

Mailman Center Quarterly



AT Improves Communication Skills in Children with Autism

The iCan Chat project funded by the CVS Caremark Charitable Trust has assisted over 40 children with little or no speech improve communication skills and social interaction by providing child-focused interventions using Assistive Technology devices, such as the iPad. The child receives 3 therapy sessions, guided by a speech/language pathologist and AT specialist, and learns to use the iPad to communicate basic requests, initiate conversation and direct other people's actions. Parents receive coaching on how to use the iPad with the child to promote language development and communication and are able to borrow the iPad for a month. Since its inception in September 2012, the program has been very successful as per parents' satisfaction, observable progress and communication gains in the children.

Presenting at the Annual NASW Conference

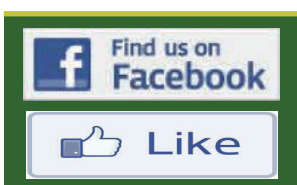
Dr. Robert Morgan, Director of Social Work Dept. and Professor at the Miller School of Medicine and social work LEND trainee, Tina Juya, will be presenting at the Florida National Association of Social Work Conference on June 7 in Orlando. His presentation: "Defining a Therapeutic Process Using Images of Women with Women Survivors of Domestic Violence" is based on a 10 week group program empowering women in moving through the process of freeing themselves from domestic violence. The groups utilize a series of paintings as a teaching and discussion tool to lead them into the process of leaving and eventually recovering their identity.



Training Updates

Practicum Opportunity for Public Health Students

The LEND program, in collaboration with the School of Public Health's MD/PhD and MPH programs, is now accepting students interested in participating in LEND as part of their practicum/capstone. Currently five student are enrolled.





UM Study in JAMA Pediatrics Promotes Public Health Solutions For Intellectual Disabilities

In 2002, the Miller School's Jeffrey P. Brosco, M.D., Ph.D., was intrigued by a question Sargent Shriver posed during a board meeting at the Mailman Center for Child Development. The statesman wondered whether the programs and policies he and his wife Eunice Kennedy Shriver had championed for decades to reduce the burden of intellectual and other developmental disabilities were actually working. [Read More](#)

April 2013 Medical Issues and The Growing Child Conference

This year's Medical Issues Conference "Advancements in the Treatment of Autism", sponsored by the UM Autism Programs, featured guest speaker, Dr. Randi Hagerman, talked about the advancements in the treatment of autism and the important link between [fragile x syndrome](#) and autism, and the development of new medical treatments for both conditions. Recent advancements in genetics and early predictors of autism spectrum disorders in high-risk infants were also discussed. Other topics included dietary interventions, use of Assistive Technology to build communication skills, medication and treatment for depression, anxiety and attention problems and other psychiatric disorders that accompany autism. And not to forget, our Parent Panel was a success! For a limited time the presentations will be available on our webpage. Click [here](#) to download.



For Your Information

As part of your LEND experience, you will be getting an evaluation survey from us after 1, 5 and 10 years. We want to know what you are doing now. So please remember to send us your current email or sign up on our [Facebook](#) page. Thanks!

For more information on any of the programs or to provide feedback, please contact Shelly Baer at 305 689-7058, rbaer@med.miami.edu or Roselyne Antao at 305 243-6135 ranta@med.miami.edu