

## *How the Diagnosis of Autism Helps Us Learn More About Autism*

The defining characteristics of autism have changed and expanded over the past two decades in large part due to substantial research progress and expanded clinical and educational resources. Dr. Akshoomoff's research has looked at autism from a variety of perspectives, including genetics, brain structure and function, early behavioral features, outcome predictors, and community diagnostic practices. In this presentation, she will describe results from recent genetics studies that influence our understanding of autism and developmental disorders. She will also describe the continuing challenges of diagnostic identification in community settings.