

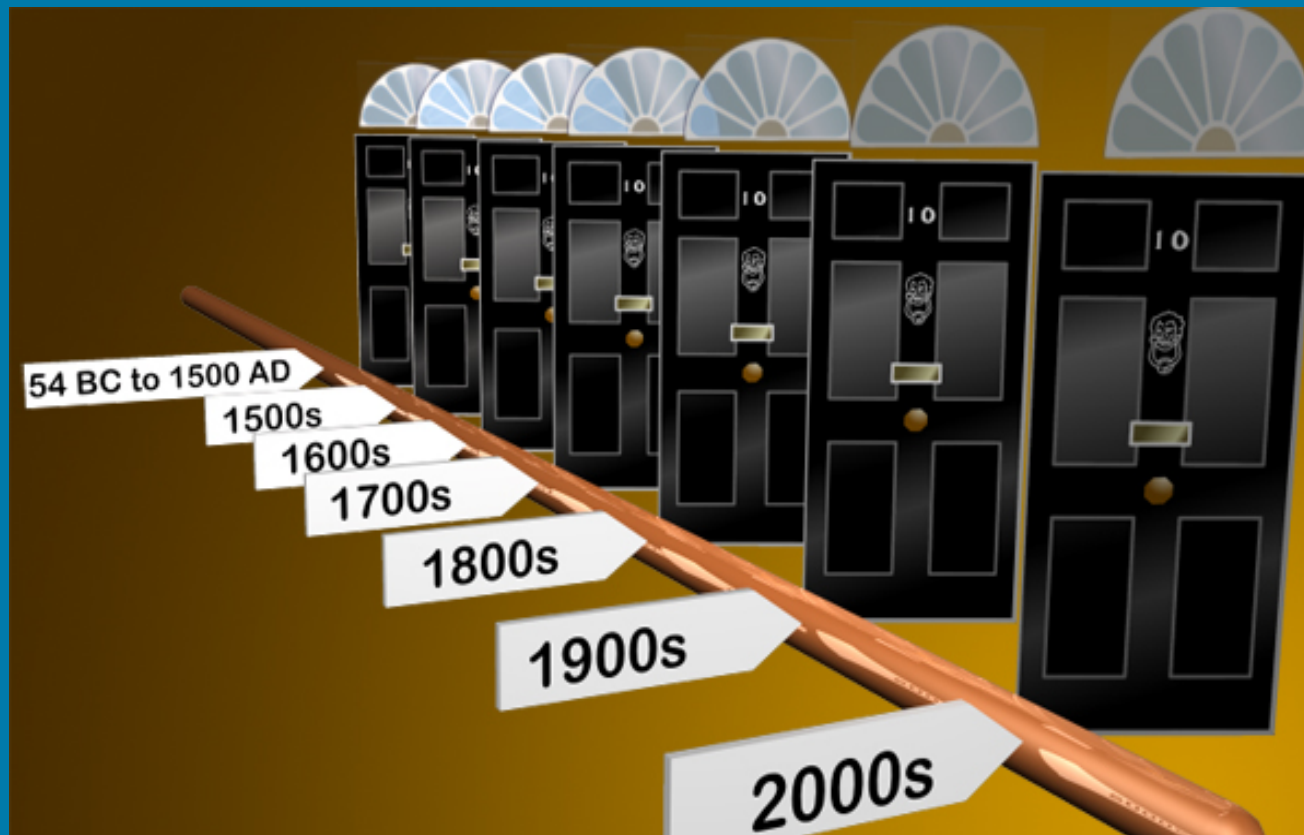
CoPA Meeting Update on ASD

Maureen A. Conroy, PhD
May 15, 2009



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Historical Perspective



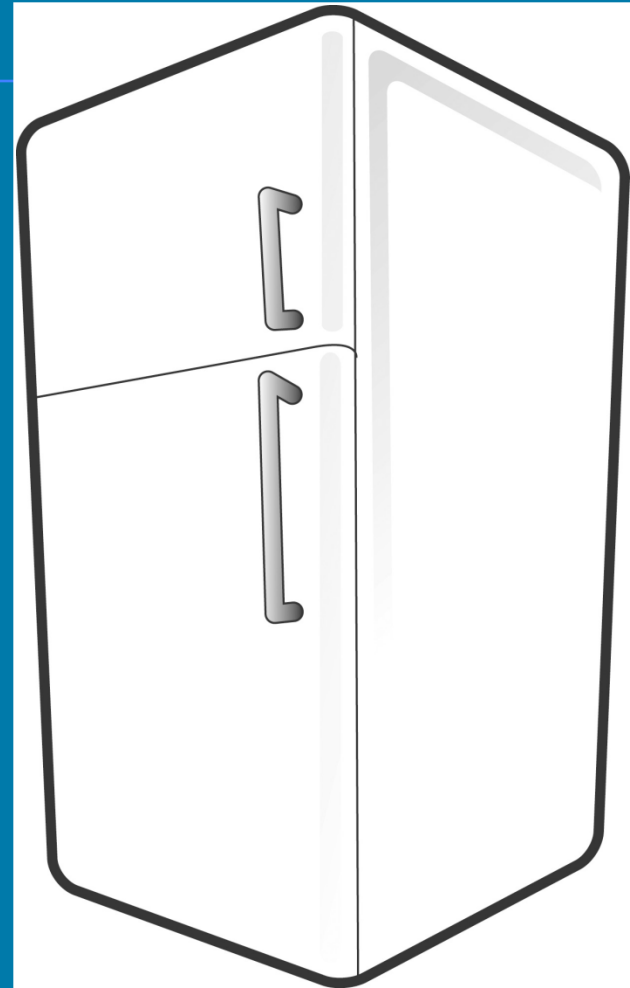
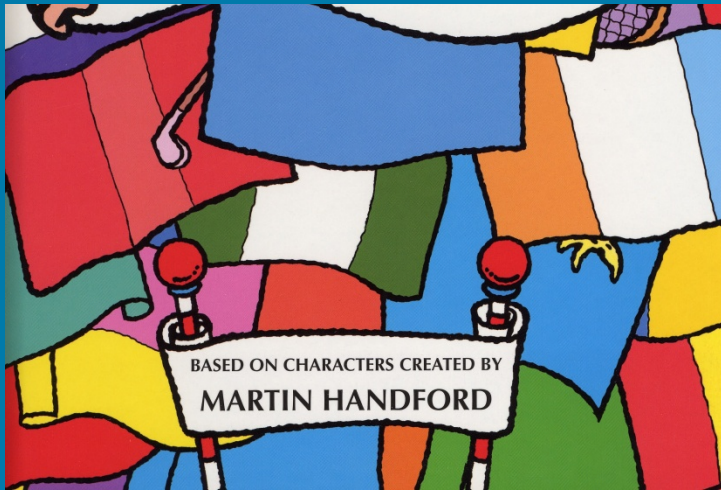
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Historical Perspective



