

Training Community Clinicians to Provide Quality Care for Adults on the Autism Spectrum

More than a half-million individuals on the autism spectrum will turn 18 years old in the next decade. To meet their healthcare needs, novel approaches to train and support community clinicians are needed.

Experienced clinicians in autism at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, University of Virginia Medical Center, and University of Missouri are joining forces to develop an ECHO Autism training program. ECHO stands for Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes and is being conducted worldwide to provide training in more than 50 medical conditions.

Starting in this fall, we will conduct focus groups and interviews with clinicians, caregivers of adults on the autism spectrum, and adults with autism to help us plan our training program.

Starting in early 2020, we will be seeking clinicians who care for adults on the autism spectrum, or want to serve this population, to participate in video-conferencing sessions. There will be two series of sessions, which will meet for about an hour every other week for 6 months.

There is no charge for participating. This project is sponsored by the Department of Defense Autism Research Program.



During the sessions, clinicians will present cases to each other and to an expert team, participate in didactic sessions, and learn about resources available for supporting adults with autism. Topics include:

- Identifying autism in adults
- Supporting adults with autism in clinic
- Managing co-occurring medical conditions
- Managing co-occurring psychiatric conditions
- Housing and community supports
- Supporting families/caregivers
- Post-secondary education and employment

And more!

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