Catching Autism Early:
Behavioral and Biological Indicators of Infants At-Risk for an Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presented by the Autism Center of Excellence:
Karen Pierce, Ph.D.
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Thursday, March 26, 2009
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Moores Cancer Center, Goldberg Auditorium
UCSD East Campus

Target Audience
San Diego County Pediatricians

Activity Description
Detecting autism at the youngest age possible is of the utmost importance because early treatment can have a profound impact on the outcome for both the child and family. Currently, there is no standardized mechanism for the early identification of autism younger than age 2 or 3 years. This is because autism remains a behaviorally defined disorder, which places limitations on scientific and clinical discovery. During this presentation, Dr. Courchesne, Dr. Pierce and Dr. Weinfeld will provide a review of the state of early identification research. Videotaped examples will be shown of infants and toddlers, as young as 12-months, at risk for an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This course will place a particular emphasis on the discovery of novel behavioral and biological markers such as those based on plasma and MRI. The final portion of the course will discuss scientific evidence that relates to key questions in the field of autism including: Are vaccines related to the causes of autism? Are the rates of autism rising? Is there truly a phenomenon of regression in some children with autism? Have the genes for autism been found? What treatment options are available? The course will conclude with a question and answer period.

For more information and to register visit
http://autismsandiego.org/autism/information.html
or call (858) 551-7934