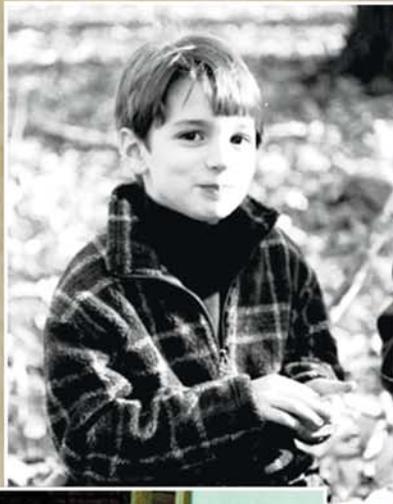




**Research**  
**Hope**  
**Commitment**

*Cover Photo:*

*NAAR Trustee Barri Rind and her son, Eitan—her main inspiration for co-chairing the inaugural Seattle Walk F.A.R. for NAAR event in 2002 and being a strong NAAR supporter.*



## WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a complex brain disorder that often inhibits a person's ability to communicate, respond to surroundings, or form relationships with others.

First identified more than 50 years ago, autism is typically diagnosed by the age of two or three. Autism is considered a spectrum disorder because symptoms and severity vary from individual to individual. Few disorders are as devastating to a child and his

or her family. Many children with autism will never be able to tell their parents they love them.

Although normal in appearance, children with autism often appear withdrawn into their own world and are unable to communicate or respond to the nuances of human expectations. Children with autism do not normally show interest in toys or demonstrate the ability to share their world and their discoveries with those who love them.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

### *Dear Friend of Autism Research:*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the National Alliance for Autism Research, we are delighted to share with you NAAR's annual report for Fiscal Year 2002. As you will see by examining this report, NAAR has been growing rapidly for the past several years. Our fundraising efforts are more and more successful, and, as a result, our research programs have grown both in number and in scope. Additionally, we continue to attract a tremendously dedicated and talented cadre of volunteers to our growing family.

NAAR's growth could not have come at a more propitious time. Rapid advances in biomedical research have provided scientists interested in autism spectrum disorders with new tools and technologies, which can be expected to have a significant impact on our efforts to understand why our children develop these disorders. Understanding what causes autism is critical if we are to develop more effective treatments and achieve our goal of preventing and someday curing autism spectrum disorders.

Biomedical research is developing these new tools and technologies at a dizzying pace. New imaging technologies allow us to peer inside the brain, new gene sequencing machines allow us to search for autism susceptibility genes and new animal models for autism allow us to contemplate more effective testing of various treatment strategies. Despite the fact that all of these tools and technologies are expensive, NAAR is committed to providing autism researchers with the resources required to enable their investigations to flourish.

So many people have contributed to NAAR's many accomplishments. Our record-breaking \$4 million commitment to autism research this fiscal year was made possible, in large part, due to the incredible success of our **Walk F.A.R. for NAAR** autism walkathon program. The Walk was held in 14 cities across the country this fiscal year. In the next year, we hope to double the number of communities involved with this program. NAAR also extends its thanks to its partners such as the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation, the New York Stock Exchange, the Boston Red Sox, and CIBC World Markets for their continuing support of autism research.

In 2002, NAAR raised more money for autism research than any non-governmental agency in the world. With your continued help and support, together we will solve the mysteries of autism, step by step by step.

*With our gratitude for your continued support,  
Sincerely,*



Prisca Chen Marvin  
*President*



Glenn R. Tringali  
*Chief Operating Officer*



The National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) is the first organization in the country dedicated to funding and accelerating biomedical research to unlock the mysteries of autism spectrum disorders and find a cure. Founded in 1994 by parents of children with autism concerned about the limited amount of funding available for autism research, NAAR was created in a spirit of optimism and excitement over the opportunities for accelerating the pace of autism research. This spirit continues to inspire and guide the organization today, enabled by recent advances in the neurosciences and other scientific fields. NAAR is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to fund, promote and accelerate biomedical research and science-based approaches that seek to determine the causes, prevention, effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for autism spectrum disorders. This mission includes providing grants to researchers for innovative pilot studies; mentor-based fellowships to recruit new scientists to focus on autism; and funding larger, collaborative research programs that have the potential to yield major scientific advances in autism research.

### *Why Support Autism Research?*

Currently, the causes of autism spectrum disorders are unknown and there are no specific medical treatments or cures. Physicians have no blood test or diagnostic scan to diagnose the disorder. The diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder is based solely on the observation of behaviors.

Funding and accelerating quality autism research is critical because research is the only way we will ever understand what causes autism, develop methods to diagnose autism earlier, develop better, more targeted interventions and specific medical treatments for autism spectrum disorders and, someday, find a cure.



## WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

NAAR-funded research has already been leveraged into more than \$23 million in larger, multi-year autism research grants from the National Institutes of Health and other sources.

The impact NAAR has made on autism research is nothing short of incredible. To date, NAAR has committed more than \$10 million to fund 119 autism research projects and fellowships worldwide—more than any other non-governmental organization.

NAAR continues to be the catalyst that has accelerated the pace of research and elevated the caliber of the science in autism research. NAAR's ongoing funding of pilot studies, mentor-based fellowships and collaborative research programs, as well as its legislative advocacy, have contributed to a significant increase in funding for autism research projects at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

This past year, NAAR has experienced incredibly fast growth—growth that reached new heights as we continued our momentum with research and development efforts.

NAAR has achieved many milestones in its brief history, but much more must be done. Despite increasing national interest in autism and strikingly high prevalence, autism research remains one of the lowest funded areas of research by both private and public sources.

### RESEARCH & PROGRAMS: ACCELERATING & ENHANCING THE SCIENCE

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2002, NAAR committed approximately \$4 million to fund 37 autism research projects, collaborative programs and fellowships in the United States, Canada, England, Italy and Germany. The 2002 awards represent an increase of approximately \$1 million over NAAR's 2001 research awards and mark the third consecutive year that NAAR has increased its research funding allocations by \$1 million. In addition, NAAR awarded grants to more researchers and fellows in 2002 than in any previous year, including an unprecedented 12 pre- and post-doctoral mentor-based fellowships.



Total: More than \$10 million for autism research.

**July 1994** The National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) is established, becoming the first organization dedicated to funding and accelerating biomedical research into the autism spectrum disorders.

**Sept 1994** NAAR begins the formation of its renowned Scientific Advisory Board, a collection of the

nation's leading scientists who provide ongoing expert guidance to develop NAAR's research agenda. The group is the first of its kind assembled to focus on autism research.

