

## Autism Assessment and Intervention

UNT has helped thousands of children and parents each year with pioneer training approaches in the field of autism and behavior analysis. UNT's widely recognized programs offer quality services and training designed and implemented by leading researchers, faculty members, and professionals with specialization in autism and related fields such as disabilities intervention, special education, early childhood intervention, and speech and language pathology. Similar to a teaching hospital, graduate students "learn by service," working alongside a multi-disciplinary team of faculty and experts both on campus and at the new Kristin Farmer Autism Center at UNT, a fully renovated 20,000 square foot building, conveniently located in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. An extensive knowledge base and global network of partners comprised of private providers, non-profit organizations, and government agencies ensures that children with autism spectrum disorders can benefit from the latest evidence-based practice, and that parents can receive ongoing training and support.

- **UNT's special education program offers one of a very limited number of Ph.D. programs in the country specializing in autism research, as well as a master's degree in autism intervention**
- **UNT has one of the largest and best-known behavior analysis programs in the world**
- **Kristin Farmer Autism Center offers pioneer technologies and comprehensive resources bridging university research with high quality, community services**
- **Expertise in special education, early childhood intervention, applied behavior analysis, speech and language pathology, and related fields in autism and disabilities intervention**
- **Home to the first graduate training program accredited by the Association of Behavior Analysis**
- **"Learning through service" model based on evidence-based practice with local, national, and international research and training partners**

### Representative Faculty

**Kevin Callahan**, Executive Director of the Kristen Farmer Autism Center at UNT; and former Associate Professor of Educational Psychology: *evidence-based practices in autism intervention; social and empirical validation of autism treatments; and behavior management strategies and interventions*

**Shahla Ala'i-Rosales**, BCBA-D, Associate Professor of Behavior Analysis: *behavioral interventions in autism; early childhood education; and parent and teacher training*

**Richard G. Smith**, Chair and Associate Professor of Behavior Analysis: *behavior analysis in developmental disabilities; severe behavior disorders; treatment of self-injurious behavior; and parent training and related services*

**Traci M. Cihon**, Assistant Professor of Behavior Analysis: *verbal behavior; applied behavior analysis and autism; and intervention strategies for children at-risk for reading failure*

**Bertina Combes**, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology: *disabilities; teacher development; and multicultural/diversity issues*

**Demetria Ennis-Cole**, Associate Professor of Learning Technologies: *technology utilization by special populations; and curriculum development with technology*

**Lauren Mathews**, Lecturer and Undergraduate Advisor of Speech and Hearing Sciences: *pediatric language and feeding disorders; and Autism Spectrum Disorders*

**Smita Mehta**, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology: *autism and developmental disabilities; classroom and behavior management; and applied behavioral analysis*



## Select Research Resources

### **Kristin Farmer Autism Center at UNT**

[autism.unt.edu](http://autism.unt.edu)

UNT's multidisciplinary team of highly trained, experienced, and committed professionals collaborate with parents, researchers, university students, and community service providers to deliver state-of-the-art educational, therapeutic, diagnostic and vocational services, and training. The center's mission is to significantly improve school and life outcomes for students and clients across the autism spectrum and across the lifespan.

### **North Texas Autism Project**

A service-learning project in the Department of Behavior Analysis, the project supports a variety of behavior analytic activities related to children with autism, including Easter Seals North Texas, University of Stockholm Blended ABA program, and the Systemic Institute of Behavior Analysis at the University of Athens.

### **ASAT: Association for Science in Autism Treatment**

[www.asatonline.org](http://www.asatonline.org)

ASAT is a not-for-profit organization of parents and professionals committed to improving the education, treatment, and care of people with autism. Established in 1998, its goal is to work toward adopting higher standards of accountability for the care, education, and treatment of all individuals with autism.

### **ABAI: Association of Behavior Analysis**

[www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org)

ABAI is a nonprofit membership organization with the mission to contribute to the well-being of society by developing, enhancing, and supporting the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis through research, education, and practice.

### **Autism Speaks**

[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

Autism Speaks has grown into the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization. It is dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism as well as increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

### **Behavior Analyst Certification Board**

[www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board is a nonprofit corporation established in 1998 to meet professional credentialing needs identified by behavior analysts, governments, and consumers of behavior analysis services. The BACB adheres to the national standards for boards that grant professional credentials. Its mission is to develop, promote, and implement an international certification program for behavior analyst practitioners.

### **TXABA: Texas Association for Behavior Analysis**

[www.txaba.org](http://www.txaba.org)

The mission of TXABA is to advance the science and application of behavior analysis to improve the world in which we live. To that end, TxABA strives to disseminate knowledge from the science of behavior analysis to the public and to professional behavior analysts working in Texas and its neighboring states (Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico).