



Autism Centers of Excellence

Alice Kau, Ph.D.

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Branch

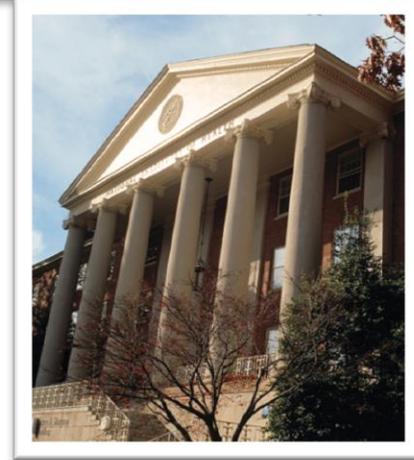
NICHD

April 9, 2013



NIH Autism Programs: History

- **Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism (CPEA)**
 - 1997-2007
 - Funded by NICHD & NIDCD
- **Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment (STAART)**
 - 2002-2008
 - Mandated by the Children's Health Act of 2000
 - Funded by NICHD, NIDCD, NIEHS, NIMH, NINDS
 - Coordinated by the NIH Autism Coordinating Committee





Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) Program

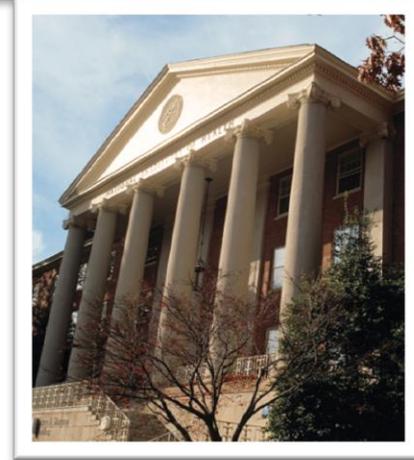
- Consolidation of CPEA and STAART
- Funded by NICHD, NIDCD, NIEHS, NIMH, NINDS
- Funding started in FY07 for 5 years
- Renewed in FY12





Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) Program

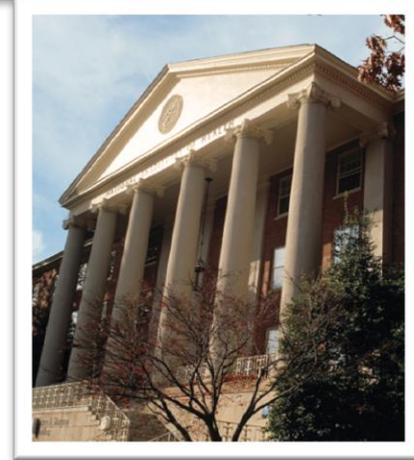
- **ACE Centers**
 - Integrative, multi-disciplinary, coordinated research program
 - Cohesion and synergy across subprojects and cores
 - A minimum of 3 but no more than 6 research projects
- **ACE Networks**
 - Multi-site projects for optimal design and conduct of the study
 - Focusing on a specific topic of research
 - Commonly used for recruitment purpose





ACE Program: Requirements

- Research training
- Active dissemination of research findings
- Supporting the Interagency Coordinating Committee (IACC) Strategic Plan
- Data sharing via National Database for Autism Research (NDAR)





ACE Program: Common Measures

- Medical/Family History
- Physical/Neurological examination
- Genetic Test Results
- Autism Diagnostic Interview-revised
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule
- IQ or developmental assessment measures with nonverbal and verbal components