**Feb 1996** NAAR holds its first East Coast fundraising event, a post concert reception with

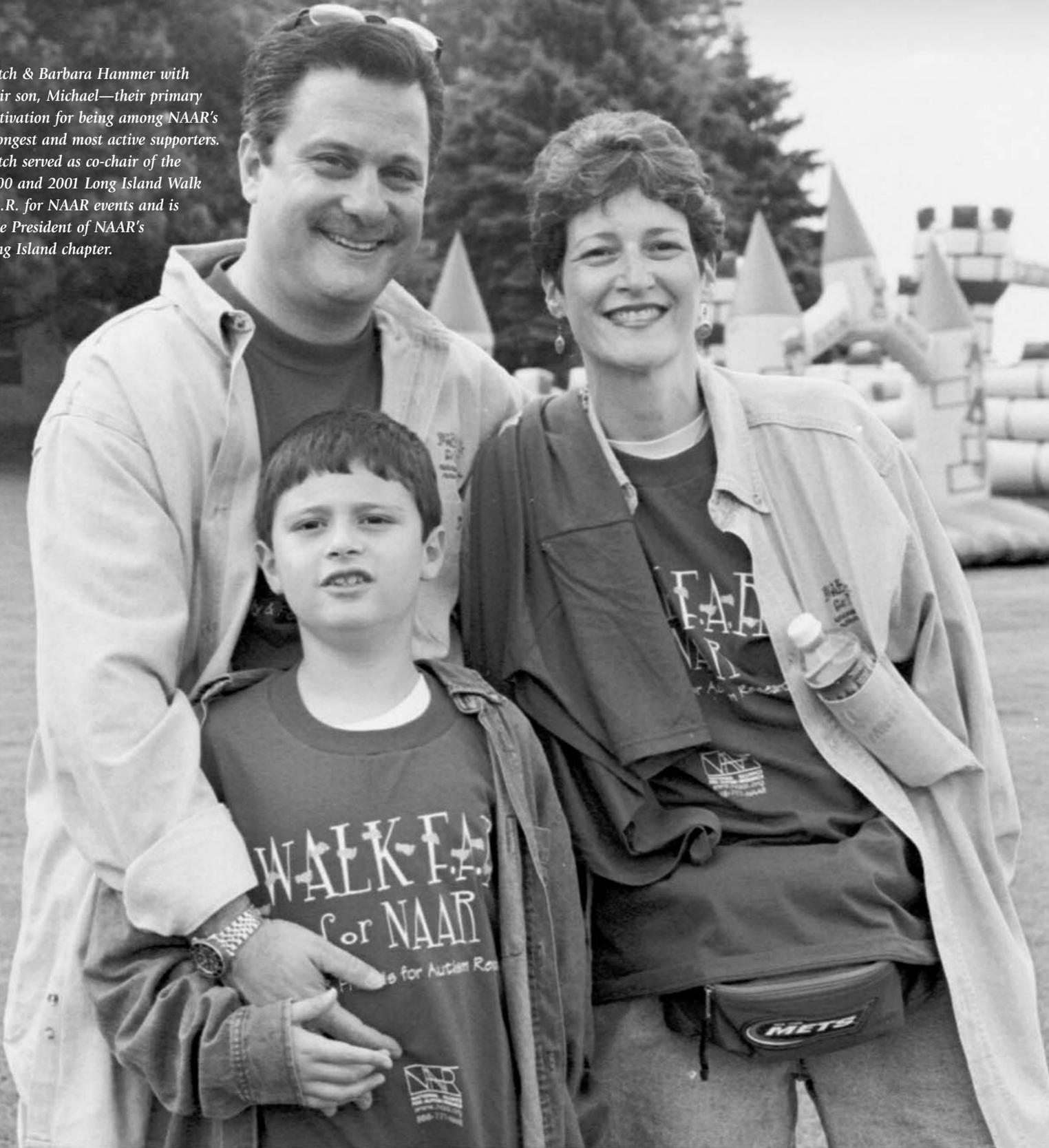
jazz legend Wynton Marsalis, a member of the NAAR Honorary Board.

**Sept 1996** NAAR and the National Institute of Mental Health sponsor the conference, *Genetic Factors in Autism: Cross Disciplinary Perspectives*.

**Dec 1996** NAAR receives \$500,000 from the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation to support development of an organizational infrastructure over a two-year period.

**Dec 1996** NAAR holds its first Scientific Advisory Board meeting at Harvard University to review and evaluate 30 autism research proposals.

*Mitch & Barbara Hammer with their son, Michael—their primary motivation for being among NAAR's strongest and most active supporters. Mitch served as co-chair of the 2000 and 2001 Long Island Walk F.A.R. for NAAR events and is Vice President of NAAR's Long Island chapter.*



**Jan 1997** NAAR awards its first autism research grants—five researchers each receive \$30,000 grants for pilot studies.

**May 1997** NAAR holds its first Scientific Initiative, at New York University Medical School, devoted to the pressing issue of increasing the availa-

bility of brain tissue for autism research.

**Sum 1997** *NAARRATIVE*, the official publication of NAAR, debuts with the inaugural issue. Cover stories include an article by Patricia Rodier, M.D. on thalidomide and autism and a feature on the NIH initiative to invest \$27 million

in an international consortium to examine the neurobiology and genetics of autism.

**Nov 1997** NAAR and the Centers for Disease Controls & Prevention sponsor the nation's first conference on the epidemiology and prevalence of autism.

**May 1998** Following the second meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board, NAAR awards more than \$500,000 in research and fellowship awards.

**July 1998** NAAR establishes the Autism Tissue Program, with the Autism Society of America Foundation.

The research initially funded by NAAR has made a dramatic impact on the autism research landscape in the United States, Canada and Europe and has been leveraged into more than \$23 million in autism research awards by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other funding sources.

In other words, every \$1 NAAR has committed to research has resulted in approximately \$8 invested by the federal government and other sources to further fund and expand this research.\*

## 2002 RESEARCH AWARDS - STILL PUTTING OUR EGGS IN MANY BASKETS

In FY 2002, NAAR's research awards represented a wide range of research, including: behavioral sciences, immunology, language and communication, developmental neurobiology, epidemiology, molecular biology, neuroimaging and genetics.



## PILOT STUDIES

At the core of NAAR's mission is funding grants that enable researchers to conduct pilot studies in autism research, which can then be leveraged into larger, multi-year grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other sources. While NAAR has expanded the scope of its research and development programs, the ongoing funding of pilot studies remains central to its mission. These important grants—up to \$60,000 for one year; up to \$120,000 for two years—cover a wide range of disciplines crucial to advancing autism research. In FY 2002, NAAR committed \$2.34 million to fund the following 22 pilot studies in autism research taking place in the United States, England, Italy and Germany.

### Schahram Akbarian, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Massachusetts Medical School (Worcester, MA)  
*Chromatin-Remodeling in Developing Prefrontal Cortex Implications for Autism*  
Two-year award - \$120,000

### Gillian Baird, M.D.

St. Thomas Hospital HNS & Guy's Hospital (London, England)  
*Is There Evidence of Antibodies Against Neural Tissue In Children with Autism?*  
Two-year award - \$106,629  
2002 Research Partner:  
Solving the Mystery of Autism Foundation

### Pradeep G. Bhide, Ph.D.

Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital (Charlestown, MA)  
*Dopamine & Brain Development: Implications for Autism Spectrum Disorders*  
Two-year award - \$120,000  
2002 Research Partner:  
Richard & Susan Smith Family Foundation

### C. Susan Carter, Ph.D.

University of Illinois - Chicago (Chicago, IL)  
*Oxytocin & Autism: An Animal Model*  
Two-year award - \$120,000  
2002 Research Partner: Friends of Autism

### Anna Dunaevsky, Ph.D.

Brown University (Providence, RI)  
*Synaptogenesis in Cerebellar Purkinje Cells of Normal & FMR1 Knockout Mice*  
Two-year award - \$120,000  
2002 Research Partner: FRAXA Research Foundation

### Judith K. Grether, Ph.D.

California Department of Health Services - Environmental Health Investigations (Oakland, CA)  
*Epidemiology of Autism in Multiple Births*  
Two-year award - \$119,998  
2002 Research Partner:  
Autism Coalition for Research & Education

### Martha R. Herbert, M.D., Ph.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, MA)  
*Neuroimaging of Young Children at High Risk for Autism*  
Two-year award - \$119,280  
2002 Research Partner:  
Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation

### Yong-hui Jiang, M.D.

Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX)  
*Epigenetics Alterations & Autism Susceptibility*  
Two-year award - \$119,350

\*Based on NAAR research awards from 1997 - 2000 that have been leveraged into larger grants from the NIH and other sources. Most researchers funded in 2001 and 2002 are still conducting their NAAR-funded studies and have not yet applied for additional funding from governmental sources.

