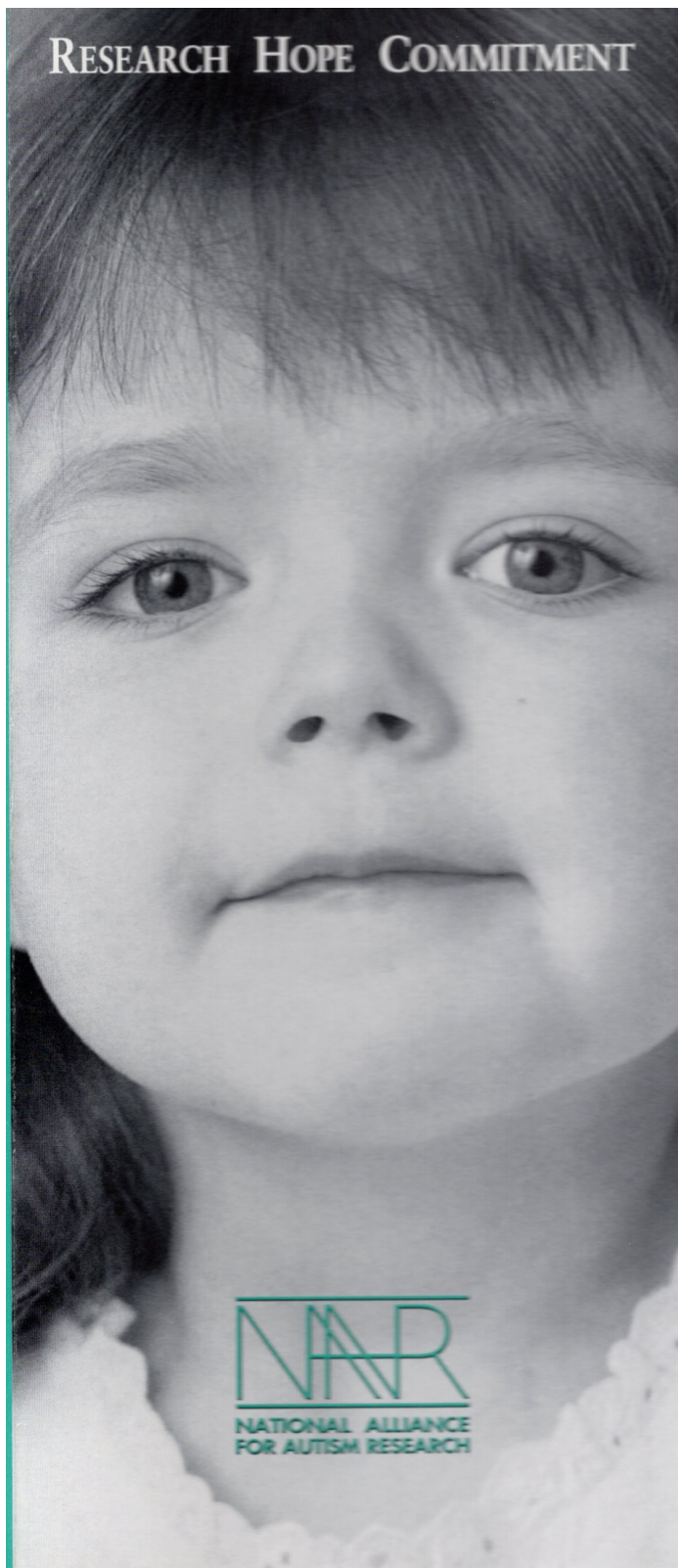


First General Tri-Fold Brochure (2002)

Front cover



Back panel

NAAR HONORARY BOARD

The National Alliance for Autism Research is honored to have a wide array of influential supporters throughout the country, including actors, sports figures, musicians, politicians, authors and artists, many of whom have a family member with autism. These extraordinary individuals have contributed their time, effort and influence to further NAAR's mission by serving as Honorary Board Members.

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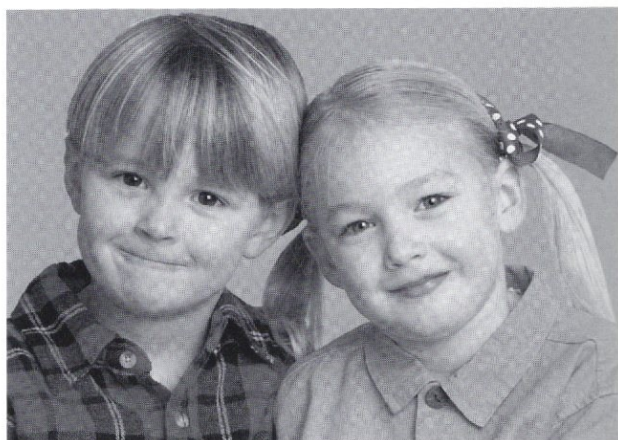
toll-free 1-888-777-NAAR