WHERE'S AUTISM?



Current Trends



Spotlight on ASD

- Increased focus on autism research and intervention in legislation, media, & funding agencies
 - National
 - Combating Autism Act
 - Interagency Autism Coordinating Council
 - Autism Centers of Excellence (<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/MINDInstitute/>)
 - National Professional Development Center on ASD
 - Increase in autism research budget
 - State & Local
 - Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
 - TTAC focus on ASD (APP)
 - Commonwealth Autism Services (CAS)
 - Virginia Autism Council (VAC)
 - Virginia Autism Resource Center (VARC)
 - ~~Communities of Practice in Autism (CoPA)~~
 - University Centers

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Where are we now?



- Autism is an epidemic!

- 1 in 150 children will receive a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder (Centers for Disease Control, 2006)
- Crosses class, racial, ethnic, and geographical boundaries
- 2nd most common developmental disability

Why is autism an epidemic?

- There may really be more children with ASD
- Better screening and diagnostic tools
- We now have a “spectrum”
- Genetic factors
- Identifying children with autism earlier

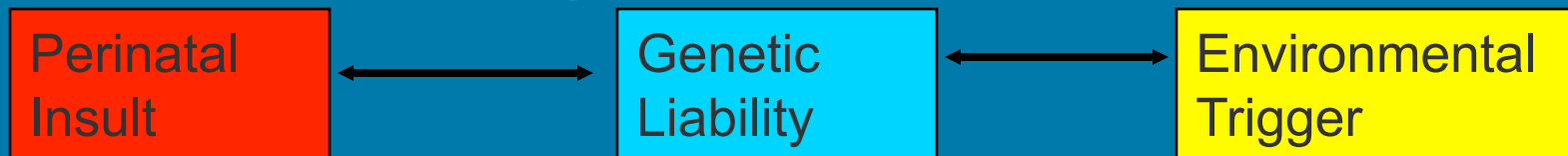
What is autism?



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What is autism?

- Autism is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder

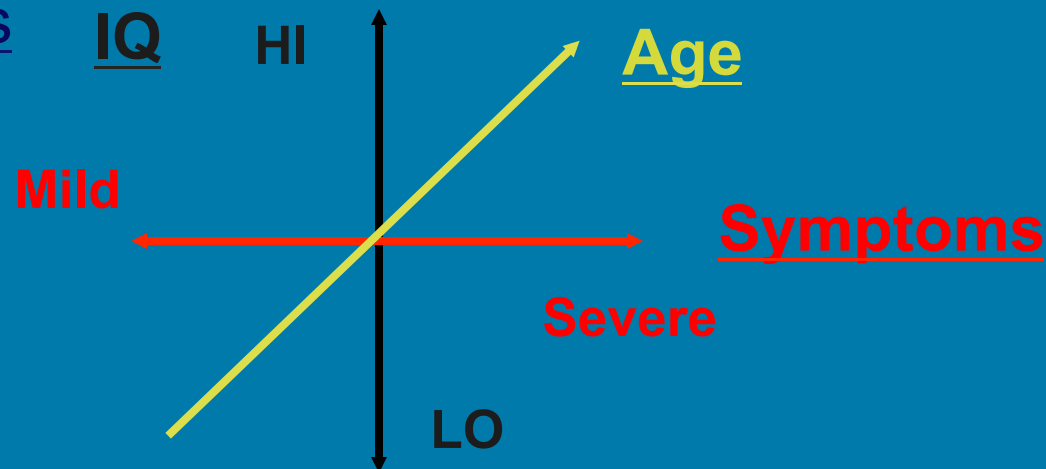


- Onset prior to age 3
- Syndrome/Spectrum Disorder
 1. Social relatedness difficulties
 2. Communication impairments
 3. Behavioral excesses

What is autism? ¹⁰

- 4-5 times more prevalent in boys than girls
- Occurs on a behavioral continuum
 - 50-75% of individuals have comorbid mental retardation
 - 15-20% have average or above average intelligence

Dimensions of Autism



Lifelong Disorder

- 2-3 years of age—aloof/passive; social/communication symptoms
- 4-5 years of age—increase in a variety of repetitive behaviors
- >5 years of age—increase in social interest
- Adolescence—social inappropriateness amplified
- Adulthood—1-2% live independently; 1/3 have some degree of independence; 2/3 require supervision

Stay tuned for
more...