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**Flavio Keller, M.D.**

Liberia Universita (Rome, Italy)  
*Reelin as a Target of Interaction between  
 Genotype & Environment in Autistic Disorder*  
 Two-year award - \$103,800

**David E. Mandelbaum, M.D., Ph.D.**

UMDNJ - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
 (New Brunswick, NJ)  
*A Longitudinal Analysis of the Neurological Findings in  
 Children with Autism, with High or Low IQ, and  
 Comparisons to Non-Autistic Children with Developmental  
 Language Disorder and Mental Retardation*  
 One-year award - \$34,210  
 2002 Research Partner:  
 Autism Coalition for Research & Education

**L. Alison McInnes, M.D.**

Mt. Sinai School of Medicine (New York, NY)  
*A Population Genetic Study of Autism in Andalusia, Spain*  
 One-year award - \$57,993

**Letitia R. Naigles, Ph.D.**

University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT)  
*The Development of Language Comprehension  
 in Children with Autism: A Longitudinal Study  
 Using the Intermodal Preferential Looking Program*  
 Two-year award - \$119,987  
 2002 Research Partner:  
 Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation

**Dennis D.M. O'Leary, Ph.D.**

Salk Institute for Biological Studies (La Jolla, CA)  
*Molecular Control of Inferior Olive Development -  
 A Step Towards Understanding the Neuropathology of Autism*  
 Two-year award - \$120,000  
 2002 Research Partner:  
 Autism Coalition for Research & Education

**Opal Ousley, Ph.D. & Lisa A. Parr, Ph.D.**

Emory University School of Medicine  
 (Atlanta, GA)  
*Physiological Responsiveness to Social Interaction  
 in Young Children with Autism*  
 Two-year award - \$90,725

**David L. Pauls, Ph.D.**

Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital  
 (Charlestown, MA)  
*A Genetic Study of High-Functioning Autism  
 and Asperger Syndrome in Finland*  
 Two-year award - \$120,000  
 2002 Research Partner:  
*This project is dedicated in memory of Lisa Fenn Gordonstein  
 and funded by her family, friends and colleagues.*

**Nicholas Ponzio, Ph.D.**

UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School  
 (Newark, NJ)  
*Contribution of Immunological Mechanisms  
 to Autism Spectrum Disorders*  
 Two-year award - \$118,800  
*This project is dedicated in memory of Dr. Don C. Wiley.*

**Hugo Theoret, Ph.D.**

Harvard Medical School/Beth Israel Deaconess  
 Medical Center (Boston, MA)  
*Motor Output & Mirror Cell Systems in Autism  
 Studied by Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation*  
 Two-year award - \$116,401  
 2002 Research Partner:  
 Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation

**Poul Thorsen, M.D., Ph.D.**

Aarhus University (Denmark)  
*Risk Factors for Neurodevelopmental Disorders:  
 MMR Vaccine & Childhood Autism*  
 Two-year award - \$80,300

**Chandan J. Vaidya, Ph.D.**

Children's National Medical Center/Children's Research  
 Institute (Washington, D.C.)  
*Using Functional MRI to Examine Social &  
 Non-social Attention Regulation in Autism*  
 Two-year award - \$97,792

**Christoph Schmitz, M.D.**

RWTH University at Aachen (Germany)  
*Quantitative Analysis of Histologic Alterations  
 in Cerebral Cortex, Cerebellum & Brainstem in Autism*  
 Two-year award - \$98,700

**Jerzy Wegiel, VMD, Ph.D.**

New York State Institute for Basic Research in  
 Developmental Disabilities (Staten Island, NY)  
*Clinicopathological Correlations in Autism*  
 Two-year award - \$120,000

**Stephanie A. White, Ph.D.**

University of California - Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)  
*Inside & Outside the Critical Period:  
 Neural Substrates for Vocal Learning*  
 Two-year award - \$120,000



## MENTOR-BASED FELLOWSHIPS

In FY 2002, NAAR significantly expanded its Fellowship Program by investing an unprecedented amount of nearly \$1 million in mentor-based fellowships for both pre- and post-doctoral candidates. The goal of these fellowships is to attract the best and brightest young investigators to the field of autism research.

The inspiration for this investment is simple: All around the country, both parents and researchers have come to realize the difficulty in finding experts in autism in both clinical and research settings. There are currently not enough specialists in autism. NAAR's Fellowship Program provides the additional, valuable resources to support and encourage the development of young scientists who benefit from the mentorship of prominent researchers. We believe our investment in autism research training will grow exponentially as many of our fellows become experienced clinicians, assume teaching positions and join departments around the world that presently have no representation in autism research.



**NAAR Science Volunteers:** (from left) NAAR Trustee C.T. Gordon, III, M.D., Medical Advisory Committee; Richard Nowakowski, Ph.D., Scientific Advisory Board; NAAR Trustee Eric London, M.D., Vice President, Medical Affairs & Medical Advisory Committee; Roberto Tuchman, M.D., Scientific Advisory Board.

## PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

- Autism Research Centre (Cambridge, England)  
Mentor: **Simon Baron-Cohen, Ph.D.**  
Fellow: **Ofer Golan**
- University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT)  
Mentor: **Deborah A. Fein, Ph.D.**  
Fellow: **Jessica Steward Lord**
- New England Medical Center (Boston, MA)  
Mentor: **Susan Folstein, M.D.**  
Fellow: **Ray Mankowski**  
2002 Research Partner: The Mellanby Autism Foundation
- University of Illinois - Chicago (Chicago, IL)  
Mentor: **John A. Sweeney, Ph.D.**  
Fellow: **Shelly Steele**
- Yale University School of Medicine (New Haven, CT)  
Mentors: **Fred R. Volkmar, M.D.** & **Rhea Paul, Ph.D.**  
Fellow: **Hillary Chuba**

## POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

- Yale University School of Medicine (New Haven, CT)  
Mentor: **Pasko Rakic, M.D., Sc.D.**  
Fellow: **Skirmantas Janusonis, Ph.D.**  
*This fellowship is dedicated in memory of Dr. Roland D. Ciaranello.*
- University of California - San Francisco (San Francisco, CA)  
Mentor: **John L.R. Rubenstein, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Fellow: **Youlin Ruan, Ph.D.**  
*This fellowship is dedicated in honor of Dr. Marie Bristol-Power.*
- University of Illinois - Chicago (Chicago, IL)  
Mentor: **John A. Sweeney, Ph.D.**  
Fellow: **Yukari Takarae, Ph.D.**
- Boston University School of Medicine (Boston, MA)  
Mentor: **Helen Tager-Flusberg, Ph.D.**  
Fellow: **Shiri Pearlman-Avniion, Ph.D.**
- University of Texas - Houston (Houston, TX)  
Mentor: **Jocelyne Bachevalier, Ph.D.**  
Fellow: **Anne Pierre-Goursand, Ph.D.**
- Yale University School of Medicine (New Haven, CT)  
Mentor: **Ami Klin, Ph.D.**  
Fellow: **Celine Antoinette Saulnier, Ph.D.**  
2002 Research Partner: CIBC World Markets

## COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

Collaborative programs and scientific consortiums unite researchers working towards a common goal, whether it is based in genetics, behavioral sciences or another field of research. In FY 2002, NAAR committed \$720,400 to fund three collaborative programs.

