

DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

CURRICULUM VITAE

Date Prepared: January 10th 2023

Name: Lauren Franz M.B.Ch.B., M.P.H.

Primary academic appointment:

Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Division of Child and Family Mental Health and Developmental Neuroscience
Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development

Secondary academic appointment:

Assistant Research Professor in the Duke Global Health Institute

Honorary academic appointment:

Honorary senior lecturer, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town

Medical Licensure: North Carolina License #2014-01571

Board Certified: Psychiatry #711190 and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry #11045

Citizen of: United States and South Africa

<u>Education</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Degree</u>
Medical School	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	2002	MBChB
Graduate School	Emory University	2007	MPH

Professional training and academic career:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Position/title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Katutura State Hospital, Namibia	Intern	2003
Manguzi Hospital, South Africa	Community service medical doctor	2004
Duke University	Intern	2008
Duke University	Psychiatry resident	2010
Duke University	Child and adolescent psychiatry fellow	2014
Duke University	Global health fellow	2014
Duke University	Fogarty global health fellow	2014
Duke University	Assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences	2014-present
Duke University	Assistant research professor of global health	2014-present
Duke University	Faculty in residence (Cape Town, South Africa)	2017-2018
University of Cape Town	Honorary senior lecturer, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health	2017-present
Duke University	Associate Director, Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development	2022-present

Publications:

1. Compton MT, Carter T, Bergner E, **Franz L**, Stewart T, Trotman H, McGlashan TH, McGorry PD. Defining, operationalizing, and measuring the duration of untreated psychosis: Advances, limitations, and future directions. *Early Intervention in Psychiatry* 2007; 1: 236-250. DOI: 10.1111/j.1751-7893.2007.00036.x.
2. Compton MT, Leiner AS, Bergner E, Chein VH, **Franz L**, Goulding SM, Trotman H. Prevalence, factorial structure, and clinical correlates of first rank symptoms in urban, African American patients with first-episode non-affective psychosis. *Clinical Schizophrenia and Related Psychoses* 2008; 2(1): 59-69. DOI: 10.3371/CSRP.2.1.4.
3. Bergner E, Leiner AS, Carter T, **Franz L**, Thompson N, Compton MT. The period of untreated psychosis before treatment initiation: A qualitative study of family members' perspectives. *Comprehensive Psychiatry* 2008; 49:530-536. PMID: PMC2610676.
4. Lee J, **Franz L**, Goforth HW. Serotonin syndrome in a chronic-pain patient receiving concurrent methadone, ciprofloxacin, and venlafaxine. *Psychosomatics*. Nov-Dec 2009;50(6):638-639. PMID: 19996237.
5. Goulding SM, **Franz L**, Bergner E, Compton MT. Social functioning in urban, predominantly African American, socially disadvantaged patients with first-episode non-affective psychosis. *Schizophrenia research*. Jun 2010;119(1-3):95-100. PMID: PMC2868930.