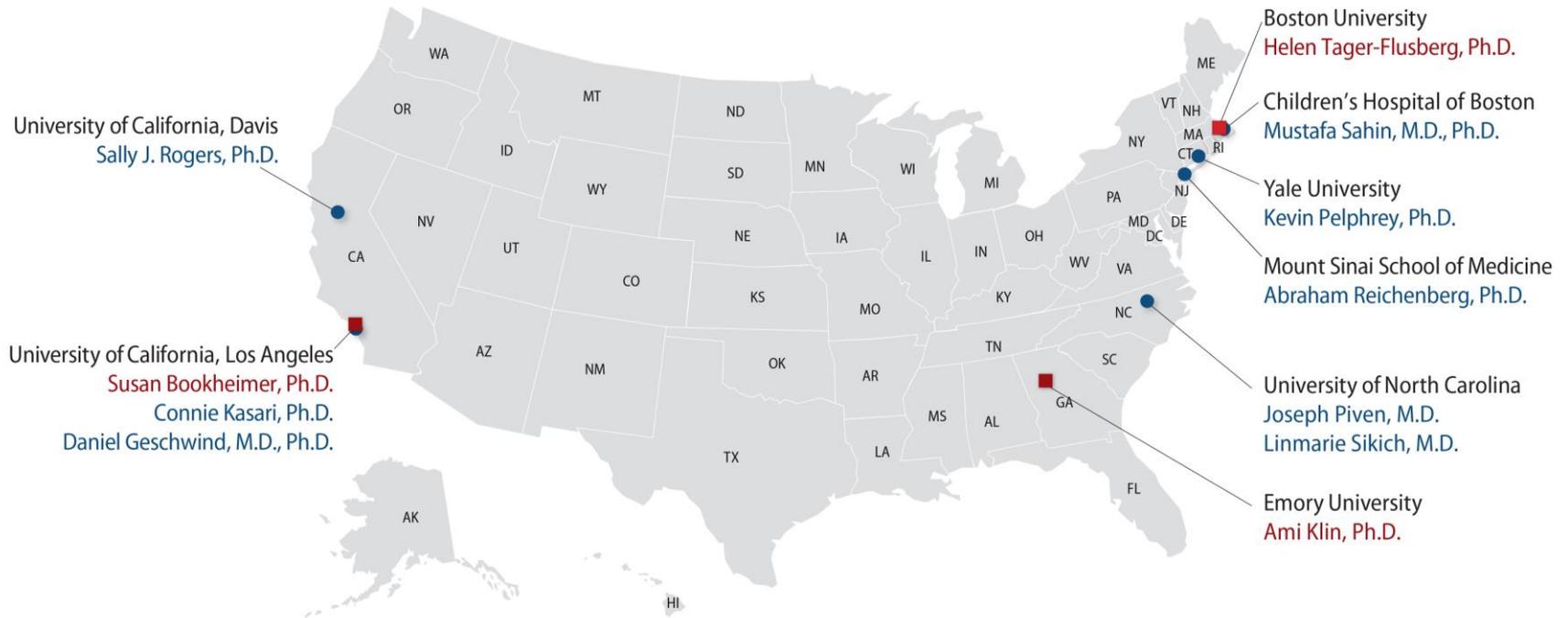


ACE Program

FY12 Competition Funded Sites



Autism Centers of Excellence Program



■ = ACE Centers and Principal Investigators (3)
● = ACE Networks and Principal Investigators (8)



ACE Centers

- **Susan Bookheimer, Ph.D., UCLA**
Biomarkers of Developmental Trajectories
and Treatment in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- **Ami Klin, Ph.D., Emory University, Atlanta**
Mechanisms of Risks and Resilience in ASD: Ontogeny,
Phylogeny and Gene Disruption
- **Helen Tager-Flusberg, Ph.D., Boston University**
Minimally Verbal ASD: From Basic Mechanisms to
Innovative Interventions

