

RUANE PRIZE

FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH



Ami Klin, Ph.D.

Director,
Marcus Autism Center at Children's Healthcare
of Atlanta

Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar
Professor & Chief,
Division of Autism & Related Disabilities,
Department of Pediatrics
Emory University School of Medicine & Emory Center
for Translational Social Neuroscience

"It is an incredible honor to receive this prize, particularly given that Dr. Donald Cohen, a trail-blazing pioneer in autism research and a mentor, was a past recipient. The lives of children with autism inspired me to engage in studies of the emergence of social mind and brain. On my research journey, I am blessed with the intellectual partnership of Dr. Warren Jones. Our quest has been to find ways to afford children with autism the resources they need to fulfill their promise, a promise that could change the narrative of autism: from one of disability to one of diversity, uniqueness, and fulfillment."

Dr. Ami Klin is Director of the Marcus Autism Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar Professor & Chief, Division of Autism & Related Disabilities, Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine & Emory Center for Translational Social Neuroscience. Dr. Klin leads a program of clinical science with the overarching goal of leveraging science to address the needs of children with autism today, and to build a new future for the next generations of children with autism. His individual research interests focus on the emergence of social mind and brain, and on opportunities to optimize life outcomes of children born with genetic, medical, or environmental vulnerabilities.

The Marcus Autism Center is the largest center of clinical care for children with autism and their families, and is recognized as an NIH Autism Center of Excellence. One area of emphasis in Dr. Klin's

research is a longstanding collaboration with Dr. Warren Jones, in which eye-tracking technology is used to visualize and measure a child's social engagement. This research has recently focused on monitoring infants at increased risk for developmental disabilities, from birth, in order to detect the earliest quantitative markers of autism in infancy. This aims at lowering the age of detection and improving access to early treatment.

Born in Brazil to Holocaust survivors, Dr. Klin earned his bachelor's degree at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and his Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of London. He completed clinical and research post-doctoral fellowships at the Yale Child Study Center at the Yale University School of Medicine, where he went on to direct the Autism Program as the Harris Professor of Child Psychology & Psychiatry. He has authored over 180 publications, including a number of books on the subject of autism.

"Dr. Klin's work represents some of the most impactful cognitive neuroscience research on autism spectrum disorders. He has used sophisticated eye-tracking methodology to find signs of early risk as they relate to social attention."

—Daniel Pine, M.D., Chair of the Ruane Prize Selection Committee