

Raphael Bernier, Ph.D.

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Biographical Information

Dr. Bernier is a licensed clinical psychologist, the Clinical Director of the Seattle Children's Autism Center, and Associate Professor at the University of Washington. He received his PhD at UW, his clinical training at UCLA, and holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Tufts University. As the author of over 100 scientific articles and chapters and the book *Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Reference Handbook*, the Principal Investigator of several NIH and privately funded studies focused on the etiology and neuroscience of Autism Spectrum Disorders, and an active clinician, Dr. Bernier is at the intersection of science and practice of ASD.

Presentation Abstract (4:30pm presentation)

Parsing the Heterogeneity of Autism Spectrum Disorder

ASD is a genetically and phenotypically heterogeneous disorder. While many behaviorally defined, subtypes have been proposed, these have not been linked to genetic etiology or treatment indicators, nor diagnosed consistently by expert clinicians. Several hundred genes and genomic regions have been associated with ASD. Given that parsing the behavioral heterogeneity has yielded limited utility, genetically defined subtypes may prove more beneficial in illuminating molecular mechanisms underlying ASD, the course and prognosis of a subgroup of individuals with ASD, and individualized treatment targets. This talk will highlight a genetics-first approach to understanding the heterogeneity in ASD to help inform subgroups, course and treatment avenues.