



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

MARK ROITHMAYR
PRESIDENT

Dear Doctor,

Autism is a developmental neurological disorder that presents in affected individuals a spectrum of social, communication and motor deficits with varying degrees of severity, along with a host of co-morbid conditions. Typically diagnosed before the age of 3, autism is a lifelong disability that according to the latest CDC prevalence statistics strikes 1 in 150 children in the United States, affecting four times more boys than girls.

Because of their deficits, many children with autism are not able to effectively communicate their symptoms or discomfort to their pediatricians. Autism Speaks strongly supports the rights of children with autism to receive the best medical care possible and encourages greater professional awareness, sensitivity and consideration when caring for this special population.

Enclosed please find a consensus statement developed by an expert panel of pediatric gastroenterologists and autism specialists convened by Autism Speaks to discuss gastrointestinal issues in children with autism, a common concern for families touched by this devastating disorder. In addition to expert clinical opinions, the statement is based on currently available data in the medical literature. We hope you review these recommendations and consider incorporating them into your practice, especially when managing lower-functioning children with autism.

We believe special attention is needed in order to provide the best medical care to individuals with autism. We thank you in advance for your consideration and compassion regarding the care of our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Mark Roithmayr".

Mark Roithmayr
President
Autism Speaks