### IDENTIFYING EARLY MARKERS OF AUTISM: A STUDY OF INFANT SIBLINGS

Commonly known as the “Baby Sibs Study,” NAAR first funded this project in 1997 and transformed it into an extensive, multi-site project in 2001. In FY 2002, NAAR invested an additional \$100,000 into this project, bringing the total overall commitment to the study to \$700,000—the largest investment NAAR has made to a single project. The Baby Sibs Study is designed to better identify early signs of autism and develop more targeted interventions for younger children. The project includes researchers at multiple sites in the U.S. and Canada that are evaluating a large number of children at an increased risk for developing the disorder: the infant siblings of children with autism. Children involved in the study will be between three-to-six months old—much younger than any other children involved in past studies.

### AUTISM TISSUE PROGRAM EXPANSION

In 1998, NAAR played a pivotal role in funding and establishing the Autism Tissue Program, a science-driven brain tissue donation program that makes post-mortem brain tissue available to as many qualified scientists as possible to advance autism research.

NAAR committed \$140,000 in FY 2002 to launch a new component of the Autism Tissue Program that brings together the autism community with organ procurement organizations and medical examiner’s offices in Iowa, Maine, Michigan and New Mexico to increase the amount of brain tissue available to scientists focusing on autism research and develop a standard protocol for tissue collection and

storage. This program partners with the Autism Society of America (ASA), which will focus on outreach and awareness through its membership chapters. Additionally, the program will work with medical examiner’s offices, statewide developmental disability programs and professional organ procurement organizations to develop uniform standards that are more sensitive to the needs of donor families and result in storage protocols that will yield higher quality tissue that is more conducive to broad applications of autism research.

### GENETICS INITIATIVE

NAAR committed \$480,400 in FY 2002 to fund a collaborative project led by David Skuse, M.D., Ph.D., and Eric Lander, Ph.D. This study, which marks the second largest investment by NAAR to a single project, focuses on a common phenotype expressed by people with Turner Syndrome and autism: the inability to recognize fear as a facial expression. It aims to locate the genes responsible for that common phenotype. The discovery of the genes responsible for the shared phenotype may lead to the identification of susceptibility genes for both Turner Syndrome and autism and could lay the foundations for a genetic explanation of key aspects of autism itself. This project marks the first time cutting edge genomic technology known as haplotype analysis is being applied to a genetic study of a brain-based disorder. Haplotype analysis is the latest way researchers are analyzing genetic information based on single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs. SNPs (pronounced “snips”) are actually the difference between genetic sequences in two individuals. SNPs generally occur in human DNA at a frequency of one every 1,000 bases and can be used to track inheritance in families. Interestingly, an international consortium composed of government health agencies and research institutions from the U.S., Canada, China, Japan and the United Kingdom have recently launched a \$100 million project to create a map of the human genome based on haplotype analysis.

NAAR’s investment in the Skuse/Lander study using haplotype analysis for autism is both timely and groundbreaking.

## ADDITIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

In FY 2002, NAAR allocated additional funding—not included in its 2002 research awards—to fund three scientific consortiums focusing on autism research.

### Canadian Autism Research Workshop:

NAAR and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research agreed to co-sponsor an inaugural workshop to unite North America's leading autism researchers, government health officials and autism organizations to present the "state of the science" in autism research and begin to develop a plan to increase and enhance autism research in Canada.

### Autism Genetics Cooperative:

For the third consecutive year, NAAR and the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation sponsored this annual retreat in Callaway Gardens, Georgia. The Autism Genetics Cooperative—a collaboration of autism geneticists—provides one of the only venues for the world's leading genetic researchers focusing on autism to share information and combine data with the hopes of accelerating the search for autism susceptibility genes. The retreat was held in March 2002.

### International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR):

FY 2002 marked the inaugural International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), the first scientific conference focusing exclusively on autism research. NAAR served as a founding sponsor of the event. The only such conference of its kind, IMFAR is held for researchers involved in all aspects of autism research, from the neurosciences and genetics to immunology and language and communication. IMFAR was held November, 2001, in San Diego.

## FY 2002 RESEARCH SPOTLIGHTS

### Autism Tissue Program: NIH Database Grant

The Autism Tissue Program was notified in FY 2002 that it had received an NIH grant to develop a state-of-the-art computerized data-

base for all registrants and donors to the program. The \$75,000 award, made by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), will enable the Autism Tissue Program to develop an online information portal to make tissue acquisition and distribution more efficient. In addition, the database will allow the Autism Tissue Program to better monitor the progress of scientists who receive tissue from the program and store the results of studies performed in a forum open to all researchers. Such a collection of brain studies will facilitate collaborations that enable researchers to make correlations among brain studies, such as neuroanatomy projects, gene expression studies and volume metric studies. This research tool will eventually allow NAAR to receive higher quality proposals, thereby elevating the caliber of the science.

Currently, the Autism Tissue Program includes more than 3,000 registrants and has collected nearly 50 specimens for research. The Autism Tissue Program makes post-mortem brain tissue available to as many qualified scientists as possible to advance autism research. Using brain tissue, scientists can go far beyond the constraints of other technologies and study autism on a cellular and molecular level.

### Autism Genetics Cooperative: NIH Infrastructure Grant

The Autism Genetics Cooperative was notified in FY 2002 that it had received a NIH grant to develop a collaborative infrastructure based on a shared database for members of the cooperative. The five-year \$3.6 million award is made by the National Institute for Neurological Disorders & Stroke (NINDS). Currently, members of the cooperative have used different methods of evaluation to interview families and collect genetic data. This grant will enable members of the cooperative to "clean" and pool their data, based on uniform protocol and clinical criteria, so that all samples can be combined for greater statistical power and enable researchers in the cooperative to collaborate more efficiently.

**NAAR-funded Research Published in Major Journals**

The following is a partial listing of researchers who have had their NAAR-funded studies published in major scientific journals during FY 2002:

