

## **The *Nu Rho Psi* theme for 2016-2017<sup>1</sup>: Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**

The *Nu Rho Psi* National Council has announced “**Autism Spectrum Disorders**” (ASD) as the educational theme for the Fall 2016 through Spring 2017 academic year. *Nu Rho Psi* chapters are encouraged to focus their educational, outreach, and fund-raising activities around this theme.

According to the [Center for Disease Control](#), ASD is a serious public health problem in the United States with about 1 in 68 children being identified with the disorder. [Research into the causes and treatment of ASD](#) is very active and is coordinated by the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee ([IACC](#)).

The National Institute of Mental Health has some good resources about ASD:  
<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/autism-spectrum-disorders-asd/index.shtml>

**There are some good review articles (some older, some new) about various aspects of ASD:**  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4688327/>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4659895/>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4635214/>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4443738/>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4342781/>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4586254/>

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S089662730000115X>

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/David\\_Amaral/publication/12185609\\_Autism\\_Spectrum\\_Disorders/links/5577221208aeacff200046c7.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/David_Amaral/publication/12185609_Autism_Spectrum_Disorders/links/5577221208aeacff200046c7.pdf)

NEW: [Current Perspectives in Autism Spectrum Disorder: From Genes to Therapy](#)

Here's an article in [The Atlantic](#) aimed at the general public's interest in why the ASD diagnosis rates have increased.

There are 3 [Autism Centers of Excellence](#) (ACE) recognized by the NIH and 2 of them are at schools where we have *Nu Rho Psi* Chapters. If you are near one of these ACE's you may find some helpful resources there:

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<sup>1</sup> The *Nu Rho Psi* themes are selected from nominations and discussion that occur during and after the *Nu Rho Psi* National Meeting (2015 in Chicago, IL). Please help us select future annual themes for our honor society by emailing your ideas to: [nurhopsi@bw.edu](mailto:nurhopsi@bw.edu) . To read more about this as well as other *Nu Rho Psi* events and happenings, read the latest [Nu Rho Psi News](#).

## ACE Research Centers

- [Boston University](#) 
- [Emory University](#) 
- [University of California, Los Angeles](#) 

## Here are several Autism Organization websites worth checking out:

[Organization for Autism Research](#), which isn't funding research on the biology of autism but rather on analysis, evaluation, and comparison of assessment and treatment models, with the studies ranging along the whole age spectrum – little guys to adults.

[US Autism and Asperger Association \(USAAA\)](#): Information and education mainly.

[Autistic Self-advocacy Network](#): This organization aims to advance the principles of the disability rights movement with regard to autism.

AUTISM IN AMERICA documentary  
<http://www.autisminamericamovie.com/>

Many universities may have a library subscription to stream this film:  
<https://www.kanopystreaming.com/>

You may find some helpful resources on Emory University's [Marcus Autism Center's website](#). It's an NIH Autism Center of Excellence and, if you are in the Atlanta GA area, They offer a free series of [Caregiver Workshops](#). They also offer [training opportunities](#) throughout the year (note: most of these do have a fee associated with them).

Some additional links to ASD organizations/resources:

[Centers for Disease Control on Autism](#)

[National Autism Association](#)

[Autism Society of America](#)

[Autism Speaks](#)

[National Institute of Mental Health on Autism](#)

[NPR Story--What's different about the brains of people with autism?](#)

[Autism Research Institute](#)

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The book '*NeuroTribes*' Examines The History - And Myths - Of The Autism Spectrum. Hear this [NPR Fresh Air interview with author Steve Silberman](#) who talks about how Nazi extermination plans and a discredited scientific paper about childhood vaccines shaped our current understanding of autism. *Originally broadcast Sept. 2, 2015.*