



Autism-Friendly Society: A Search for Reconciling the Coexistence and the Cure of Autism.

What we aim at

The number of people with high-functioning autism spectrum disorders (HFASD) has skyrocketed in the last decade in Japan as well as in other developed countries. They appear to be without autism as they have attained normal intelligence, acquired ordinary jobs, or even succeeded as scientists, business people, or other professionals. The borderline between autistics and non-autistics is unclear as autism is defined as a spectrum. This makes the situation greatly complicated. Some with autism could live their life with no trouble while some could suffer from mental diseases, lose their job, or even become crime victims or criminals themselves. They are not occasionally found to be autistic until they come across such difficulties. The later the detection, the worse the prognosis is.

There are many views concerning autism. Brain scientists suggest utilizing findings from neurobiology or brain-imaging to promote earlier detection and cure of autism. On the other hand, some are against this and go for social co-existence with autism as it is sometimes perceived as a gift or one of personal characteristics and some actually become geniuses (e.g. Darwin is believed to be autistic). This is a highly controversial issue, thus our society should be prepared for the solution.

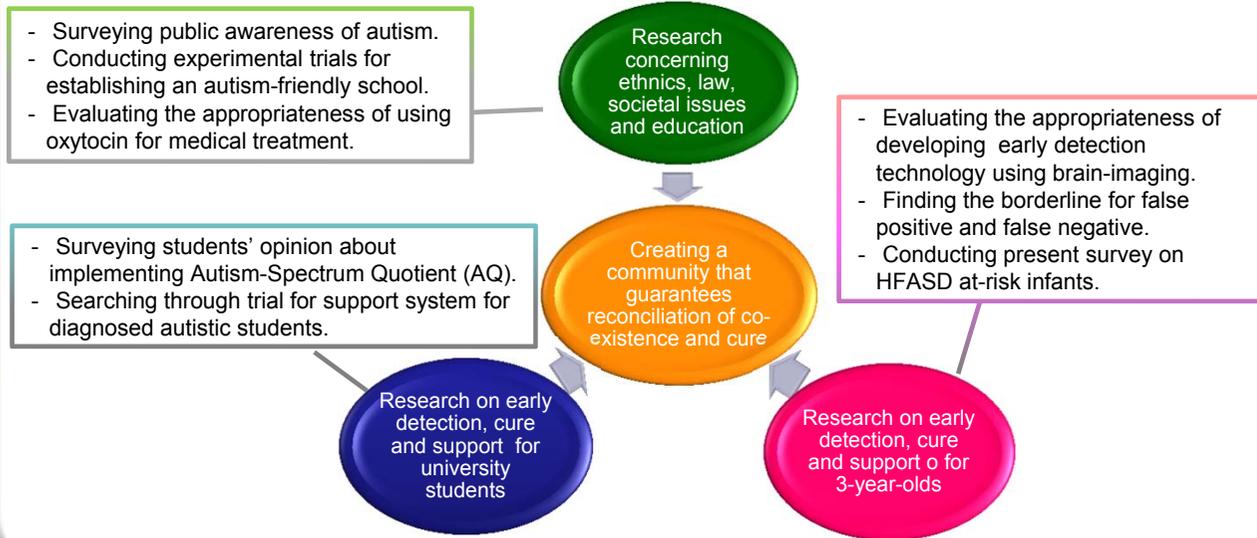
Do we accept autistics as they are? Do we help autistics overcome difficulties by the development of brain science on autism? Our project aims at establishing a local community which guarantees sustainable reconciliation between the co-existence and the cure of autism and making the society more autism-friendly. Aiming to accomplish this goal, we promote dialogue between scientists and citizens on the issue.

Project Director
 Manabu Oi
 (Professor, School of Teacher Education,
 Kanazawa University)

Contact

Department of Biophysical Genetics, Kanazawa University
 Takaramachi13-1, Kanazawa, 920-8640 JAPAN
 TEL: 076(265)2458 FAX: 076(234)4236
 Email: riskana@ed.kanazawa-u.ac.jp
 Project HP: <http://ristex-kanazawa.w3.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/>

How we are organized



How we work with society

Consensus meeting

We hold conferences where people can discuss ways to establish autism-friendly society.

Science café

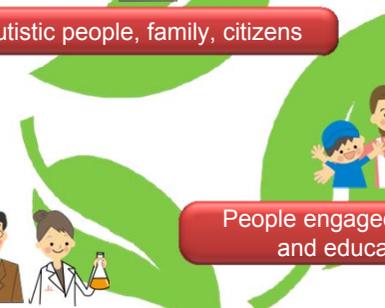
We hold many types of events (Delivery style —visiting places such as kindergarten, Salon style —open to citizens, Camp style, etc.) to create a place to talk about autism.

Science shop

We work on research issues raised by citizens.



Autistic people, family, citizens



People engaged in health, welfare and educational service



Researchers in medicine, law, education, sociology, philosophy, psychology, etc.