6. **Franz L**, Carter T, Leiner AS, Bergner E, Thompson NJ, Compton MT. Stigma and treatment delay in first-episode psychosis: a grounded theory study. *Early intervention in psychiatry*. Feb 2010;4(1):47-56. PMID: PMC2860376.
7. Deepmala D, **Franz L**, Aponte C, Agrawal M, Jiang W. Identification of provider characteristics influencing prescription of analgesics: a systematic literature review. *Pain Practice : the official journal of World Institute of Pain*. Nov 16 2012. PMID: 23157929.
8. **Franz L**, Costello EJ, Copeland W, Towe-Goodman N, Angold A, Egger HL. Preschool anxiety disorders in pediatric primary care: prevalence and comorbidity. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. 2013; 52 (12): 1294-1303. PMID: 24290462.
9. Towe-Goodman N, **Franz L**, Copeland W, Angold A, Egger HL. The family impact of preschool anxiety disorders. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. 2014; 53 (4): 437-446. PMID 24655653.
10. Maselko J, Sikander S, Bhalotra S, Bangash O, Ganga N, Mukherjee S, Egger H, **Franz L**, Bibi A, Liaqat R, Kanwal M, Abbasi T, Noor M, Ameen N, Rahman A. Impact of an early perinatal depression intervention on longer-term child development outcomes. *Lancet Psychiatry*. 2015; 2 (7):609-17. PMID: 26303558.
11. Zucker N, Copeland W, **Franz L**, Carpenter K, Keeling L, Angold A, Egger H. Psychological and Psychosocial Impairment in Preschoolers with Selective Eating. *Pediatrics*. Published online August 3, 2015. PMID: 26240213.
12. Masleko J, Sikander S, Bangash O, Bhalotra S, **Franz L**, Ganga N, Rajan DG, O'Donnell K, Rahman A. Child mental health and maternal depression history in Pakistan. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiology*. 2016; 51(1):49-62. PMID: 26561398.
13. **Franz L**, Chambers N, von Isenburg M, de Vries PJ. Autism Spectrum Disorder in Sub-Saharan Africa: a Comprehensive Scoping Review. *Autism Research*. 2017; 10(5): 723-749. PMID: 28266791. PMID: 28266791.
14. Dawson G, Sun JM, Davlantis KS, Murias M, **Franz L**, Troy J, Simmons R, Sabatos-DeVito M, Durham R, Kurtzberg J. Autologous cord blood infusions are safe and feasible in young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Results of a single center Phase I Open Label Trial. *Stem Cell Translational Medicine*. Published online April 5 2017. PMID: 28378499.
15. Guler J, de Vries PJ, Seris N, Shabalala N, **Franz L**. The importance of context in early autism intervention: A qualitative South African study. *Autism*. 2018;22(8):1005-1017.PMC5832543
16. Murias M, Davlantis K, **Franz L**, Harris A, Major S, Rardin B, Sabatos-Devito M, Dawson G. Validation of eye-tracking measures of social attention as a potential biomarker for autism clinical trials. *Autism Research*. 2018; 11 (1), 166-174. PMID: 29193826
17. **Franz L**, Adewumi K, Chambers N, Viljoen M, Baumgartner J, de Vries PJ. Providing early detection and intervention for autism spectrum disorder in South Africa: Stakeholder perspectives. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Mental Health*. 2018; 30(3), 149-165. PMID: 30403918

18. Carpenter KLH, Major S, Tallman C, Chen LW, **Franz L**, Sun J, Kurtzberg J, Song A, & Dawson G. White matter tract changes associated with clinical improvement in an open-label trial assessing autologous umbilical cord blood for treatment of young children with autism. *Stem Cells Translational Medicine*. 2019; 8 (2), 138-147. PMID: 30620122
19. Ramseur K, de Vries PJ, Guler J, Shabalala N, Seris N, **Franz L**. Caregiver descriptions of joint activity routines with young children with autism spectrum disorder in South Africa. *Pediatric Medicine*. 2019; 2(6). PMID: 31032484
20. Makombe CBT, Shabalala N, Viljoen M, Seris N, de Vries PJ, **Franz L**. Sustainable Implementation of Early Intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorder through Caregiver Coaching in Low-Resource Environments: South African Perspectives on Barriers and Facilitators. *Pediatric Medicine*. 2019; 2(6). PMID: 31528856
21. **Franz L**, Dawson G. Implementing early intervention for autism spectrum disorder: A global perspective. *Pediatric Medicine*. 2019; 2(6). PMID: 3153090
22. Dawson G, Sun JM, Baker J, Carpenter K, Compton C, Deaver M, **Franz L**, Heilbron N, Herold B, Horrigan J, Howard J, Kosinski A, Major S, Murias M, Page K, Prasad VK, Sabatos-DeVito M, Sikich L, Simmons R, Song A, Vermeer S, Waters-Pick B, Troy J, Kurtzberg J. A Phase II randomized clinical trial of the safety and efficacy of intravenous umbilical cord blood infusion for treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder *J Pediatr*. 2020;S0022-3476(20)30334-6. doi:10.1016/j.jpeds.2020.03.011
23. Sun JM, Dawson G, **Franz L**, et al. Infusion of human umbilical cord tissue mesenchymal stromal cells in children with autism spectrum disorder. *Stem Cells Transl Med*. 2020;10.1002/sctm.19-0434. doi:10.1002/sctm.19-0434
24. Pham TV, Kaiser BN, Koirala R, Maharjan SM, Upadhaya N, **Franz L**, Kohrt BA. Traditional Healers and Mental Health in Nepal: A Scoping Review. *Cult Med Psychiatry*. 2020;10.1007/s11013-020-09676-4. doi:10.1007/s11013-020-09676-4
25. Chakraborty P, Carpenter KLH, Major S, McVea M, Vermeer S, Herold B, **Franz L**, Howard J, Dawson G. Gastrointestinal problems are associated with increased repetitive behaviors but not social communication difficulties in young children with autism spectrum disorders. *Autism*: 2021 Feb;25(2):405-415. PMID: 32972215.
26. Ivanov I, Pacheva I, Timova E, Iordanova R, Galabova F, Gaberova K, Petkova A, Kotetarov V, Panova M, Tonchev N, **Franz L**. The Route to Autism Spectrum Diagnosis in Pediatric Practice in Bulgaria. *Diagnostics*. 2021 Jan 11;11(1). doi: 10.3390/diagnostics11010106. PubMed PMID: 33440823
27. Perochon, S, Di Martino M, Aiello R, Baker J, Carpenter K, Chang Z, Compton S, Davis N, Eichner B, Espinosa S, Flowers J, **Franz L**, Gagliano M, Harris A, Howard J, Kollins S.H, Perrin EM, Raj P, Spanos M, Walter B, Sapiro G, and Dawson G. A Scalable Computational Approach to Assessing Response to Name in Toddlers with Autism. *J Child Psychol Psychiatry*. 2021 Feb 28. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33641216.
28. Kim ET, **Franz L***, Kasambira Fannin D, Howard J, Maslow G. Educational Classifications of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual Disability among school-aged children in North Carolina: Associations with race, rurality and resource availability. *Autism Res*. 2021 May;14(5):1046-1060. PMID: 33644951. (*Joint first author).
29. Chang Z, Di Martino JM, Aiello R, Baker J, Carpenter K, Compton S, Davis N, Eichner B, Espinosa S, Flowers J, **Franz L**, Harris A, Howard J, Kollins SH, Perochon S, Perrin EM, Raj P, Spanos M, Sullivan C, Walter B, Dawson G, and Sapiro G. Novel Scalable Computational Methods Reveal Atypical Patterns of Gaze in Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *JAMA Pediatrics*. 2021 Aug 1;175(8):827-836. PMID: 33900383.
30. **Franz L**, Howard J, Viljoen M, Sikich L, Chandrasekhar T, Kollins S, Lee L, Ndlovu M, Sabatos-DeVito M, Seris N, Shabalala N, Spanos M, de Vries PJ, Dawson G. Short Report: Pragmatic Adaptations of Telehealth-Delivered Caregiver Coaching for Children with Autism in the Context of COVID-19, Perspectives from the United States and South Africa. *Autism*. 2021 Jun 8. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34098745.
31. Major S, Isaev D, Grapel J, Calnan T, Tenenbaum E, Carpenter K, **Franz L**, Howard J, Vermeer S, Sapiro G, Murias M, Dawson G. Shorter average look durations to dynamic social stimuli are associated with higher levels of autism symptoms in young autistic children. *Autism*. 2021 Dec 14. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34903084.

32. Dawson-Squibb JJ, Davids EL, Chase R, Puffer E, Rasmussen J, **Franz L**, de Vries P. Bringing Parent-child Interaction Therapy to South Africa: Barriers and facilitators and overall feasibility – first steps to implementation. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2022 Apr 7;19(8):4450. PMID: 35457315.
33. **Franz L**, Damiano Goodwin C, Rieder AD, Matheis M, Damiano DL. Early Intervention for Very Young Children with or at High Likelihood for Autism Spectrum Disorder: An Overview of Reviews. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology*. 2022 May 18. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35582893.
34. Dawson G, **Franz L**, Brandsen S. At a Crossroads-Reconsidering the Goals of Autism Early Behavioral Intervention From a Neurodiversity Perspective. *JAMA Pediatr*. 2022 Sep 1;176(9):839-840. PMID: 35816341.
35. Dawson G, Franz L, Brandsen S. Neurodiversity and Early Autism-Reply. *JAMA Pediatr*. 2022 Oct 31. doi: Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36315161.
36. Guler J, Stewart KA, de Vries PJ, Seris N, Shabalala N, **Franz L**. Conducting caregiver focus groups on autism in South Africa: Logistical and methodological challenges. *Autism*. 2022 Aug 23. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35999698.
37. Babu PRK, Di Martino JM, Chang Z, Perochon S, Aiello R, Carpenter KLG, Compton S, Davis N, **Franz L**, Espinosa S, Flowers J, Dawson G, Sapiro G. Complexity Analysis of Postural Control in Autistic Toddlers. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*. 2022 Aug 14. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35965431.
38. Carpenter KLG, Davis NO, Spanos M, Sabatos-DeVito M, Aiello R, Baranek GT, Compton SN, Egger HL, **Franz L**, Kim SJ, King BH, Kolevzon A, McDougale CJ, Sanders K, Veenstra-VanderWeele J, Sikich L, Kollins SH, Dawson G. Adaptive Behavior in Young Autistic Children: Associations with Irritability and ADHD Symptoms. *J Autism Dev Disord*. 2022 Oct 12. doi: 10.1007/s10803-022-05753-2. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36222990.
39. Yuan A, Sabatos-DeVito M, Bey A, Major S, Carpenter K, **Franz L**, Howard J, Vermeer S, Simmons R, Troy J, Dawson G. Movement patterns of young autistic children assessed via automated video tracking during free play are correlated with clinical features associated with autism. *Autism*. Revise and resubmit.
40. Isaev DY, Sabatos-DeVito M, Di Martino JM, Carpenter K, Aiello R, Compton S, Davis N, **Franz L**, Sullivan C, Dawson D, Sapiro G. Computer vision analysis of caregiver-child interactions in children with neurodevelopmental disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities*. Revise and resubmit.

