

2024

# *GRANT PROGRAM*

PURDUE AUTISM RESEARCH CENTER



Purdue Autism Research Center

# Our mission to advance autism research

**Our mission is** to support individuals with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities by (1) advancing scientific discovery through interdisciplinary research that bridges cell cultures to community cultures, (2) mentoring the next generation of thought leaders, including scientists and practitioners, and (3) partnering with self-advocates, families, and communities to translate scientific discovery for lasting societal impact.

## 2024 PARC GRANT PROGRAM

# TAKING LEAPS.

The Purdue Autism Research Center (PARC) was launched in 2019 to accelerate interdisciplinary science that will benefit autistic individuals and their families. Currently, 20+ PARC faculty are conducting groundbreaking, interdisciplinary research that is moving the field forward. Central to these initiatives are our Boilermaker students, whose passion and skills will positively impact our community and field for decades to come.

We know that every big idea starts small! Since 2019, the PARC Grant Program has supported dozens of Boilermaker faculty and student affiliates to take their next big leap in autism research.

We are pleased to announce the enclosed **2024 PARC Grant Program**, which includes over \$25,000 of funding opportunities - ranging from innovative faculty research grants to student scholarships - to facilitate Purdue's next big leaps in autism research.

This program is possible thanks to generous support from alumni and allied Boilermakers who are eager to positively impact those touched by autism. We are grateful for their continued support.

Learn more about PARC's community events, research, and stewardship opportunities today at [hhs.purdue.edu/autism](https://hhs.purdue.edu/autism).

*Pictured; Led by Dr. Bridgette Kelleher, PARC Faculty Affiliates win Purdue's 2019 "Big Ideas Challenge."*



## INTERDISCIPLINARY BRIDGE PROGRAM

# PARC VALUES *INNOVATION.*

The **PARC Interdisciplinary Bridge Grant** is awarded to two or more PARC Faculty Affiliates to support innovative, high-impact, and interdisciplinary research projects relevant to PARC's mission. Successful projects will bridge disparate disciplines and enhance investigators' opportunities for securing major federal grants – such as, but not limited to, National Institute of Health R01s – within the next three years.

**Funding Amount:** one \$5,000 award

**Due Date:** March 1

**Instructions:** In addition to the base application, please submit a research plan (2 pages max), justification of interdisciplinary focus (500 words max), plan for future funding (500 max), and NIH-style biosketches for all key personnel.

**Eligibility:** This award will be given to two or more principal investigators (PIs). The PIs must contribute distinct expertise from two or more disciplines, broadly defined; PIs will articulate what they believe to be “interdisciplinary” as part of their application.

**Additional Award Terms:** Awardees must meaningfully involve undergraduate or graduate students in project activities. Funding cannot be used to support faculty salary but can be used for minor equipment and participant costs.

*PARC faculty affiliates Drs. Anita Panjwani (pictured) and Rebecca McNally Keehn received PARC Interdisciplinary Bridge Funding to formulate and field test flavor-masked delivery vehicles for potent antioxidant isothiocyanates from plants like broccoli. The hope is to use these vehicles in future trials to evaluate the effects of the isothiocyanate treatment on core and secondary symptoms of autism.*



## COLLABORATIVE

BRIDGE GRANT RECIPIENT

## INNOVATION

The Center is grateful to the Gadomski Foundation for supporting the initial development of the PARC Interdisciplinary Bridge Program.





## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION RESEARCH GRANT

# PARC VALUES *DIVERSITY.*

The **PARC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant** accelerates research at the intersection of neurodiversity and minoritized identities, including but not limited to those associated with race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

**Funding Amount:** one \$2,500 award

**Due Date:** March 1

**Instructions:** In addition to the base application, please submit a research plan (1 page max), relevance to intersectional issues related to diversity, equity, and/or inclusion (500 words max), and NIH-style biosketches for all key personnel.

**Eligibility:** In some cases, trainees may be listed as a PI on a multi-PI proposal, however, a faculty PI must assume primary responsibility for managing the project funding and ensuring the project is successfully completed.

