



December 7, 2005

Welcome to USAAA News, a weekly newsletter that addresses a range of topics on autism and Asperger Syndrome, the TIP of the week, and USAAA convention updates.

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**Lauren W. Underwood, PhD Appointed to Advisory Board**

Dr. Underwood both provides biomedical consulting for families with children on the autism spectrum and also has been steadfastly moving her daughter towards recovery from autism. Dr. Underwood received her doctorate in cell and molecular biology from Tulane University and, following graduation, was awarded a National Institute of Health Post-Doctoral Training Grant Fellowship in Vision Research.

In addition to consulting, Dr. Underwood also works as a senior staff scientist for Science Systems and Applications, Inc., a NASA contractor, at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center, and she received a NASA Group Achievement Award for outstanding management and implementation of NASA's Public Health Applications of Earth Sciences program. Dr. Underwood's publications include Relationship Between Local Cell Division and Cell Movement During Regeneration of Embryonic Xenopus Eye Fragments.

**Lenny Schafer Appointed to Advisory Board**

Lenny Schafer is the editor and publisher of the Schafer Autism Report. It is now in its 8th year of publication reaching 25,000 readers daily. Schafer's background includes journalism and computer processing.

In 1984, he started an image processing company in San Francisco. His clients included Apple Computer, Microsoft and IBM. In 1991 his son was diagnosed with autism. Schafer sold off his company to work full time caring for his son. Using his background in journalism and computers, he started an Internet newsletter digest of news and information about autism in 1997. He is a single parent to his now 17 year old son and a 19 year old daughter.



To Subscribe to the Schafer Autism Report, copy and paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.SARnet.org/>.

### **Myth: There is No Cure for (or Recovery from) ASDs**

"Tremendous advances have been made in the field of ASDs over the last decade. Granted, there still is no magic pill that cures everyone. However, there are cases of children who were diagnosed at clearly having ASDs, and who are now considered to be neurotypical or symptom-free by professionals thanks to interventions they have received....Recovery means that they have to have overcome some of the symptoms they had that made it difficult for them to live full and successful lives in a world created by neurotypicals."

—Chantal Sicile-Kira, from the book *Autism Spectrum Disorders, The Complete Guide to Understanding Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and Other ASDs*.

To Learn More About This Book, go to [http://www.usautism.org/chantal\\_book.htm](http://www.usautism.org/chantal_book.htm)

### **JOIN USAAA NOW - MEMBERSHIP HAS BENEFITS**

JOIN USAAA NOW AND RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF DIAGNOSIS AUTISM: NOW WHAT? 10 STEPS TO IMPROVE TREATMENT OUTCOMES, PLUS 10% OFF CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND EXCITING DISCOUNTS ON INTERVENTIONS THROUGH OUR SPONSORS.

### **Quote of the Week**

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. — Winston Churchill