- **Larry J. Young, Ph.D.**, Emory University  
(co-author) "Oxytocin in the Medical Amygdala is Essential for Social Recognition in the Mouse"  
*The Journal of Neuroscience*, October 15, 2001 - 21(20): 8278-8285
- **Jeffrey D. Macklis, M.D.**,  
Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School  
(co-author) "Specific Neurotrophic Factors Support the Survival of Cortical Projection Neurons at Distinct Stages of Development."  
*The Journal of Neuroscience*, November 15, 2001 - 21(22): 8863-8872
- **Karen M. Weidenheim, M.D.**,  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
(lead author) "Etiology and Pathophysiology of Autistic Behavior: Clues From Two Cases With an Unusual Variant of Neuroaxonal Dystrophy."  
*Journal of Child Neurology*, Volume 16, Number 11, November 2001.
- **Susan Folstein, M.D.**,  
Tufts University/New England Medical Center  
(lead author) "Genetics of Autism: Complex Aetiology for a Heterogeneous Disorder"  
*Nature Reviews Genetics*, December 2001 (943-955)
- **Ami Klin, Ph.D., Robert Schultz, Ph.D. & Fred Volkmar, M.D.**,  
Yale Child Study Center  
Klin (lead author), Schultz & Volkmar (co-authors) "Defining and Quantifying the Social Phenotype in Autism"  
*American Journal of Psychiatry*, June 2002 - 159: 895-908
- **Jane Pickett, Ph.D.**, Autism Tissue Program  
(lead author) "Introduction to Current Investigations in Autism Brain Tissue Research"  
(co-author) "Causes of Death in Autism"  
*Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, Volume 31, Number 6, December 2001
- **Gene J. Blatt, Ph.D.**, Boston University Medical School, & **Margaret Bauman, M.D.**, Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital  
Blatt (lead author), Bauman (co-author) "Density and Distribution of Hippocampal Neurotransmitter Receptors in Autism: An Autoradiographic Study"  
*Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, Volume 31, Number 6, December 2001
- **Scott E. Hemby, Ph.D., & James T. Winslow, Ph.D.**,  
Emory University  
Hemby (lead author), Winslow (co-author) "Functional Genomics Approaches to a Primate Model of Autistic Symptomology"  
*Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, Volume 31, Number 6, December 2001
- **Raju K. Pullarkat, Ph.D.**,  
New York State Institute for Basic Research  
(co-author) "Proteomic Approach for the Elucidation of biological Defects in Autism"  
*Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, Volume 31, Number 6, December 2001
- **David G. Amaral, Ph.D.**,  
the M.I.N.D. Institute at University of California, Davis  
(co-author) "Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Post-Mortem Autistic Brain"  
*Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, Volume 31, Number 6, December 2001

**National Alliance for Autism Research, Inc.**

**Financial Statements**

**June 30, 2002 and 2001**

**Independent Auditors' Report**

Board of Trustees  
National Alliance for Autism Research, Inc.  
Princeton, New Jersey

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the National Alliance for Autism Research, Inc. (the "Corporation") as of June 30, 2002 and 2001, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements enumerated above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Alliance for Autism Research, Inc. as of June 30, 2002 and 2001, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Eisner LLP*

Eisner LLP  
New York, New York  
July 30, 2002

## Statements of Financial Position

	June 30,	
	2002	2001
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,055,065	\$ 2,788,300
Investments	440,972	480,000
Pledges receivable, net	852,360	1,289,388
Prepaid expenses and other receivables	5,364	7,709
Security deposit	2,260	2,260
Property and equipment, net	31,745	48,879
	<b>\$ 6,387,766</b>	<b>\$ 4,616,536</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Liabilities:		
Research grants and fellowship awards payable	\$ 3,257,069	\$ 2,198,246
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	290,804	58,195
Total liabilities	3,547,873	2,256,441
Commitments (Notes E and F)		
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	2,445,935	1,962,503
Temporarily restricted	393,958	397,592
Total net assets	2,839,893	2,360,095
	<b>\$ 6,387,766</b>	<b>\$ 4,616,536</b>

## Statements of Activities

	Year Ended June 30,					
	2002			2001		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Public support and revenue:						
Contributions (including in-kind contributions of \$177,243 in 2002 and \$173,000 in 2001)	\$ 1,191,558	\$ 333,975	\$ 1,525,533	\$ 1,726,273	\$ 256,624	\$ 1,982,897
Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Walkathon (including in-kind contributions of \$17,315 in 2002 and \$0 in 2001)	4,202,232		4,202,232	2,203,220		2,203,220
Other special events (net of direct benefit to participants of \$128,851 in 2002 and \$11,535 in 2001)	565,318		565,318	29,509		29,509
Investment income	81,531		81,531	120,059		120,059
Other income	85		85	1,905		1,905
Total public support and revenue before releases of restrictions	6,040,724	333,975	6,374,699	4,080,966	256,624	4,337,590
Net assets released from restriction	337,609	(337,609)	0	496,981	(496,981)	0
Total public support and revenue	6,378,333	(3,634)	6,374,699	4,577,947	(240,357)	4,337,590
Expenses:						
Program services	4,386,985		4,386,985	2,539,216		2,539,216
Supporting services:						
Management and general	326,466		326,466	238,839		238,839
Fund-raising	1,181,450		1,181,450	763,417		763,417
Total supporting services	1,507,916		1,507,916	1,002,256		1,002,256
Total expenses	5,894,901		5,894,901	3,541,472		3,541,472
Change in net assets	483,432	(3,634)	479,798	1,036,475	(240,357)	796,118
Net assets - July 1	1,962,503	397,592	2,360,095	926,028	637,949	1,563,977
Net assets - June 30	\$ 2,445,935	\$ 393,958	\$ 2,839,893	\$ 1,962,503	\$ 397,592	\$ 2,360,095

## Statements of Functional Expenses

Year Ended June 30,

	2002				2001			
	Program Services	Management and General	Fund-raising	Total Expenses	Program Services	Management and General	Fund-raising	Total Expenses
Salary and donated services	\$ 383,555	\$ 137,362	\$ 96,067	\$ 616,984	\$ 193,101	\$ 137,867	\$ 109,589	\$ 440,557
Employee benefits and payroll taxes	44,915	21,382	14,954	81,251	13,452	9,350	8,331	31,133
Program service awards	3,038,845			3,038,845	1,959,297			1,959,297
Scientific Advisory Board	120,586			120,586	30,034			30,034
Autism Tissue Program	277,297			277,297	179,093			179,093
Consulting	33,584	8,493	5,083	47,160				
Occupancy	28,329	21,457	21,457	71,243	10,597	10,597	10,597	31,791
Printing	101,519	2,747	49,892	154,158	16,027	1,781	32,348	50,156
Travel and transportation	31,196	5,663	11,326	48,185	19,904	4,449	20,414	44,767
Meals and lodging	11,686	1,508	481	13,675	5,805	2,646	15,258	23,709
Catering and entertainment	448	1,260	1,840	3,548		67	5,000	5,067
Meetings and conferences	62,886		38,000	100,886	45,743		5,975	51,718
Telephone	18,375	12,967	12,967	44,309	12,760	12,760	12,760	38,280
Postage and shipping	31,797	3,867	7,030	42,694	15,663	3,911	16,382	35,956
Accounting and auditing	11,686	10,928	10,928	33,542	5,833	5,834	5,833	17,500
Equipment rental and maintenance	17,742	5,887	5,887	29,516	2,984	5,968	995	9,947
Computer programming	9,420	29,865	6,892	46,177	782	4,689	2,344	7,815
Supplies	15,225	11,847	6,397	33,469	7,222	15,887	9,685	32,794
Recruiting	32,108	16,054	16,054	64,216	6,603	6,603		13,206
Filing fees	1,992	6,741		8,733		4,463		4,463
Walk Program			852,471	852,471			485,757	485,757
Administrative services	7,610	4,861	5,671	18,142				
Research materials	1,578			1,578	619	619		1,238
Insurance	5,266	4,636	4,636	14,538	1,983	1,982	1,983	5,948
Dues and subscriptions	380	3,500	275	4,155	1,975	350	160	2,485
Public relations/advertising	65,893	1,762	1,744	69,399	2,253	1,733	13,342	17,328
Depreciation	11,287	10,964	9,997	32,248	7,484	7,270	6,628	21,382
Miscellaneous	21,780	2,715	1,401	25,896	2	13	36	51
	\$ 4,386,985	\$ 326,466	\$ 1,181,450	\$ 5,894,901	\$ 2,539,216	\$ 238,839	\$ 763,417	\$ 3,541,472