Chapters in Books:

1. Franz L. and Thrall G (2009). Educational Review Manual in Psychiatry. 6th Edition. In K.R.R. Krishnan (Ed.). *Somatic Treatments*. Castle Connolly Graduate Medical Publishing.
2. Schlebusch L, Chambers NJ, Dawson-Squibb JJ, Harty M, Franz L and de Vries PJ. (2020). Challenges and opportunities of implementing early interventions for autism spectrum disorders in resource-limited settings: A South African example. In M. Hodes, S. Shur-Fen Gau, & P. J. de Vries (Eds.), *Starting at the beginning: Laying the foundation for lifelong mental health* (pp. 99–132). London: Elsevier, Academic Press.

Consultant Appointment:

UNICEF Tier 3 Autism Intervention Technical Lead: UNICEF along with a number of partners including the WHO, is developing a comprehensive approach to provide care and support for children with developmental delays and disabilities, and their families. The focus of this work is on the early years (0-3 years) and on early identification and early interventions.

Board Appointment:

Leo M. Croghan Memorial Foundation Board Member: The foundation provides continuing education and grants to support professional development for early intervention professionals in North Carolina and aims to present information that is evidence-based and that recognizes the importance of early intervention, family-centered service delivery, and collaboration between parents and professionals.

Positions and Scientific Appointments

2022-Present Associate Director Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development
 2020-Present UNICEF Tier 3 Autism Spectrum Disorder Intervention Technical Lead

2020-Present Leo M. Croghan Memorial Foundation Board Member
 2020-Present ESDM Training Program Steering Committee
 2019-Present Duke Global Health Institute Cape Town Priority Partnership Lead
 2017-Present Honorary Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cape Town
 2016-Present Member of the Centre for Autism Research in Africa
 2014-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Duke University
 2014-Present Assistant Research Professor, Duke Global Health Institute

Honors and Appointments

2021 NIH Autism Center of Excellence National Annual Meeting Planning Committee
 2019-Present Board Certified in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
 2017 Duke Leadership Development for Researchers (LEADER) Program
 2017 Regional International Meeting for Autism Research Scientific Advisory Committee
 2016-Present Board Certified in Psychiatry American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
 2015-Present American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Member
 2015-Present International Society for Autism Research, Member
 2014-Present Global Mental Health Advisory Group, Duke Global Health Institute, Member
 2014-Present Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Department of Psychiatry, Duke University
 2014 Donald J. Cohen Fellowship Program recipient for IACAPAP 21st World Congress
 2012 Zero to Three Leaders of the 21st Century Fellow
 2011, 2014 Duke Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Resident Research Award
 2011 American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Pilot Research Award

Memberships:

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
 International Society for Autism Research

Teaching Responsibilities Including Continuing Education (Selected):

1. Infant mental health training: Early psychopathology in very young children. June 2011. Charlotte North Carolina, Continuing Medical Education workshop
2. Introduction to child and adolescent psychiatry. First year medical students, Duke University Medical Center. 2010-2012
3. Introduction to psychopharmacology. Clinical psychology interns, Duke University Medical Center. 2010-2012
4. Global early childhood mental health. Global mental health lecture series. Undergraduate and graduate students, Duke Global Health Institute, Duke University Medical Center. 2012- 2014
5. Global early childhood mental health. Global mental health lecture series. Duke psychiatry residents, Duke University Medical Center. 2012-2014
6. Autism spectrum disorder assessment and intervention: A global perspective. Duke Psychiatry Residents and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellows. 2015
7. Psychiatric comorbidity and treatment approaches for adults with autism spectrum disorder. Counseling and Psychological Services, Duke University. 2016
8. Introductory and advanced workshops on the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM). Duke University. December 2016
9. Early behavioral intervention for autism spectrum disorder. Psychology undergraduate students. Duke University. 2017
10. Implementation science seminars at the Center for Autism Research in Africa at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. January-June 2018.
11. Introduction to the Early Start Denver Model. Presented for East Carolina University. February 2019
12. Introductory and Advanced Workshops on the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM). Bloemfontein, South Africa. September 2019
13. Approach to caregiver coaching. Durham Child Development Services Agency. October 2019
14. Early intervention strategies for autism spectrum disorder 4-part live webinar series. Wake AHEC. September-November 2020
15. Global health of neurodevelopmental disorders. Duke Psychiatry Residents. June 2021

Areas of Research Interests:

My research focuses on strategies to promote equitable access to autism services and supports, both locally and globally. The following three activities demonstrate my ongoing commitment to this research career trajectory. First, I lead NIH-funded autism research in South Africa and spearhead autism research capacity building in Africa. Second, I am the UNICEF Technical Lead on a joint UNICEF/WHO project that aims to develop a comprehensive approach to provide services for young autistic children and their families. Third, I have two leadership roles in Duke's NIH-funded Autism Center of Excellence. I lead a feasibility study on telehealth-delivered caregiver coaching, which we have adapted for school age children with co-occurring ADHD. In addition, I lead our Dissemination and Outreach Core. In the future I will build on my current research trajectory and develop evidence-based services that can be effectively implemented across a wide range of environments and populations. To do this I will lead research that is inclusive of the full range of heterogeneity that is part of the autistic experience, and develop user-centered, technology-assisted services that improve quality of life, and are accessible and scalable.

