IACC Subcommittee for Basic and Translational Research

DSM-5 Planning Group Update

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- **Cathy Rice, Ph.D. (for Coleen Boyle, Ph.D.)**
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- **Scott Michael Robertson, M.H.C.I.**
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  Behavioral Pediatrics Section
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- **Amy M. Wetherby, Ph.D.** **(Invited Expert)**
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Implications for Research

Data to understand impact of changes

- *Who is diagnosed?*
    - Reliability and validity of criteria (including SCD) and components (e.g., severity ratings)?
    - Differences in who is identified?
- *How are people diagnosed?*
    - What changes are needed for screening and assessment tools? How can SCD be assessed?
    - Will there be a change in the way clinicians, community members, researchers conceptualize and identify ASD?
    - How are the criteria being applied in educational and service settings?
- *What does it mean to be diagnosed with ASD?*
    - How does the removal of subtypes affect the culture of people with ASD?
    - How will severity levels and specifiers be used to inform support services?
    - Will the way services are qualified for and provided change (especially related to PDD-NOS and SCD)?

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Key issues for practice and policy

1. Use of severity ratings to prescribe services is not appropriate.
2. Little prospective data on reliability and validity of criteria for young children, individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds, and adults.
3. Some children who have ASD might not manifest full range of symptoms before age three. Services should be based on need rather than diagnosis.
4. Clinicians need to be aware that diagnosis can be made based on historical symptoms to avoid misdiagnosis.
5. There is no need for individuals to “re-qualify” for an ASD diagnosis based on DSM-5.
6. Clear treatment guidelines for SCD are lacking. Individual need rather than SCD versus ASD diagnosis should dictate what services are recommended.
7. More information is needed for clinicians and educators on the appropriate and reliable use of the diagnostic specifiers and severity ratings.

Next…

- Document can inform research and policy efforts now
- Consider for next IACC Strategic Research Plan update