## Statements of Cash Flows

	Year Ended June 30,	
	2002	2001
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ 479,798	\$ 796,118
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	32,248	21,382
Net realized/unrealized losses on investments	2,613	2,015
Donated investments		(85,438)
Changes in:		
Pledges receivable	437,028	(350,755)
Prepaid expenses and other receivables	2,345	(2,402)
Research grants and fellowship awards payable	1,058,823	991,388
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	232,609	(81,155)
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,245,464	1,291,153
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchases of investments	(443,585)	(480,000)
Proceeds from sales of investments	480,000	83,423
Purchases of property and equipment	(15,114)	(40,243)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	21,301	(436,820)
<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,266,765</b>	<b>854,333</b>
Cash and cash equivalents - July 1	2,788,300	1,933,967
<b>Cash and cash equivalents - June 30</b>	<b>\$ 5,055,065</b>	<b>\$ 2,788,300</b>

## Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2002 and 2001

### NOTE A - THE CORPORATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### [1] The Corporation:

The National Alliance for Autism Research, Inc. (the "Corporation") is a not-for-profit entity founded in 1994 to fund, promote and support biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatment and, eventually, a cure for autism spectrum disorders.

The Corporation is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and from state income taxes under comparable laws.

#### [2] Financial reporting:

##### (a) Accrual basis financial statements:

The financial statements of the Corporation have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to not-for-profit organizations.

##### (b) Functional allocation of expenses:

The cost of providing the Corporation's program and supporting services has been summarized on a functional basis in the accompanying statements of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the program and supporting services in ratios determined by management.

##### (c) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

##### (d) Cash equivalents:

For financial reporting purposes, the Corporation considers all highly liquid investments, with maturities of three months or less when purchased, to be cash equivalents.

##### (e) Investments:

Investments in certificate of deposits are reported at their stated values. Donated securities are initially recorded at their market values on the dates of gift. It is the Corporation's policy to sell donated securities upon receipt.

##### (f) Contributions and pledges receivable:

Contributions are recorded as revenue upon the receipt of cash or unconditional pledges. Contributions are considered available for unrestricted use, unless specifically restricted by the donor.

The Corporation reports contributions in the temporarily or permanently restricted net asset class if they are received with donor stipulations or time considerations as to their use. When a donor's restriction is met, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or the purpose of the restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

##### (g) Property and equipment:

Property and equipment are stated at their costs at the dates of acquisition. Depreciation of property and equipment is provided using the straight-line method over estimated useful lives of three to five years.

##### (h) Research grants and fellowship awards:

The Corporation records appropriations for research grants and fellowship awards as a liability and expense following review by its Scientific Advisory Board and selection by the Board of Trustees. Certain grants and awards initially cover a period of one year and may then be subject to renewal for an additional year after certain conditions are met.

##### (i) Net assets:

Net assets of the Corporation are classified and reported as follows:

##### (1) Unrestricted:

Unrestricted net assets represent those resources for which there are no restrictions by donors as to their use.

##### (ii) Temporarily restricted:

Temporarily restricted net assets represent those resources that are subject to donor-imposed stipulations that will be met either by actions of the Corporation and/or the passage of time. Net assets released from restrictions represent the satisfaction of the restricted purposes.

##### (j) Prior-year reclassifications:

Certain prior-year amounts have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

### NOTE B - PLEDGES RECEIVABLE

Pledges of contributions are estimated to be collected as follows:

	June 30,	
	2002	2001
2002		\$ 1,022,178
2003	\$ 657,144	180,000
2004	234,000	180,000
2005	24,000	20,000
2006	4,000	
	919,144	1,402,178
Less allowance for doubtful pledges receivable	40,500	68,000
	878,644	1,334,178
Reduction of pledges due in excess of one year to present value, using a discount rate of 5%	26,284	44,790
	\$ 852,360	\$ 1,289,388

### NOTE C - INVESTMENTS

At June 30, 2002, investments consisted of certificates of deposits with a cost and market value of \$443,585 and \$440,972, respectively. At June 30, 2001, the certificates of deposit had a cost and market value of \$480,000.

### NOTE D - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

At each fiscal year-end, property and equipment consisted of the following:

	June 30,	
	2002	2001
Computer hardware and software	\$ 102,474	\$ 87,360
Office furniture and fixtures	10,711	10,711
	113,185	98,071
Less accumulated depreciation	(81,440)	(49,192)
	\$ 31,745	\$ 48,879

### NOTE E - RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIP AWARDS PAYABLE

The accompanying statements of financial position include pre-committed research and fellowship grants and awards aggregating \$3,257,069 and \$2,198,246 for the years ended June 30, 2002 and 2001, respectively. The grants and awards are generally payable within one year.

In addition to the above amounts, research and fellowship grants and awards of approximately \$1,840,294 are subject to discretionary renewal as described in Note A[2](h), and are scheduled to be disbursed through June 30, 2004, pending the satisfactory progress of research and the availability of funds.

NOTE F - COMMITMENTS

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001, the Corporation relocated its offices and entered into a new lease expiring February 28, 2004. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002, the Corporation entered into two new leases for offices in Pittsburgh and Florida which expire October 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003, respectively. In addition, the Corporation leases office equipment through non-cancelable leases expiring through May 31, 2007. Future minimum rental payments, including amounts for office equipment leases are as follows:

	Year Ending June 30,
2003	\$ 118,215
2004	89,546
2005	29,208
2006	5,224
2007	4,920
	<u>\$ 247,113</u>

Rent expense was \$71,243 and \$31,791 for each of the fiscal years ended June 30, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

NOTE G - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

At each fiscal year-end, temporarily restricted net assets were restricted for the following:

	June 30,	
	2002	2001
Autism Tissue Program	\$ 170,027	\$ 79,273
Time restricted	223,931	318,319
	<u>\$ 393,958</u>	<u>\$ 397,592</u>

Net assets released from restrictions were for the following:

	June 30,	
	2002	2001
Autism Tissue Program	\$ 157,609	\$ 316,981
Time restricted	180,000	180,000
	<u>\$ 337,609</u>	<u>\$ 496,981</u>

NOTE H - DONATED SERVICES

The Corporation received donated services in connection with its programs and operations. The fair value of these items, consisting of salaries and rent, is recorded in the accompanying financial statements for each fiscal year as follows:

	Year Ended June 30,	
	2002	2001
Program services	\$ 153,500	\$ 77,850
Management and general	21,410	57,090
Fund-raising	19,648	38,060
	<u>\$ 194,558</u>	<u>\$ 173,000</u>

NOTE I - CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Corporation to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash-equivalent accounts which are deposited in financial institutions and which, from time to time, may exceed federal insurance limits. However, management believes that the Corporation does not face a significant risk of loss on these accounts due to the failure of these financial institutions. Cash and cash equivalents exceeding insured limits totaled approximately \$663,000 at June 30, 2002.

NOTE J - ALLOCATION OF JOINT COSTS

The Corporation incurred joint costs of \$1,023,801 for informational materials and activities that included fund-raising appeals. Of those costs, \$852,470 was allocated to fund-raising expense and \$171,331 was allocated to program expense.