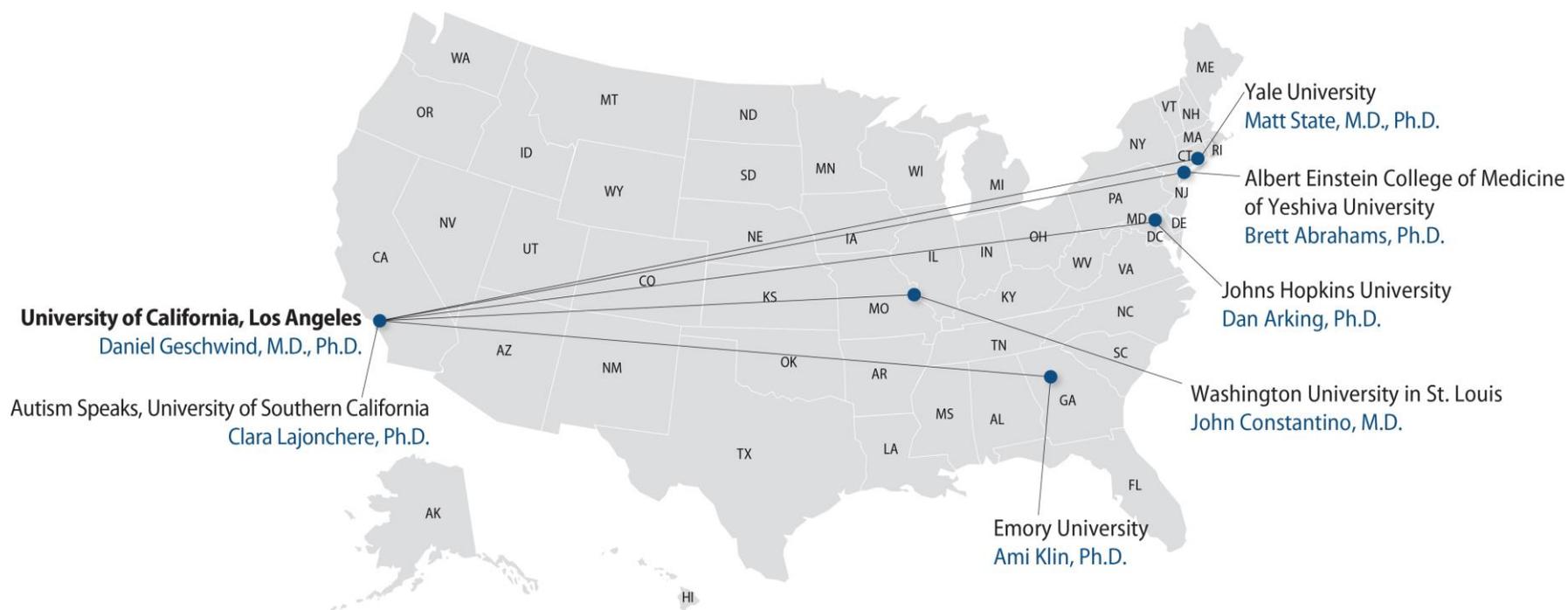


ACE Networks



Autism Genetics, Phase II: Increasing Representation of Human Diversity

(Daniel Geschwind, M.D., Ph.D., Principal Investigator)





Adaptive Interventions for Minimally Verbal Children with ASD in the Community

(Connie Kasari, Ph.D., Principal Investigator)

University of Michigan (Statistics)
Susan Murphy, Ph.D., Daniel Almirall, Ph.D.

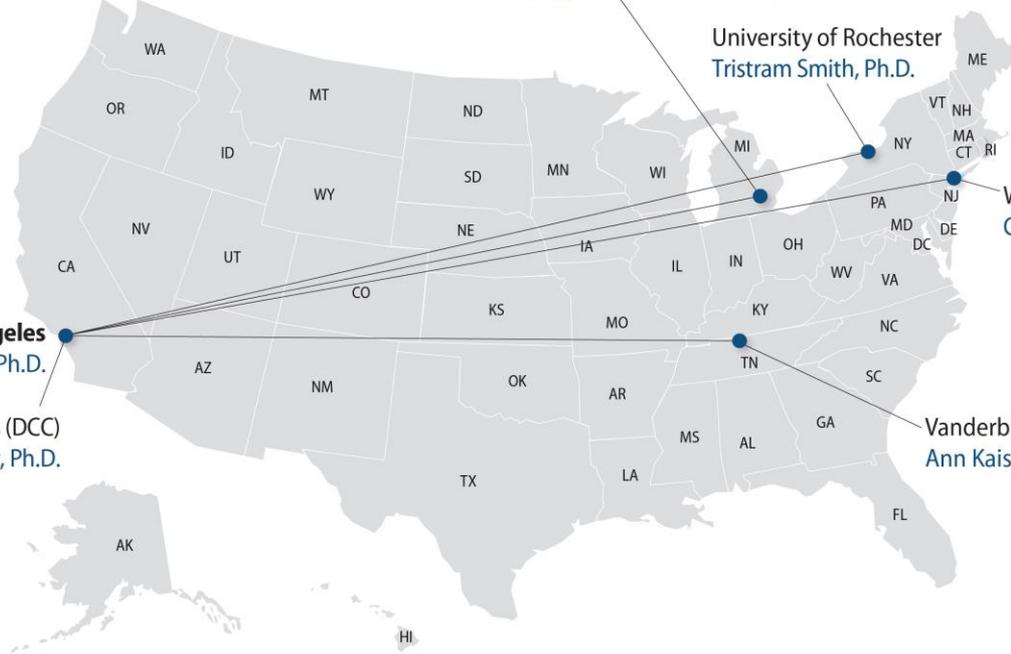
University of Rochester
Tristram Smith, Ph.D.

Weill Medical College of Cornell University
Catherine Lord, Ph.D.

University of California, Los Angeles
Connie Kasari, Ph.D.

University of California, Los Angeles (DCC)
Catherine Sugar, Ph.D.