Ongoing Research Support

1R01-MH127573-01A1 (NIMH/Fogarty)

08/2022-07/2027

PI: Lauren Franz

Title: Autism Caregiver Coaching in Africa (Lauren Franz)

The main goal of the study in South Africa is to test whether a non-specialist caregiver coaching early autism intervention delivered within an existing system of care, can improve child developmental outcomes. This study will provide critical information to inform the scale-up of caregiver coaching Africa and other low-resource, multicultural communities.

2P50-HD093074-06 (NIH/NICHHD)

10/2022-09/2027

Director: Dawson

PI: Lauren Franz

Title: Dissemination and Outreach Core

The goal of the Dissemination and Outreach Core is to support the Duke Autism Center of Excellence by disseminating research findings to and ensuring robust bi-directional connections with the scientific, provider, and autism communities, and by supporting the careers of students, postdoctoral fellows, and

2P50-HD093074-06 (NIH/NICHHD)

10/2022-09/2027

Director: Dawson

Co-I: Lauren Franz

Title: A digital health approach to early identification and outcome monitoring in autism

The goal of the Project is to evaluate novel digital behavioral assessment tools based on computer vision analysis and machine learning that can be implemented on widely available devices in real-world settings to improve the accuracy of autism screening and enable longitudinal monitoring of children's behavior and development.

2P50-HD093074-06 (NIH/NICHHD)

10/2022-09/2027

Director: Dawson

Co-I: Lauren Franz

Title: Leveraging routinely collected health data to improve early identification of autism and co-occurring conditions

The goal of Project 2 is to use health data collected during routine care to develop a prediction model for autism screening at 18 months of age and to use the model to design a clinical decision support tool for primary care providers that includes actionable guidance regarding referrals and linkage to services that, in the future, can be integrated into pediatric primary care. Project 2 will leverage robust data on early health encounters to describe the nature and prevalence of patterns of medical conditions during early life and explore whether early medical conditions during early life are associated with higher rates of psychiatric conditions by age 6.

P50HD093074 (NIH/NICHD)

08/2018-07/2023

Director: Dawson

PI: Lauren Franz

Dissemination and Outreach Core

The purpose of this core is to: (1) translate and disseminate scientific findings to external stakeholders; (2) promote bi-directional communication between Center investigators and a range of key stakeholders; (3) involve and nurture the research career development of students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior and established investigators who are new to the field of autism research, particularly those from underrepresented group; and (4) encourage use of research on the process and effectiveness of dissemination of scientific findings.

P50HD093074 (NIH/NICHD)

08/2018-07/2023

Director: Dawson

PI: Lauren Franz

A + Treatment Study

This study will evaluate the feasibility of adapted ESDM-informed caregiver coaching delivered remotely to autistic children with co-occurring ADHD, who are between 36 and <132 months of age. The acceptability, appropriateness, feasibility and fidelity of the remotely delivered intervention will be evaluated using mixed methods and an implementation science approach. Developing and testing feasible telehealth interventions for autistic children with co-occurring ADHD will both improve representation of participants in autism research and increase community service access.

Duke Global Health Institute Pilot

06/2019 – 05/2023

PI: Lauren Franz

In this pilot study, conducted in three African DGHI Priority Partnership Locations (Cape Town, Moshi, and Kampala), the team will pilot the SenseToKnow App, which displays a set of stimuli designed to elicit autism-related behaviors. We will use a mixed methods approach to assess the technical feasibility, and cultural appropriateness of the App as an important first step to ascertaining app content that may require 'localization' to African settings, in addition to technical aspects of app delivery that may require specific attention in Africa.