## OUR VOLUNTEERS: CHANGING THE COURSE OF AUTISM RESEARCH

*In FY 2002, NAAR established the London Award to recognize the outstanding efforts of volunteers who make significant contributions advancing autism research and NAAR's mission. The award is named after NAAR founders Eric & Karen London—who accepted the first London Award in April 2002 with their son, Zachary in recognition for their dedication to the alliance and their work to accelerate the pace of autism research.*

**O**ur volunteers are the life force of NAAR—the people making it happen. These talented and dedicated individuals move mountains—to raise millions of dollars for autism research, secure in the knowledge that NAAR is investing in the finest autism research available. NAAR volunteers serve in a wide capacity and are critical to many areas of operation.

### Volunteers serve as:

- Trustees, providing guidance and vision to the organization
- Members of the Scientific Advisory Board and Medical Affairs Committee, developing NAAR's research agenda and evaluating requests for proposals
- Fundraisers, establishing contacts, chairing and working on Walk events and gala dinners and helping enhance NAAR's public relations efforts
- Government Relations Advocates, monitoring activity related to autism on the federal level and in their communities
- Webmasters, developing, designing and updating websites for both NAAR and Walk F.A.R. for NAAR

In FY 2002, volunteers played a critical role in enabling the organization to respond to rapid growth by helping to expand NAAR's efforts in the areas of Walk development, research and programs, finance and communications, thereby maximizing the impact of what NAAR collectively accomplishes.



***Moving Mountains:** (from left) NAAR volunteers Dolores Rezendes and Margie & Anthony Pascetta, who each played a key role in making the New England Walk the second highest fundraising inaugural Walk in FY 2002 and firmly establishing NAAR's presence in New England.*

**Spr 1998** In response to concerned parents in Brick Township, NJ and with the help of NAAR, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) begin the first U.S. prevalence study in decades to investigate a possibly larger than expected number of children with autism spectrum disorders in Brick

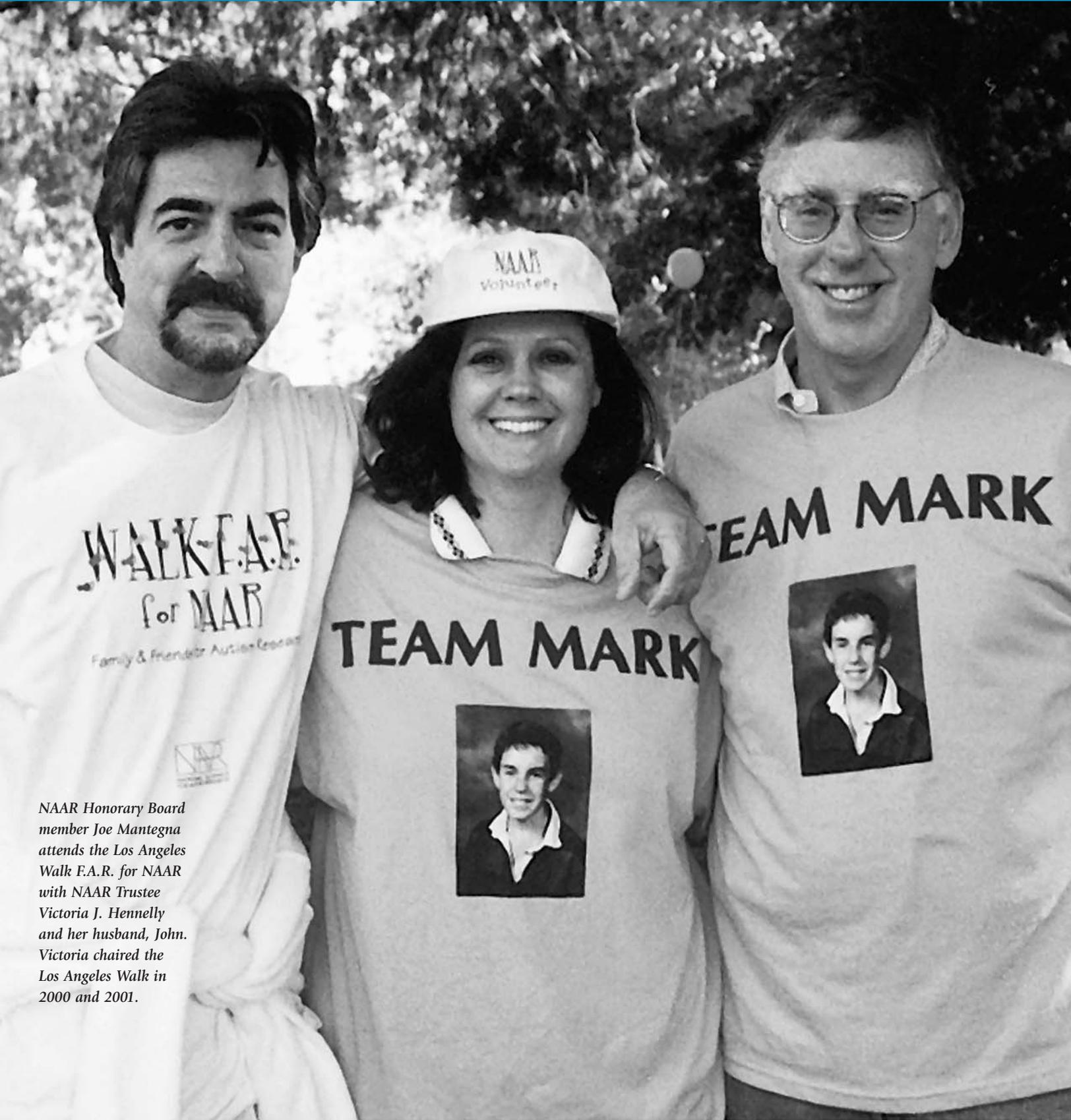
Township. The study found 4 cases of autism per 1,000 children—and 6.7 cases of autism spectrum disorders per 1,000 children—strikingly high prevalence.

**Mar 1999** NAAR plays a pivotal role to draft, introduce and promote two pieces of federal legislation: *The Autism Statistical*

*Surveillance, Research and Epidemiology Act of 1998 (ASSURE); and The Advancement in Pediatric Autism Research Act.* These bills later become Title I of the Children's Health Act of 2000, which is signed into law by President Clinton in October 2000.

**June 1999** Following the third meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board, NAAR awards more than \$800,000 in research and fellowship awards.

**Sept 1999** Based on initial funding by NAAR, the Autism Tissue Program is awarded a \$525,000 grant by the National Institutes of Health.



*NAAR Honorary Board member Joe Mantegna attends the Los Angeles Walk F.A.R. for NAAR with NAAR Trustee Victoria J. Hennelly and her husband, John. Victoria chaired the Los Angeles Walk in 2000 and 2001.*

**Oct 1999** NAAR receives a \$1 million challenge grant from the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation.

**Mar 2000** NAAR and the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation sponsor the first retreat of the Autism Genetics Cooperative at Callaway Gardens in Georgia to

promote the collaboration of autism genetics research groups from around the world.

**May 2000** Following the fourth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board meeting, NAAR awards more than \$1.5 million in research and fellowship awards.

**May 2000** Beginning with an event in Pittsburgh, NAAR launches **Walk F.A.R. for NAAR**, the first national autism research walkathon program, designed to foster support for autism research and autism awareness on a national level. Dan Marino, and his wife, Claire, become national honorary chairs of Walk F.A.R. for NAAR.