**Additional Award Terms:** Awardees must meaningfully involve undergraduate or graduate students in project activities. Funding cannot be used to support faculty salary but can be used for minor equipment and human subject costs.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANT

# PARC VALUES *COMMUNITY.*

The **PARC Community Engagement Grant** supports PARC faculty and/or student affiliates to participate in community engagement activities relevant to PARC's mission.

**Funding Amount:** Multiple awards up to \$300 each

**Due Date:** Rolling, starting January 15

**Instructions:** In addition to the base application, please submit a brief description of your engagement activity (500 words max).

**Eligibility:** Recipients must be Faculty or Student Affiliates of PARC at the time of the anticipated activity.



*PARC Students and Faculty sharing research updates at the annual Purdue Autism Research Conference*



## STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

# PARC VALUES *DISSEMINATION.*

The **PARC Student Travel Grant** enables undergraduate and graduate students to present their first-authored research at regional, national, and international conferences.

**Funding Amount:** Multiple awards up to \$1,000 each

**Due Date:** Rolling, starting January 15

**Instructions:** In addition to the base application, please submit a brief description of your research study (500 words max), confirmation of conference acceptance, and a signed letter from a faculty advisor confirming the student's planned attendance.

**Eligibility:** Recipients must be Student Affiliates of PARC at the time of the anticipated activity.

Thank you to the Larson Family for supporting many PARC initiatives, including our Student Travel Awards, Conference, and Community Engagement Grants.

2024 PARC GRANT PROGRAM

COLLABORATIVE

PILOT GRANT RECIPIENT

INNOVATION

*PARC Faculty Affiliates Dr. Alex Chubykin (pictured) and Dr. Brandon Keehn received pilot grant funding to develop translational methods for measuring eye movements relevant to autism in both mice and humans.*





# PARC VALUES *THE NEXT GENERATION.*

## SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Immersive summer research experiences help Boilermaker students develop the passion and skills necessary to advance the field of autism research for decades to come. The **PARC Summer Scholars Program** supports trainees' living expenses while they complete rigorous, hands-on summer training with faculty experts across campus.

**Funding Amount:** Three \$5,000 awards

**Due Date:** March 1

**Instructions:** In addition to the base application, please submit a research plan (1 page max), NIH-style biosketch, and a brief description of how the student's project and/or summer experience accelerates issues relevant to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), broadly defined (250 words max; see additional award terms).

**Eligibility:** Students must be enrolled at Purdue for the full academic year before and after their Summer Scholar award. Priority will be given to students who have not secured funding for their summer research effort from other sources. Where possible, one award will be given to each an undergraduate and graduate student.

*PARC Faculty Affiliate Dr. Yang Yang and graduate student Amanda Huntsman examine how induced pluripotent stem cells can improve understanding of brain development in autism.*



2024 PARC GRANT PROGRAM

SINCE  
2020

LAUNCH OF SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

22

STUDENTS FUNDED



*Claire Rosenberger  
Human Development  
and Family Science*

*Claire Rosenberger is a second-year graduate student at Purdue in the Department of Human Development and Family Science. Her primary research goal is to understand the impact of early intervention on the developmental outcomes for children and families, especially those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Claire received the 2023 Purdue Autism Research Center's Summer Scholar Award to examine a Family Routines Intervention (FRI) designed to promote social communication in parents of children experiencing developmental delays.*

The PARC Summer Scholars Program has truly been transformative. Over the summer of 2023, I worked closely with undergraduate research assistants to develop a multimodal behavioral coding scheme to examine child engagement states during caregiver-child interactions. This foundational work will allow scientists and clinicians to better understand and intervene on joint engagement in atypical development. My summer experiences have helped me develop professionally as an emerging clinical child psychologist and have given me wonderful opportunities to nurture the next generation!



*From left to right: Haley Zeri, Wei Siong Neo (PARC Summer Scholar), Rachel Isaac, and Maria Paula Armenta.*

The Center is grateful to the Quiring family for their support of the PARC Summer Scholars Program.

# PARC VALUES *NEURODIVERSITY*

## NEURODIVERSE SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Immersive summer research experiences help Boilermaker students develop the passion and skills necessary to advance the field of autism research for decades to come. The **PARC Neurodiverse Summer Scholars Program** supports trainees' living expenses while they complete rigorous, hands-on summer training with faculty experts across campus.