Duke ABC Thrive

07/2021-12/2024

PI: Lauren Franz

The purpose of this study is to gather information to adapt the design and content of an existing web based caregiver-coaching tool for caregivers of young autistic children. Through direct feedback on the content and approach of the digital caregiver-coaching tool from three key stakeholder groups: caregivers of young autistic children, autistic self-advocates, and autism experts/providers, through a series of focus groups, interviews, and surveys. Feedback and information gathered will be used to inform adaptation of the content and components of the caregiver-coaching tool. Once developed the coaching-tool will be piloted with 20 caregivers in order to assess the acceptability, feasibility and appropriateness of the approach.

Marcus Foundation

05/2014-06/2023

Co-PIs: Dawson & Kurtzberg Role: Co-Investigator

Role: Co-I

The goal of this study "Umbilical Cord Blood Therapy for Improving Outcomes in Autism, Stroke, and Other Brain Related Conditions" is to conduct preclinical studies and clinical trials to assess the efficacy of umbilical cord blood therapies for improving clinical outcomes for these conditions.

Completed Research Support

R21MH120696 (NIH/NIMH)

08/2019-12/2022

PI: Lauren Franz

Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions (NDBIs), an evidence-based early autism intervention approach, target key behaviors that help language development. While efforts to use NDBIs are increasing worldwide, important gaps in our knowledge remain on whether the behaviors targeted by NDBIs are cross-culturally valid. This study in South Africa, a multi-cultural setting, will

provide critical information on NDBI treatment targets and a novel digital outcome measure of treatment response.

K01 MH104370 (NIH/NIMH) 2015-2021

PI: Lauren Franz

Primary mentor: Geraldine Dawson

This NIMH-funded Career Development Award supported training in evidence-based early autism intervention and implementation science. The Career Development Award research project supported the systematic adaptation of a caregiver coaching early autism intervention for the South African context, designed to have coaching delivered by non-specialist Early Childhood Development practitioners employed by the Education Department.

Duke Global Health Institute Pilot 2018-2019

PI: Lauren Franz

This pilot will facilitated south to south collaboration between two Duke Global Health Institute Priority Partnership Locations (Cape Town and Moshi) and built autism clinical and research capacity. In line with known implementation facilitators of autism diagnostic and early intervention services we aimed to develop academic stakeholder relationships and a centralized supervision structure that supported the development of autism diagnostic capacity at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Moshi, Tanzania.

Duke Global Health Initiative Pilot 2016-2018

PI: Lauren Franz

Building on the existing partnership between Duke Global Health Institute and the University of Cape Town, Franz and collaborators at the University of Cape Town led by Petrus de Vries will use the pilot grant to broaden collaborative partnerships between the Duke Global Health Institute and the University of Cape Town's Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The research study related to this pilot focused on explored the feasibility of a Parent-Child Interaction Therapy in South Africa.

Duke Global Mental Health Initiative Pilot 2014-2016

PI: Lauren Franz

With the support of Autism Speaks and pilot funding from the Duke Global Health Institute we conducted stakeholder qualitative individual interviews and focus groups to inform adaptation of a caregiver coaching Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions for use in a South African setting.

R25 TW009337 2013-2014

PI: Lauren Franz

NIH/Fogarty International Center

The KwaZulu-Natal Autism study, focused on the largely isiZulu but multi-cultural community in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The primary purpose of the study was to explore how best to identify isiZulu children are autistic.

AACAP Pilot Research Award 2010-2011

PI: Lauren Franz

This was a pilot study of physiological stress reactivity before, during, and after a mock scanner desensitization in 40 elementary school age children (ages 6 to 9 years old) who were participating in our Learning about the Developing Brain fMRI Study (R01 MH081025 PI: Egger). The pilot aimed to (1) extend exploration of the neurobiological underpinnings of early onset anxiety and (2) refine mock scan desensitization protocols for young children.