



The Autism Treatment Network and The Autism Intervention Research—Physical Health Network

- **What is the Autism Treatment Network (ATN)?**

The ATN is the nation's first network of hospitals and physicians dedicated to developing a model of comprehensive medical care for children and adolescents with autism

- **What is the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P)?**

It is a 3-year grant funded by the Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) and the Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB) - under the Combating Autism Act. This initiative provides additional funding to the ATN to conduct projects aiming at having direct and positive impact on the physical health and well being of children and adolescents with ASD

- **Are the ATN and AIR-P different or similar?**

The ATN is a program of Autism Speaks which began in 2005 and expanded in January 2008. The AIR-P federal funding was awarded later, in September 2008. The AIR-P significantly supplements the on-going efforts of the ATN by expanding the research to develop evidence-based guidelines and tools for the diagnosis and treatment of autism and associated conditions including gastrointestinal (GI) disturbances, sleep and neurological disorders.

- **What are evidence-based guidelines and how do they help children and people affected by ASD?**

Medical guidelines are documents which help guide the decisions that clinicians and doctors have by providing standard criteria and procedures about screening, diagnosis, treatment or medical management of specific health related conditions, such as ASD. Some of these guidelines can simply be educational tools, others can be in the form of algorithms (i.e. tables, formulas, or flow diagrams) that help clinicians take the best course of treatment in given situations. Evidence-based means that the guidelines have been tested following a scientific method to ensure the best prediction on possible outcomes.

- **What research studies is the ATN currently working on under the AIR-P?**

There are two research projects underway:

- ⇒ "Diet and Nutrition in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: An Autism Treatment Network Collaborative Study"
- ⇒ "Development of a Parent-Based Sleep Education Program for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder"

For more information about the ATN, please visit:

www.autismspeaks.org/atn

For more information about AIR-P, please visit beginning August 2009:

www.autismspeaks.org/community/outreach/alrp



ATN and AIR-P working with families to improve the care of children and adolescents with ASD