**Funding Amount:** Up to \$5,000 awards

**Due Date:** March 1

**Instructions:** In addition to the base application, please submit a research plan (1page max), NIH-style biosketch, and a brief description of how the student's project and/or summer experience accelerates issues relevant to DEI, broadly defined (250 words max; see additional award terms).

**Eligibility:** Students must be enrolled at Purdue for the full academic year before and after their Summer Scholar award. Priority will be given to students who self-identify as neurodiverse and who have not secured funding for their summer research effort from other sources. Award title and awardee name will be publicly released but all specific neurodiversity disclosures will only be shared with the PARC awards review committee. Please refer any questions to [PARCAwards@purdue.edu](mailto:PARCAwards@purdue.edu)

The Center is grateful to the Scott family for their support of the PARC Neurodiverse Summer Scholars Program.



*PARC Faculty Affiliate Dr. Chenell Loudermill trains students in the special education and speech, language, and hearing sciences programs to support the needs of children with autism spectrum disorder.*

**APPLY TODAY**

# TO TAKE *YOUR LEAP.*

The PARC Grant Program is open to all PARC Faculty and Student Affiliates. To apply, please send a single PDF of your application materials to [PARCAwards@purdue.edu](mailto:PARCAwards@purdue.edu). All applications must include the following base application materials:

1. A cover page listing the grant type, investigator(s) name, title, department, college, contact information, and project title
2. Description of how project aligns with PARC's mission (250 words max)
3. Brief statement of investigators' past and planned future involvement with PARC (100 words max)
4. Brief budget justification
5. Additional application materials requested under each award.

**Not yet a PARC Affiliate?** Please visit our web site to learn more about requirements and apply today!





## ADDITIONAL AWARD TERMS

**Award Duration:** Unless otherwise stated in the request for applications, project activities must be completed within 1 year, at which point unspent funds will be returned to PARC.

**Post-Award Requirements:** Awardees are expected to complete the following requirements and submit those marked \* to [PARCAwards@purdue.edu](mailto:PARCAwards@purdue.edu):

- (1) present findings at the PARC Conference within 1 year of award ending.
- (2) credit PARC in all presentations and publications arising from award resources: "This research was conducted with support from the Purdue Autism Research Center (PARC) [insert grant mechanism]; results do not necessarily reflect the views of PARC."
- (3) \*submit a 1-page progress report within 30 days of the award end-date.
- (4) \*notify PARC of any presentations, publications, or grants related to resources affiliated with PARC grants by submitting a lay abstract and citation and/or funding details (title, PI, award amount, award date, funding agency).
- (5) \*for students, submit a photo of the award activity (e.g. presentation, event booth) and permission for PARC to share the photo via print and web media.

