounding autism. The work of Dr. Dawson can help policy makers, community leaders, service providers and educators make informed decisions about what programs and policies are most important to ensuring the success of children with autism.”

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The annual Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture is co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Human Development at Brown University and Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children’s policy organization that works to improve and ensure the economic well-being, health, safety, education and development of Rhode Island children.

The Center for the Study of Human Development, located at Brown University, is primarily focused on research and teaching related to child and adolescent development.

The Lewis P. and Edna Duchin Lipsitt Lectures in Child Behavior and Development were established by the Lipsitt family in 2000 to celebrate many years of association with Brown University and to preserve an interest in child psychology at the University. Dr. Lewis P. Lipsitt joined Brown in 1957 as an instructor of psychology after receiving his doctorate in child psychology at the University of Iowa. A pioneer in the study of sensory and learning processes, Lipsitt established a laboratory at Women and Infants Hospital in 1958 to study infant behavior and development. He is the founding director of Brown’s Child Study Center. Dr. Lipsitt received the 1990 Nicholas Hobbs Award for science in the service of children from the American Psychological Association and the 1994 American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Lifetime Achievement Mentor Award for helping minorities and women in the pursuit of scientific careers. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and was a resident fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavior Sciences at Stanford in 1979-80.