

# Developmental Disabilities Research Lab News

Quarterly Newsletter | Summer 2020 | Colorado State University | ddlabcsu@gmail.com | 970-491-1969

## Dear Friends,

Welcome to our new quarterly newsletter! We will be sharing updates and exciting news from the DD Lab in each edition. Whether you have been participating in our projects for years, are newly interested, or just exploring the idea of getting involved, we welcome you! Our team is so grateful for all of the participants in our research, their families, and our volunteers, for their time in our continued research endeavors. In our new newsletter, we hope to share different staff and events, spotlight participant accomplishments, and demonstrate our gratitude for this community. In the last year, our team has started FOUR new projects – all of which we could not do without the immense support from our community partners. Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Fidler & Dr. Lisa Daunhauer  
Kaylyn Van Deusen, Mariah Travis, & Sarah Looney

## DD Lab Receives \$3 Million for Down Syndrome Research

Thanks to the dedication of committed research participants, our lab has received funding to continue learning about thinking skills in people with Down syndrome. Read more about these projects [here](#) and at the end of this newsletter. Some of this funding comes from [DS INCLUDE](#), a funding project sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which specifically focuses on learning more about Down syndrome. DS INCLUDE has increased funding for Down syndrome research to ~ \$77 million per year.



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
RESEARCH LABORATORY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Our Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The DD Lab has paused all in-person data collection for the last several months in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working closely with CSU's safety team, the COVID-19 Task Force, and other experts regarding how to safely return to research. Our top priority is ensuring safety for all participants. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you all again soon!

## Emily Schworer graduates with Ph.D.

Emily, the DD Lab coordinator for the last 3 years, graduated from CSU with a Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Science. She is starting a post-doctoral fellowship position at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in June. Read more [here](#) about her many accomplishments and her commitment to supporting development in individuals with Down syndrome. We wish Emily great success as she continues making very important research contributions for individuals with disabilities.



## Molly Swanson graduates with MS

Molly graduated with her Master's degree this year, after completing a thesis focused on parent-guided intervention for infants with Down syndrome. Molly has helped with many assessments over the last two years. We wish Molly the best with her future professional endeavors!



## Research on the Go!

In March, research assistant Mariah Travis presented new findings at CSU's Annual Research Day. Mariah's work focused on the nature of early intervention for infants with DS who are born prematurely versus those who are born full-term.



# Developmental Disabilities Research Lab News

Quarterly Newsletter | Summer 2020 | Colorado State University | [ddlabcsu@gmail.com](mailto:ddlabcsu@gmail.com) | 970-491-1969

## In the community!

Over the last year, our team has had so much fun at events in the community! We are looking forward to continuing to see you all at RMDSA, Gigi Playhouse Denver, NCDSA, IMDSA, and all other events in the future. Please share any and all events that you have planned with us – we want to be there!



@ NCDSA Walk



@ GiGi's Playhouse Denver Sneak Peak



@ RMDSA Walk

## Meet the Team:



### Sarah Looney

Coming to our lab with extensive experience as an early intervention specialist, Sarah is excited to continue working with children with DS in a research setting. You will likely get to meet Sarah in upcoming visits to our lab.

### Kaylyn Van Deusen

Kaylyn joined the DD Lab in October 2019 from the Cognitive Developmental Center at CU Boulder. Her extensive research experience has been an asset to our current and future projects. Welcome, Kaylyn!



## Traveling Scholar Spends Semester with DD Lab

Sara Onnivello, a Doctoral student from the University of Padova in Italy, spent 6 months with our team this year. We learned so much from Sara about international perspectives on development in people with DS. She also wrote several important papers focused on early developmental milestones in young children with DS during her time with our team.



## Like us on Facebook!

We will be sharing fun activities to keep your family busy all summer!



## See you again soon!

We have many projects going on right now for all ages – 2.5 to 29 years old! If you are interested, call at 970-491-1969 or email at [ddlabcsu@gmail.com](mailto:ddlabcsu@gmail.com).

## Executive Functioning Outcomes Study

We are studying the best ways to measure Executive Function in children with Down syndrome. 'Executive Function' skills are the thinking skills we use for problem solving and planning.

**Ages:** 2.5 to 7 years old

**Compensation:** Up to \$200

**# of Visits:** 4

## Communication Study

A study to learn the best ways to measure language and communication skills for children with DS.

**Ages:** 2.5 to 7 years old

**Compensation:** Up to \$150

**# of Visits:** 3

## Cognitive Outcomes Study

A study to learn about the best ways to measure thinking skills for children, teens, and young adults with DS.

**Ages:** 6 to 29 years old

**Compensation:** Up to \$275

**# of Visits:** 6

## Infant-Follow Up Study

Over the last 5 years, our team visited 76 infants with Down syndrome across the country. We are excited to be following up with all these infants over the next 2 years to answer more questions about early development in children with Down syndrome!