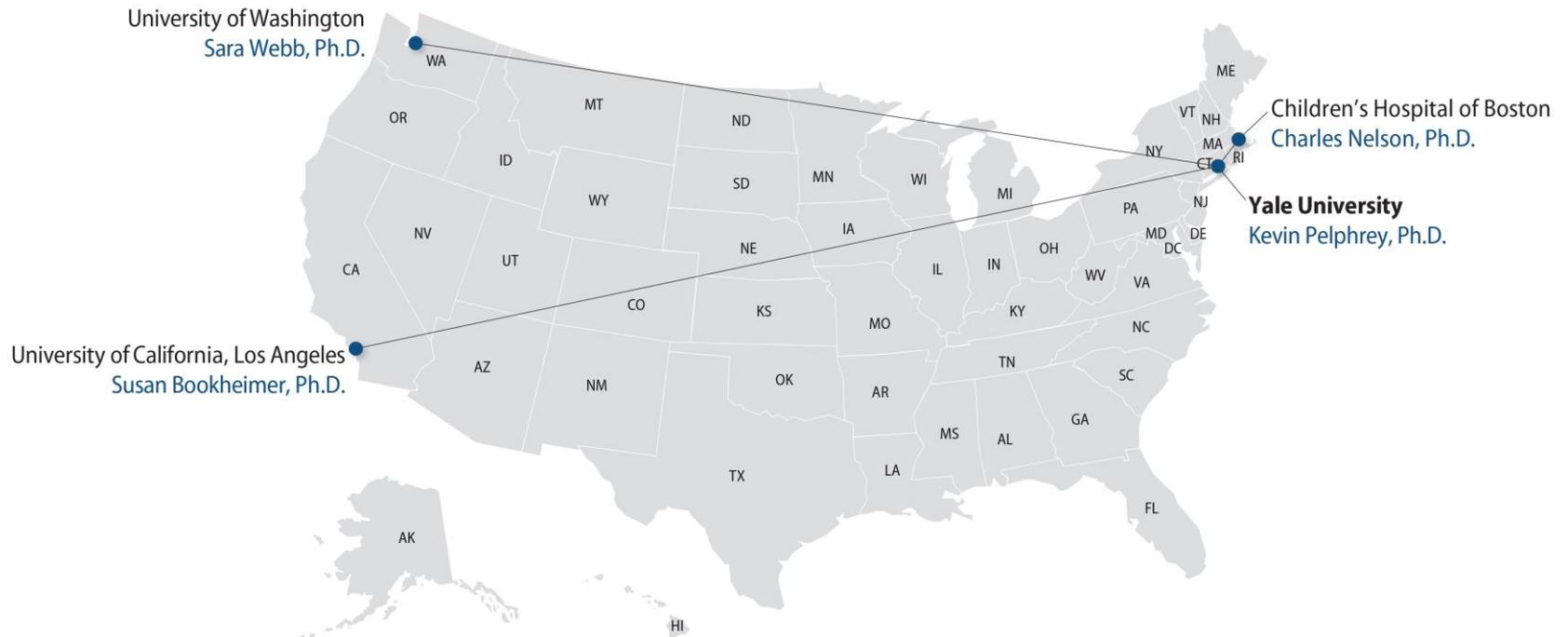
Vanderbilt University
Ann Kaiser, Ph.D.





Multimodal Developmental Neurogenetics of Females with ASD

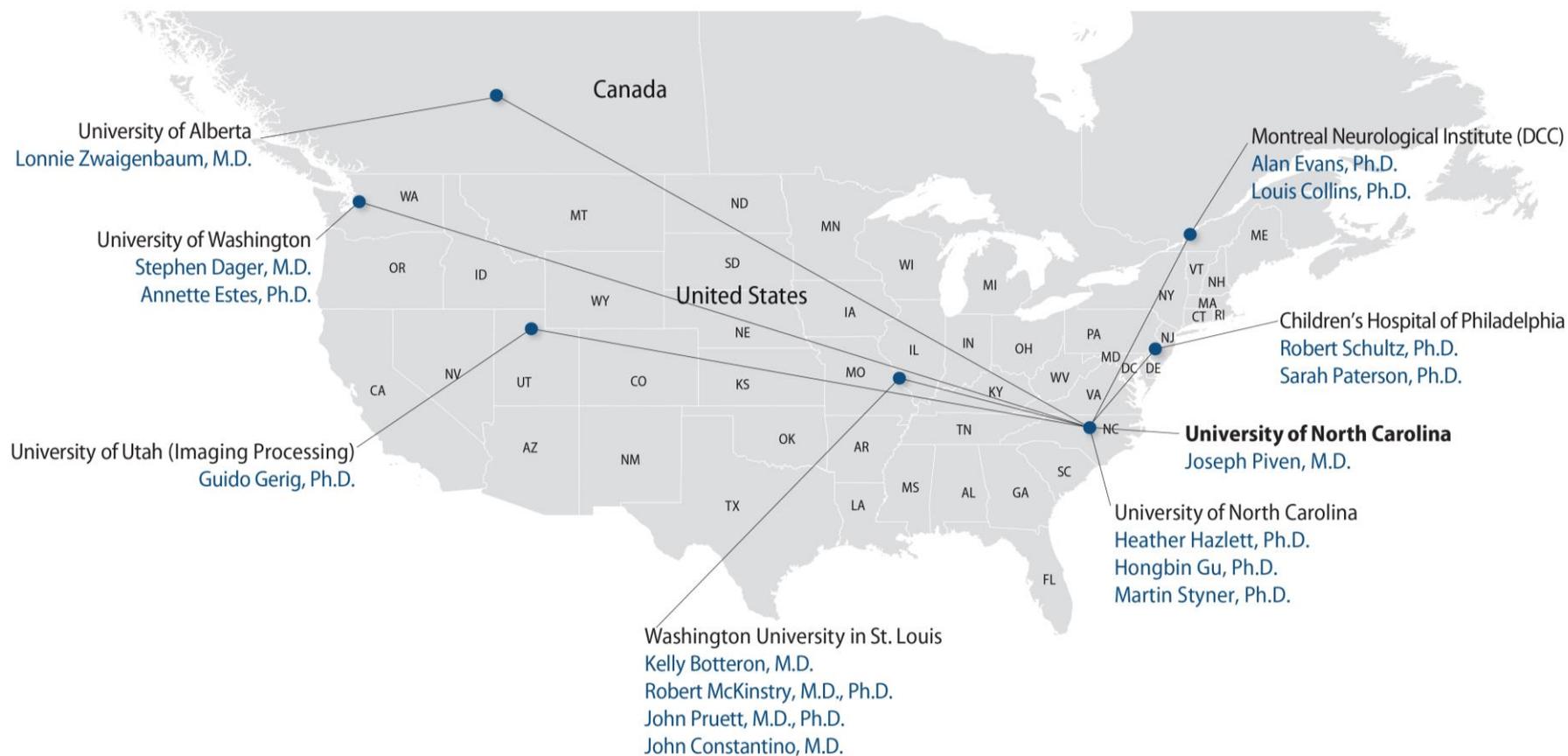
(Kevin Pelphrey, Ph.D., Principal Investigator)





