Mission Statement

The Christian Sarkine Autism Treatment Center is the only academic and research program on autism in the state of Indiana. As a part of Indiana University School of Medicine, The Center is a teaching institution dedicated to bringing the most current and accurate information to its professionals, students, and consumers. Interventions are based on the individual goals and objectives of the caregivers. Typically, some combination of medication management, applied behavioral techniques, supportive counseling, and speech and language intervention is involved and reflects the most recent and empirically supported approaches to treatment. Individuals and families may be offered participation in research projects or community-based opportunities. In addition, services may be provided on an ongoing or consultant basis; however, the general goal is to help children and adults with autism and related disorders to achieve their potential and to participate as fully as possible in family, school, and community life.

Christian Sarkine Autism Treatment Center

Chief
David J. Posey, MD
Dr. Posey’s research and clinical interests are in autism, developmental disabilities, and psychopharmacology.

Clinical Director
Naomi B. Swiezy, PhD, HSPP
Dr. Swiezy’s clinical and research focus is on the behavioral assessment and treatment of children on the autism spectrum as well as training caregivers.

Clinical Psychiatrist
Kimberly A. Stigler, MD
Dr. Stigler’s primary research interest is the psychopharmacology of autism and other PDDs.

Clinical Social Worker
Kelly Ernsperger, MSW, LCSW

Speech-Language Pathologist
April Dowden, MA, CCC-SLP

Clinical Research Nurse
Jennifer Khalid, RN, BC

Research Coordinators
Arlene Kohn, BA
Jennifer Wilkerson, BSW

Research Technicians
Marianna Zaphiriou, BA
Melissa Stuart, BS

Behavioral Research Specialist
Megan Grothe, BA

Clinical Services Coordinator
Pamela Anderson

Senior Consultant
Christopher J. McDougle, MD
Dr. McDougle’s research focus is on medications that affect the neurological pathways of childhood-onset neuropsychiatric disorders.

For additional information contact:
Christian Sarkine Autism Treatment Center
702 Barnhill Drive, Rm. 4300
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children
http://www.iupui.edu/~psycdept/autism/
Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD)

Pervasive Developmental Disorder, or PDD, is a general term for a spectrum of disorders which share a pervasive and qualitative impairment in some or all of the following areas of development:

- Reciprocal socialization skills
- Communication skills
- Repetitive behaviors, interests, and activities

The behaviors are qualitatively distinct from those expected from children of the same developmental age and may span across one or all three areas listed above.

Autism Spectrum Disorders

This terminology is typically utilized to refer to the subset of disorders categorized under the Pervasive Developmental Disorders and including:

- Autism Disorder
- Asperger's Disorder
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified (PDD, NOS)

Population Served

Services are provided to individuals across the autism spectrum including individuals of all ages, language abilities and overall developmental levels.

Targets of Intervention

Targets of intervention might include common behavioral difficulties such as noncompliance, aggression, and tantrums. Other behavioral excesses may be targeted including self-stimulatory, self-injurious, and at-risk behaviors. Functional skills often targeted for intervention include receptive/expressive language, pragmatic (social) communication, toileting and self-help skills, as well as play and leisure skills.

Services Provided

- Traditional and multidisciplinary diagnostic evaluations
- Medication management
- Behavioral assessment and treatment
- Supportive counseling
- Speech and language evaluation and treatment
- Co-treatment models
- Community-based interventions
- Community education

Multidisciplinary Assessment

This comprehensive evaluation is available on a regular basis as an alternative to the traditional evaluation process. It is an opportunity for new patients to be evaluated by four professionals, including a psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, social worker, and speech-language pathologist. This assessment culminates in a coordinated set of recommendations.

Group Opportunities

- Social skills groups
- Next Steps parent workshop
- Sibling workshop
- Early childhood SKILLS group
- Make-It, Take-It Workshops
- Staff coaching opportunities

Research Opportunities

Research opportunities are often available. Please call (317)274-8162 for more information and ask for the Autism Research Technician.

Making a Referral

Referrals may be initiated by the parent or any other care provider. Referrals should be directed to the Intake Coordinator between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays at (317)278-6206.