609-430-9160 • FAX 609-430-9163

naar@naar.org • www.naar.org

RESEARCH THAT INSPIRES HOPE

Some of today's most exciting work in autism research conducted at top universities, medical centers and research institutions around the world is funded by the National Alliance for Autism Research. Recent projects NAAR has funded that hold great promise include:



Baby Sibling Study

This multi-site study is designed to identify early signs of autism and whether early interventions can improve the quality of life for children with autism and their families. Researchers are evaluating a large number of children at an increased risk for developing the disorder—the baby siblings of children diagnosed with autism. NAAR-funded infant siblings studies have contributed to an earlier diagnosis threshold—this work has helped enable clinicians to diagnose autism as early as 18 months in some children and helped pioneer a way for clinicians to look at diagnosis using multiple methods, including social parameters and language development.

Autism Genetics Cooperative

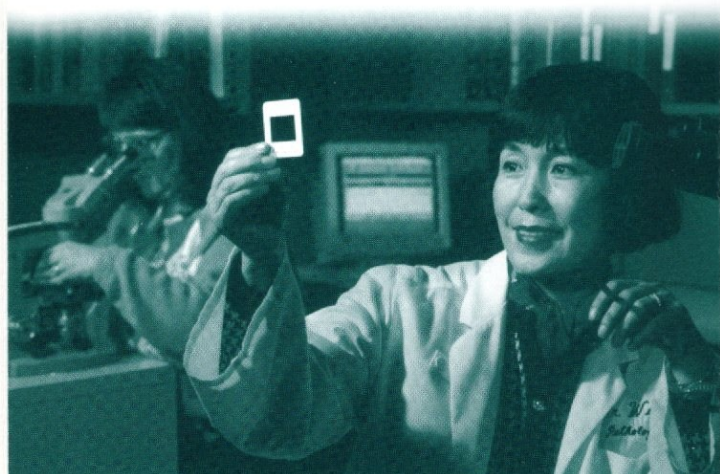
NAAR and the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation initially sponsored this annual retreat for an international consortium of the world's leading genetic researchers focusing on autism, providing a venue for research teams to share information and combine data with the goal of accelerating the search for autism susceptibility genes. Due to the complexity of genetic research, many geneticists believe a large, collaborative effort is advantageous, if not essential.

Mentoring Fellowship Programs

NAAR has significantly expanded its Mentoring Fellowship Programs by investing \$2 million in the past two years in fellowships for both pre- and post-doctoral candidates to attract the best and brightest young investigators into the field of autism research. NAAR's Mentoring Fellowship Programs provide the necessary support to encourage the development of young researchers who benefit from the guidance of prominent mentors.

Autism Tissue Program

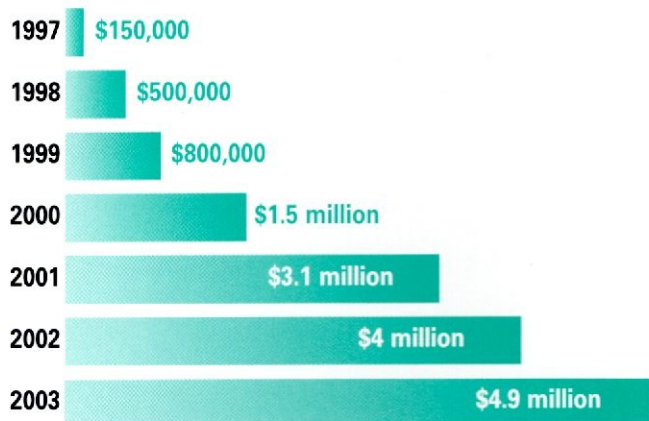
In 1998, NAAR played an instrumental role in establishing and funding the Autism Tissue Program, a parent-led, science-driven brain tissue donation program dedicated to autism research. NAAR recently launched a new component to the program that brings together the autism community with organ procurement organizations, medical examiner's offices and statewide developmental disability programs in four states to expand and enhance tissue collection efforts. The Autism Tissue Program, a collaborative effort with the Autism Society of America and the M.I.N.D. Institute at the University of California at Davis, makes post-mortem brain tissue available to as many qualified scientists as possible to advance autism research. Without this tissue—the most fundamental, rare and essential resource for brain research—studies that could lead to the treatment and eventual cure for autism spectrum disorders cannot be done. For more information on tissue donation, please call 1-877-333-0999.



A GROWING COMMITMENT

To date, NAAR has committed \$14.9 million to directly fund 169 autism research projects and fellowships worldwide, more than any other non-governmental organization.