A Longitudinal MRI Study of Infants at Risk for Autism

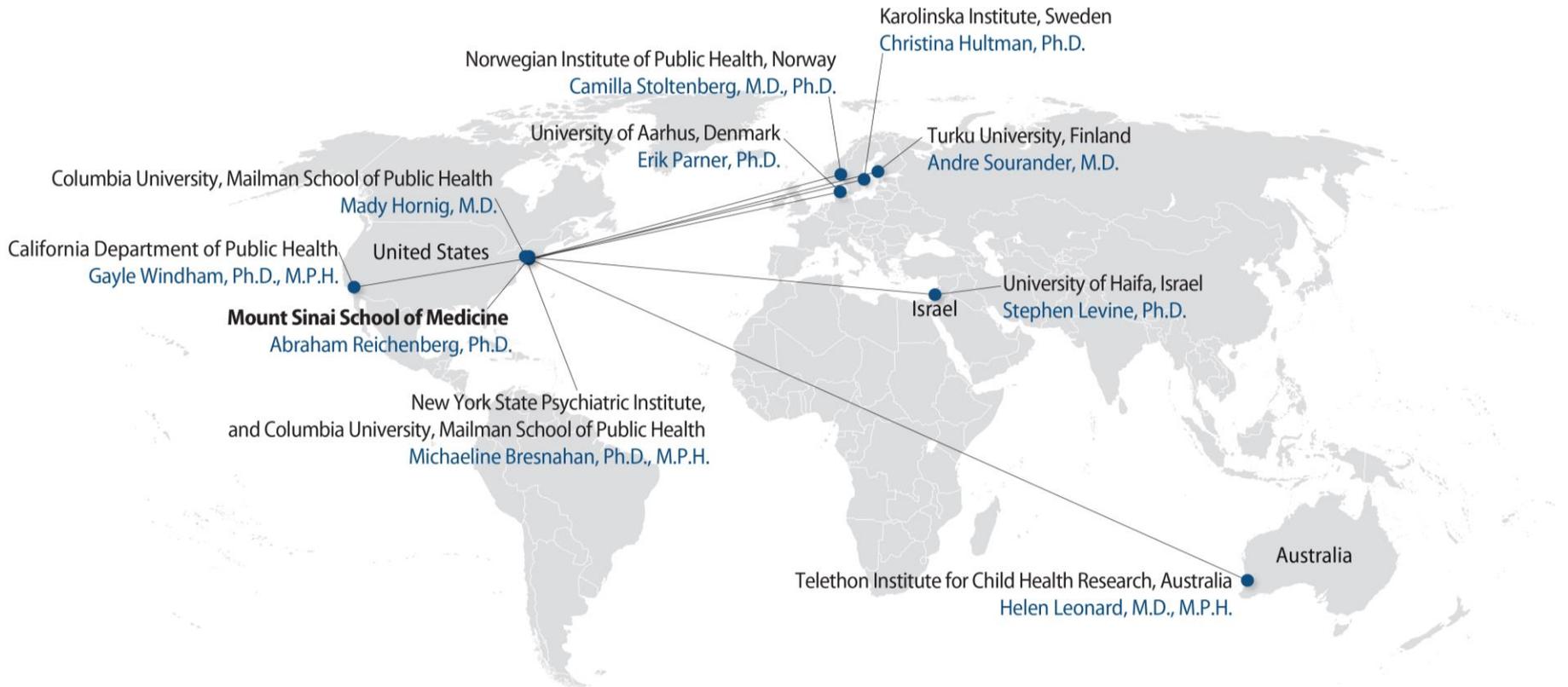
(Joseph Piven, M.D., Principal Investigator)





