

# SNAP Fall Newsletter 2018

## SNAP Transition

2018 has been a time of productivity for our collaborative SNAP research! With Dr. Sherr, we were able to share our findings that 18% of children with SPD have an identifiable genetic contributor. Together with Dr. Gorno-Tempini and her dyslexia research team, we contributed to understanding the neuroanatomy of reading challenges (keep reading to learn more)! With Dr. Anguera, we have started our first synergized brain and body training for children with attention challenges and it takes place at a local elementary school—just where it needs to be! 2019 holds exciting new SNAP research discoveries!

On the clinical front in 2019, Dr. Marco will be creating a comprehensive neurodevelopment center in Marin County, California. For more information, please reach out to [elysamarcomd@gmail.com](mailto:elysamarcomd@gmail.com)!

## Current Studies

### Pediatric Body Brain Trainer (pediBBT)

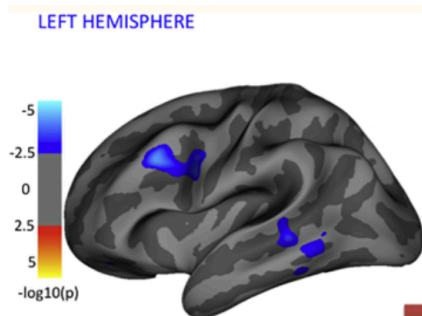
UCSF SNAP researchers are partnering with Neil Cummins Elementary in Marin County to study whether training the mind and body, with video game technology, can help a child's attention and memory.

### UCSF AVIATION Study

Dr. Bob Hendren is enrolling children with autism ages 5-17 years for a treatment study using a vasopressin receptor antagonist. For more information, direct questions to [Felicia.widjaja@ucsf.edu](mailto:Felicia.widjaja@ucsf.edu) or 415-476-7803

## Recently Published

An exciting study led by Drs. Caverzasi and Gorno-Tempini at the UCSF Dyslexia Center showed that children with dyslexia have age-related differences in the folding of the front and side brain regions. These areas are crucial for language and reading skills.



[Read the article here](#)

Progress in understanding autism has been hindered by difficulty in obtaining relevant biomarkers of the condition and targets for treatment. Researchers from UCSF (Dr. Sherr) and Stanford (Drs. Oztan, Hardan, and Parker) have joined to overcome this barrier by providing evidence that the “social” neuropeptide arginine vasopressin is lower in children with autism versus controls. This finding indicates that vasopressin may be a promising CSF marker of autism's social deficits. For information on more trials, call: 650-736-1235. [Read the article here](#)

## Hand in Hand SPD Parenting Group

Beth Ohanneson is offering a 6-week parent support and strategy group particularly useful for parents who feel discouraged and are ready for fresh ideas. For more information or to register: [betho9@me.com](mailto:betho9@me.com) or 415-564-0782

## SNAP Support

SNAP research is largely funded by our community, that means YOU! Thank you for your contributions. Every dollar counts in our goal to help every child reach their full potential! In 2018, we have raised more than \$132,600!

### SPD Crowdfunding Website

SNAP also received a generous gift from the folks at the STARRY Morning 2018 Gala to support Sensory Processing research. The 2019 event is planned for **June 6th** at Julia Morgan Ballroom in San Francisco from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. We welcome your help with planning and would love for you to attend! To learn more, contact Bobby Vossoughi at [bobby@bavventures.com](mailto:bobby@bavventures.com) or (480) 291-2124.

## What causes a sensory meltdown?

*By Beth Ohanneson, MS., M.F.T.*

For some adults and children, common sounds and touch are perceived by their own brain as a sensory attack. Imagine if your own brain “turned on you.” The vacuum cleaner feels like a deafening (terrifying) roar of a lion. A shirt tag feels like the stabbing of a knife. We are starting to understand the toll these sensory assaults, like other adverse childhood experiences, take on our children's autonomic nervous system and their fight, flight, or freeze response. We suggest that instead of using the term “meltdown,” which only describes what we see, we also think and talk about the “sensory assault” that starts when some sensory information hits our children's brains.