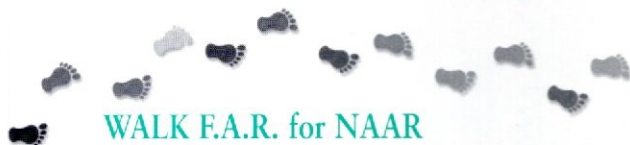
**NAAR's Support for Funding Autism Research
Has Grown Steadily**



Total: Nearly \$15 million for autism research.

Putting Our Eggs in Many Baskets

NAAR funds research covering a wide range of scientific disciplines, such as genetics, immunology, language & communication, epidemiology, behavioral sciences, molecular and cellular biology and the neurosciences. Supporting NAAR has proven to be a sound investment. The research initially funded by NAAR has made a dramatic impact on the autism research landscape in the United States, Canada and Europe and has been leveraged to attract more than \$37 million in autism research awards by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other funding sources.



WALK F.A.R. for NAAR

Established in 2000, Walk F.A.R. for NAAR is the alliance's signature fundraising and autism awareness event held annually in numerous communities across the U.S. Each year, the Walk attracts the support of tens of thousands of people, raising millions for autism research. For more information on bringing Walk F.A.R. for NAAR to your community, call 1-888-777-NAAR or visit www.naar.org.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

The National Alliance for Autism Research's esteemed Scientific Advisory Board provides ongoing expert guidance in developing an aggressive and far-reaching program of research for autism spectrum disorders and convenes yearly to review and recommend grant applications.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



The National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) is the first national non-profit organization in the country dedicated to funding and accelerating biomedical research to unlock the mysteries of autism spectrum disorders and find a cure. Established in 1994 by parents of children with autism concerned about the limited amount of funding available for autism research, NAAR was created in a spirit of optimism and excitement over the opportunities for accelerating the pace of autism research. This spirit continues to inspire and guide the organization today, enabled by recent advances in the neurosciences and other scientific fields.

Although NAAR has achieved many milestones in its brief history, much more must be done.

Our Mission

Our mission is to fund, promote and accelerate biomedical research and science-based approaches that seek to determine the causes, prevention, effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for autism spectrum disorders. This mission includes providing grants to researchers for new, innovative pilot studies, mentoring fellowships to recruit new researchers to focus on autism and funding for larger, collaborative research programs that have the potential to yield major scientific advances in autism research.

WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a complex brain disorder that often inhibits a person's ability to communicate, respond to surroundings, or form relationships with others. First identified more than 50 years ago, autism is typically diagnosed by the age of two or three. Autism is considered a spectrum disorder because symptoms and severity vary from individual to individual.

Facts About Autism Spectrum Disorders:

- Autism spectrum disorders affect people of all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds and occur in an estimated one in every 250 births. Some studies place the prevalence even higher.
- Recent studies suggest that more than 1 million Americans are living with an autism spectrum disorder, such as Asperger Syndrome, Autistic Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD), Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDDNOS) or Rett Syndrome.
- Autism spectrum disorders are the second most common developmental disability, after mental retardation.
- There are no biological markers, medical treatments or cures for autism spectrum disorders and a diagnosis is based solely on the observation of behaviors.
- Most people with autism spectrum disorders require lifelong supervision and care.
- Autism is four times more prevalent in boys than in girls.

Supporting NAAR

The National Alliance for Autism Research is dedicated to creating breakthroughs in autism research, but we need your help to make that happen as soon as possible. Despite a national interest in autism and strikingly high prevalence, autism research remains one of the lowest funded areas of research by both private and public sources. Your support for NAAR fosters our ability to continue funding autism research that seeks to find the causes, preventions and treatments, and a cure for autism spectrum disorders. For information on supporting autism research and becoming a NAAR donor, please call 1-888-777-NAAR or visit www.naar.org.

NAAR is a member of the Medical Research Agencies of America (MRAA) and is included in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Encourage your family and friends in the military, postal system and those who are civilian government employees to support NAAR. CFC #1717.

Mailer panel

SUPPORTING NAAR & AUTISM RESEARCH

The search is on to find the causes, treatments, prevention and cure for autism spectrum disorders, but we have a long way to go. You can join the search by supporting the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) as a donor or volunteer.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

☒ **There are many opportunities to support the National Alliance for Autism Research:**

- ☐ I am interested in making a donation to NAAR.
- ☐ I am interested in becoming a WALK F.A.R. for NAAR organizer or volunteer in my community.
- ☐ I am interested in becoming a government relations advocate for autism research & NAAR.
- ☐ I would like to receive *NAARRATIVE*, the official publication of NAAR.
- ☐ I would like information on enrolling in the Autism Tissue Program.

Thank you for your support!

Please make checks payable to:

National Alliance for Autism Research
99 Wall Street - Research Park, Princeton, NJ 08540

1-888-777-NAAR www.naar.org



NAAR is a member of the Medical Research Agencies of America (MRAA) and is included in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Encourage your family and friends in the military, postal system and those who are civilian government employees to support NAAR. CFC #1717.



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