Multigenerational Families and Environmental Risk for Autism (MINERvA) Network

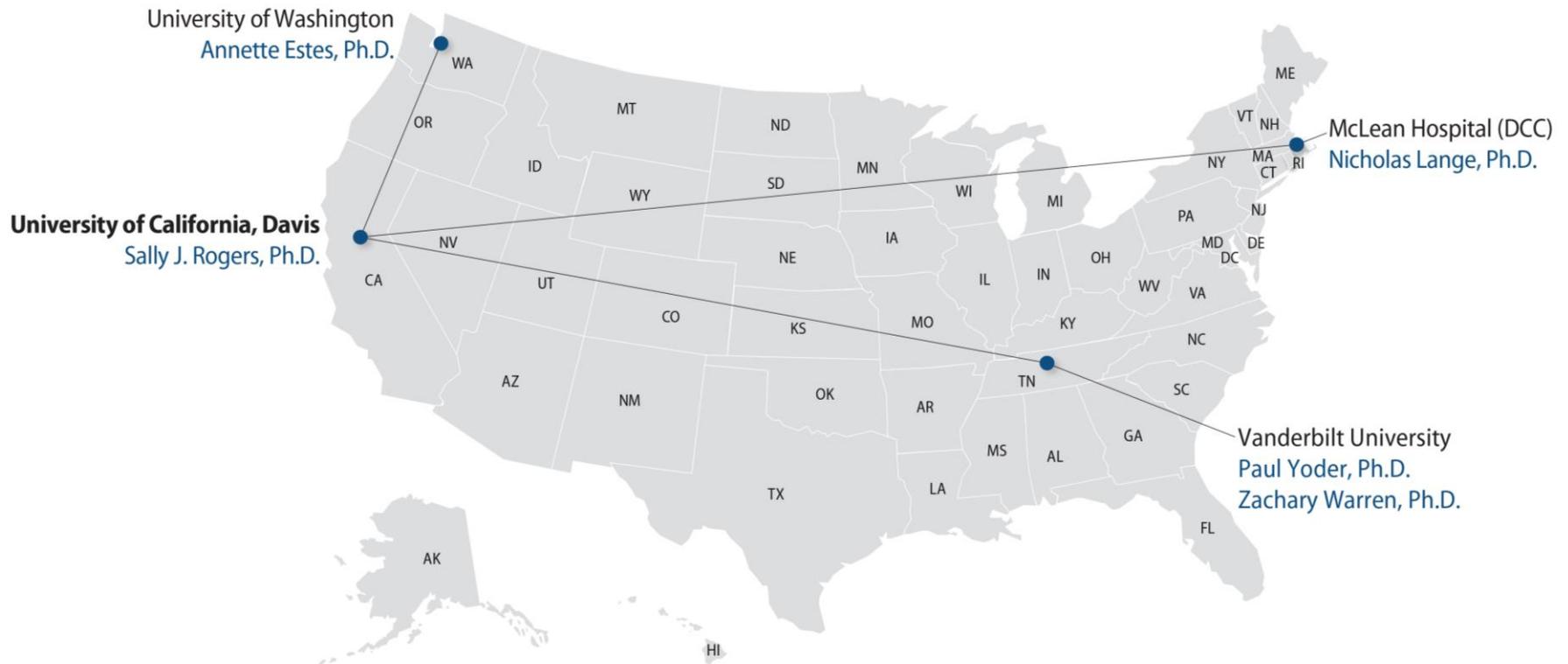
(Abraham Reichenberg, Ph.D., Principal Investigator)





