The Speaker’s Medallion Award

Dr. Rebecca Landa, PhD, CCC-SLP, founder and director of CARD, was recently presented with the Speaker’s Medallion Award at the Maryland State House. This annual award is presented to a Maryland resident who exemplifies “outstanding contribution to the state.”

The Batza Family Foundation Research Chair

Dr. Stewart Mostofsky, MD, research scientist and director of the Laboratory for Neurocognitive and Imaging Research, was the recipient of the Batza Family Foundation Research Chair (an endowed chair).

Visit from Chairperson Na of South Korea

We were honored earlier this month to be visited by Na Kyung Won, a former congresswoman in the ruling party and an honorary chairperson of Special Olympics Korea. Na has been involved in helping children with disabilities through her creation of the organization We Can and her advocacy for establishing policies and laws for people with disabilities. She was the chairperson for the 2012 Special Olympics World Winter Games, and is a member of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors, and an executive committee member of the International Paralympic Committee. Na was interested in learning about the programs and curriculum offered at CARD.

CARD Article Honored for Impacting Field of Autism

The national Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) selected an article written by Dr. Landa as one of the papers having the greatest impact on the field of autism, with regard to when parents should be concerned about their child’s development. The article, co-authored by Dr. Alden L. Gross, Dr. Elizabeth A. Stuart, and Ashley Faherty, is titled “Developmental trajectories in children with and without autism spectrum disorders: the first 3 years.” The article examined the developmental trajectory of children with and without autism. In this longitudinal study, children were assessed from 6 months to 36 months of age, and were grouped as either early-ASD (ASD identified by 14 months), later-ASD (ASD identified after 14 months), or non-ASD. The three groups showed similar development at 6 months. However, between 14 and 24 months, the ASD groups demonstrated signs of abnormal development, with the early-ASD group showing greater signs of impairment than the later-ASD group. Despite this distinction, both ASD groups displayed comparable development at 36 months. This finding suggests that the timing of the ASD diagnosis does not predict the severity of the symptoms or correlate with a certain developmental trajectory, such as a loss of skills or a plateau.

Port Discovery Children’s Museum Partnership

We are honored to continue our partnership with Port Discovery Children’s Museum, in which CARD researchers give presentations on select Wednesdays on a variety of topics. As part of the “Talking About Tots” series, our researchers provide parents of children under three years of age with information about the latest research, offer advice on how to enhance their children's play and learning, and provide strategies for managing issues such as sleeping difficulties.

Pictured (from left to right): Melanie Pinkett-Davis, LCSW-C, clinical director, honorary chairperson Na Kyung Won, and Dr. Na Young Ji, MD, child psychiatrist.