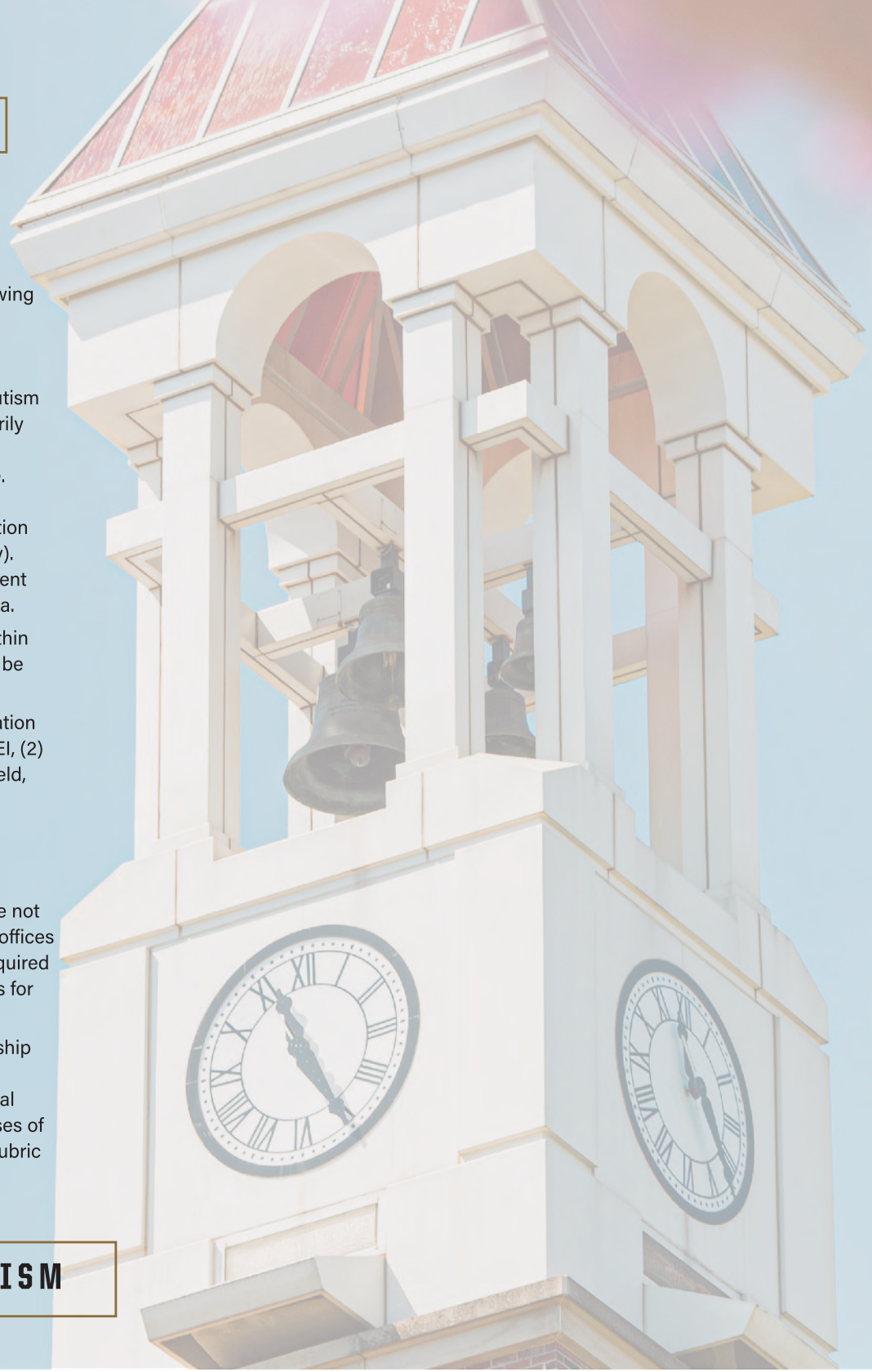
**Multiple Applications:** Applicants may submit to multiple mechanisms within and across years; however, priority across similarly rated applications may be given to applicants who have not yet received an award.

**Summer Scholars DEI Statement:** Applicants may articulate any combination of one or more of the following: (1) relevance of their project to issues of DEI, (2) for applicants who consider themselves to be under-represented in their field, ways in which this funding will advance their training, (3) ways in which a student will advance their understanding of DEI-related issues through the protected time afforded by this funding (e.g., the student may propose a structured reading list, seminar, lab visit, or other mentored activity).

**Budget and Human Subjects Regulations:** Formal pre-award budgets are not required for budget justifications; applicants should consult with business offices to prepare accurate requests. Projects involving human subjects will be required to submit approval from the Institutional Review Board prior to using funds for human subject activities.

**Evaluation:** Non-rolling applications will be reviewed by the PARC Leadership Board and rated using a pre-set rubric that directly aligns with application requirements. Top projects will be discussed, and the board will vote on final recipients. Board members will abstain from evaluating applications in cases of conflicts of interest. Rolling applications will be evaluated using a pre-set rubric and dispersed at the discretion of the Leadership Board.

LEARN MORE AT [HHS.PURDUE.EDU/AUTISM](https://hhs.purdue.edu/autism)





# Thank you to our generous donors.

The Purdue Autism Research Center is almost entirely supported by generous donations from the Boilermaker community. Your support has allowed us to take big leaps to advance the field of autism and neurodevelopmental research, and we are forever grateful.

To discuss opportunities for stewardship, please contact PARC Director Dr. Brandon Keehn at [PARCAwards@purdue.edu](mailto:PARCAwards@purdue.edu).

# *VISIT US*

AT

[hhs.purdue.edu/autism](https://hhs.purdue.edu/autism)