Intervention Effects of Intensity and Delivery Style for Toddlers with ASD

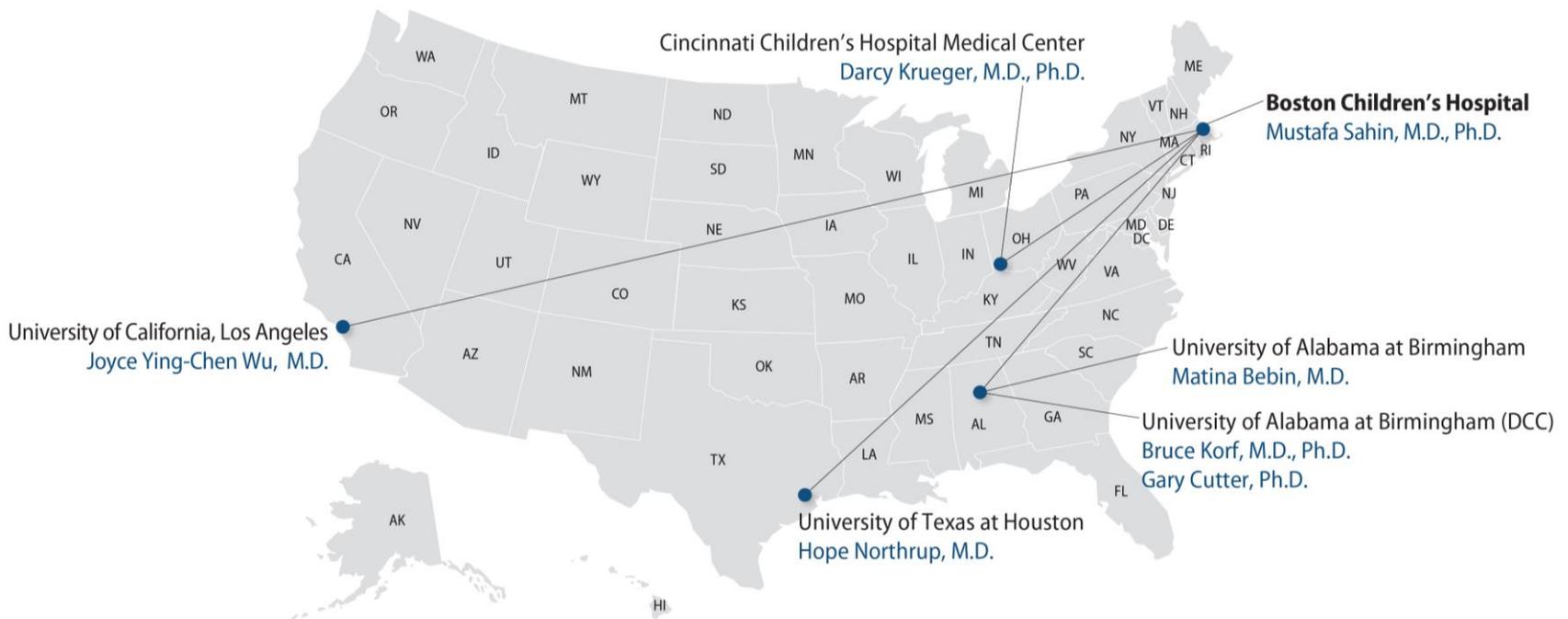
(Sally J. Rogers, Ph.D., Principal Investigator)





Early Biomarkers of ASD in Infants with Tuberous Sclerosis

(Mustafa Sahin, M.D., Ph.D., Principal Investigator)





Study of Oxytocin in Autism to Improve Reciprocal Social Behaviors (SOARS-B)

(Linmarie Sikich, M.D., Principal Investigator)

University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital
Bryan King, M.D.

Lurie Center for Autism and Massachusetts General Hospital
Christopher McDougle, M.D.

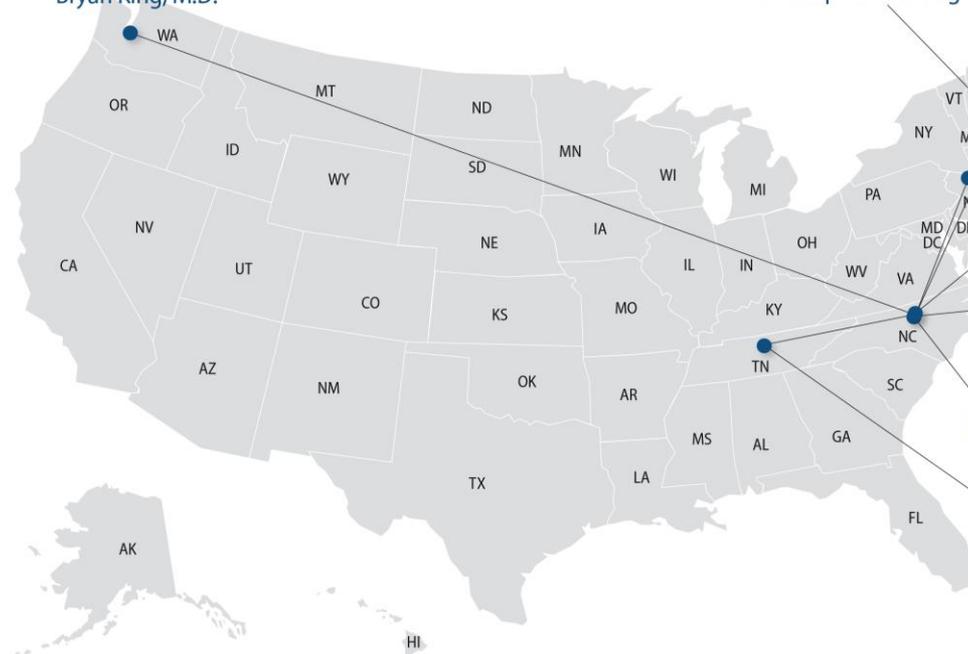
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Alexander Kolevzon, M.D.

Duke University Medical Center
Simon Gregory, Ph.D.

University of North Carolina
Linmarie Sikich, M.D.

PI of Data Center, University of North Carolina
Robert M. Hamer, Ph.D.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Jeremy Veenstra-Vander Weele, M.D.
Zachary Warren, Ph.D.



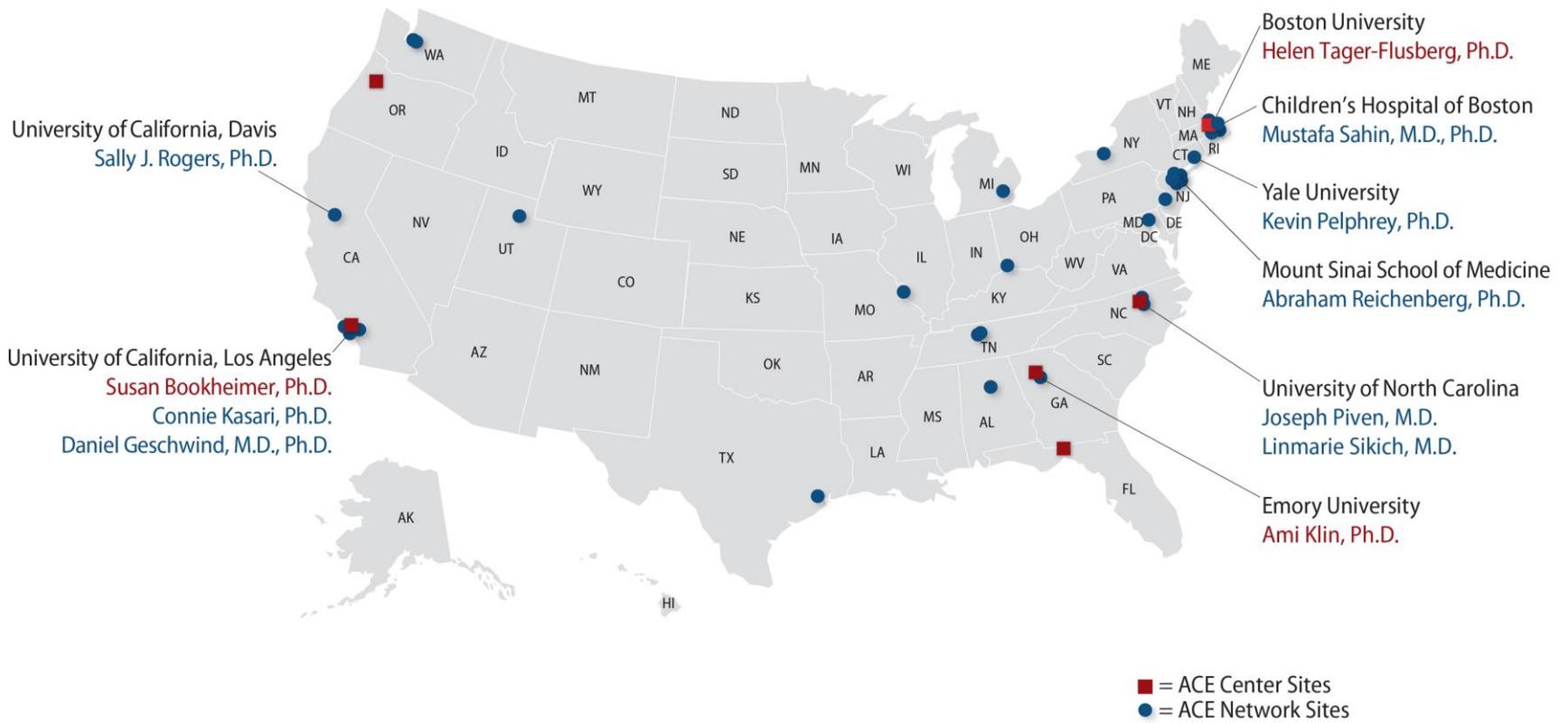


ACE Centers and Networks

Nationwide Distribution of Sites



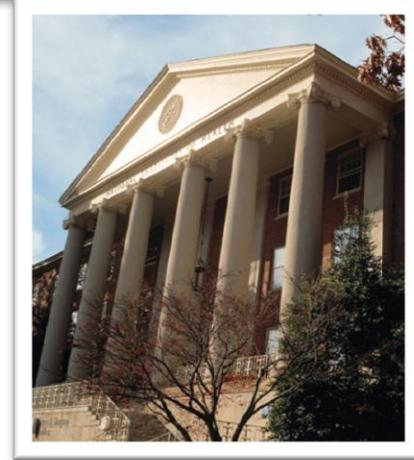
ACE Sites Nationwide





NIH ACE Program Team

- Frank Avenilla, Ph.D.
- Judith Cooper, Ph.D.
- Lisa Gilotty, Ph.D.
- Deborah Hirtz, M.D.
- Alice Kau, Ph.D.
- Cindy Lawler, Ph.D.
- Laura Mamounas, Ph.D.
- Melissa Parisi, M.D., Ph.D.
- Ann Wagner, Ph.D.





The End