**June 2000** NAAR holds the first NAAR Award Dinner, honoring NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue at a gala fundraiser at the Waldorf = Astoria in New York and raising more than \$600,000 for autism research.



*Inspirational Vision:* (from left) NAAR supporter Erwin Lurie, NAAR Trustees Cathy J. Lurie and Jeffrey R. Lurie, NAAR Honorary Board Member Nancy Lurie Marks, NAAR supporter Carol Lurie and NAAR Trustee H. Eric Cushing.

Any organization is only as good as the people who bring it to life. When you consider the success that NAAR has achieved, you get a sense of the extraordinary individuals who compose the alliance’s team of volunteers dedicated to accelerating the pace of autism research and finding a cure.

If love alone could cure autism, the disorder would not exist. This, unfortunately, is not the case. For most parents of children with autism, grief is a constant companion. But that grief is tempered by hope—hope based on reason and reality. What separates NAAR from all other organizations is our historic and ongoing dedication to foster and fund scientifically exacting and rigorous research.

As family members and loved ones, and as an organization, we place our faith in quality research and remain optimistic, thinking not in terms of “if” but “when” the causes, preventions, effective treatments and cures for autism spectrum disorders will be discovered.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

No other donor has been as crucial to the development of NAAR, and to funding autism research, than the Nancy Lurie Marks (NLM) Family Foundation. Simply put, without the support and guidance of the NLM Family Foundation and the inspiration of Nancy and her family, NAAR would probably not exist today.

The NLM Family Foundation has been instrumental in the evolution of NAAR and has enabled it to become a powerful entity that continues to both accelerate the pace of the research and elevate the caliber of the science. In FY 2002, the NLM Family Foundation continued its strong support of NAAR as a Research Partner, sponsoring four pilot studies, and fostering the strategic development of the organization.

NAAR is honored to have Nancy Lurie Marks as a member of the Honorary Board as well as her daughter, Cathy, her son, Jeffrey, and her son-in-law, H. Eric Cushing, serving as NAAR Trustees. They provide invaluable insight and guidance for the growth of NAAR and the advancement of autism research.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Andy & Karen Cerise and Danny & Maria Ryan have elevated the impact of what NAAR volunteers can achieve. NAAR is grateful that the Cerise and Ryan families have invested their time and talent in NAAR. The results have been simply extraordinary.

In FY 2002, Andy and Danny continued their excellent service as members of the Board of NAAR's Long Island chapter and played an instrumental role in the success of the Long Island Walk.

The Cerise and Ryan families are captains of Owen & Johnny's Team, the most successful single team in Walk F.A.R. for NAAR's history. In FY 2002, the team raised an unprecedented \$193,000 alone for the Long Island Walk. Also, the Cerise and Ryan families played a key role in the Wall Street community's involvement in the Long Island Walk.

Andy and Danny also served as Dinner Committee Co-Chairs for the NAAR 2002 Award Dinner and played a critical role in securing New York Stock Exchange Chairman & CEO Dick Grasso to serve as honoree.



*Extraordinary People:* (from left) Andy Cerise and Danny Ryan, who played an important role coordinating the 2002 NAAR Award Dinner and in securing the support of the Wall Street community to benefit the Long Island Walk, have elevated the impact of what NAAR volunteers can achieve.

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

NAAR President Prisca Chen Marvin and volunteer Joanne Kyros played a key role leading NAAR's Government Affairs initiatives in FY 2002, monitoring autism-related activity and maintaining a NAAR presence at autism events taking place on Capitol Hill.

Prisca and Joanne kept the NAAR Board of Trustees, Walk leadership and staff informed about Congressional action related to autism and composed and distributed updates on several items, including:

- Introduction of the Implementation Blueprint for the Children's Health Act
- A letter of appropriations from the Congressional Coalition for Autism Research & Education calling for increased federal investments in autism research

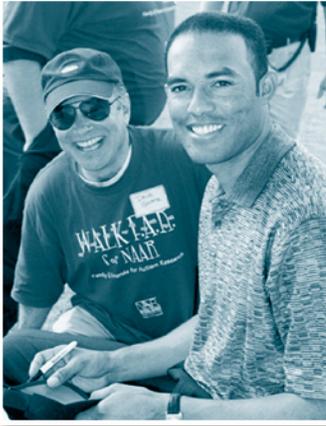


*Remarkable National Capital Area Volunteers:* (from left) NAAR volunteer Lennie Gladstone, co-chair of the 2001 National Capital Area Walk—the highest fundraising inaugural walk in FY 2002, with NAAR President and government relations advocate Prisca Chen Marvin.

- The Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), which meets to review the progress of federally funded research initiatives on autism

Also in FY 2002, NAAR selected Capitol Associates, Inc., of Washington, D.C., as its government relations counsel. Capitol Associates is helping NAAR to get legislative language in the form of a Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the House's Labor/HHS Appropriations bill. Specifically, NAAR is

requesting that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) develop a report to Congress by May 1, 2003 outlining a research agenda for autism spectrum disorders for the next five years, along with professional judgment funding projections.



## DEVELOPMENT - LEAVING A LASTING IMPRINT

*NAAR volunteer David Gortz poses with New York Yankees star reliever Mariano Rivera. David served as co-chair of the inaugural Westchester/Fairfield Walk F.A.R. for NAAR in 2002.*

Since its beginnings, NAAR has developed relationships with celebrities and business leaders to foster support for autism research and has a long tradition of working with some of the leading names in sports, music and entertainment to help advance autism research.

Walk F.A.R. for NAAR has transformed NAAR into the nation's leading non-governmental funder of autism research projects. The first and only program of its kind, Walk F.A.R. for NAAR is a national, grassroots autism research walk program dedicated to funding and accelerating autism research. It is the signature fundraising and autism awareness event of NAAR. We are honored to have NFL legend Dan Marino, and his wife, Claire, serving as National Honorary Chairs of Walk F.A.R. for NAAR.

In FY 2002, Walk F.A.R. for NAAR expanded into eight new markets and attracted more than 30,000 walkers, raising approximately \$4.2 million to support autism research. New markets for FY 2002 included National Capital Area (Washington, D.C.), New England, Rochester, NY, Palm Beach, FL, Westchester, NY/Fairfield, CT, Seattle, WA, Des Moines, IA and southern New Jersey.

The success of Walk F.A.R. for NAAR gives families and friends of people with autism spectrum disorders the opportunity to contribute directly to the search for the causes, effective treatments, prevention and cure. The Walks convey an incredible feeling of joy, commitment and hope and are an excellent example of what collaborative efforts on behalf of the autism community can accomplish.



*Walk Day 2002 in Pittsburgh kicked off NAAR's FY 2002 record-breaking Spring season with a tremendous event chaired by Jackie Kulich and Jim Edgar. NAAR's Pittsburgh volunteers, led by Renee Georgi, organized the first Walk F.A.R. for NAAR event in 2000 and continue to play a vital leadership role for the alliance. F.A.R. stands for "family and friends for autism research"—a clear definition of a NAAR volunteer and Walk supporter.*

**Fall 2000** Following a successful Walk in Pittsburgh, Inaugural Walk events are held in central New Jersey, Long Island, Miami and Los Angeles. In 2000, all Walk events raise approximately \$1.5 million for autism research.

**Mar 2001** Following the fifth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board, NAAR awards more than \$3.1

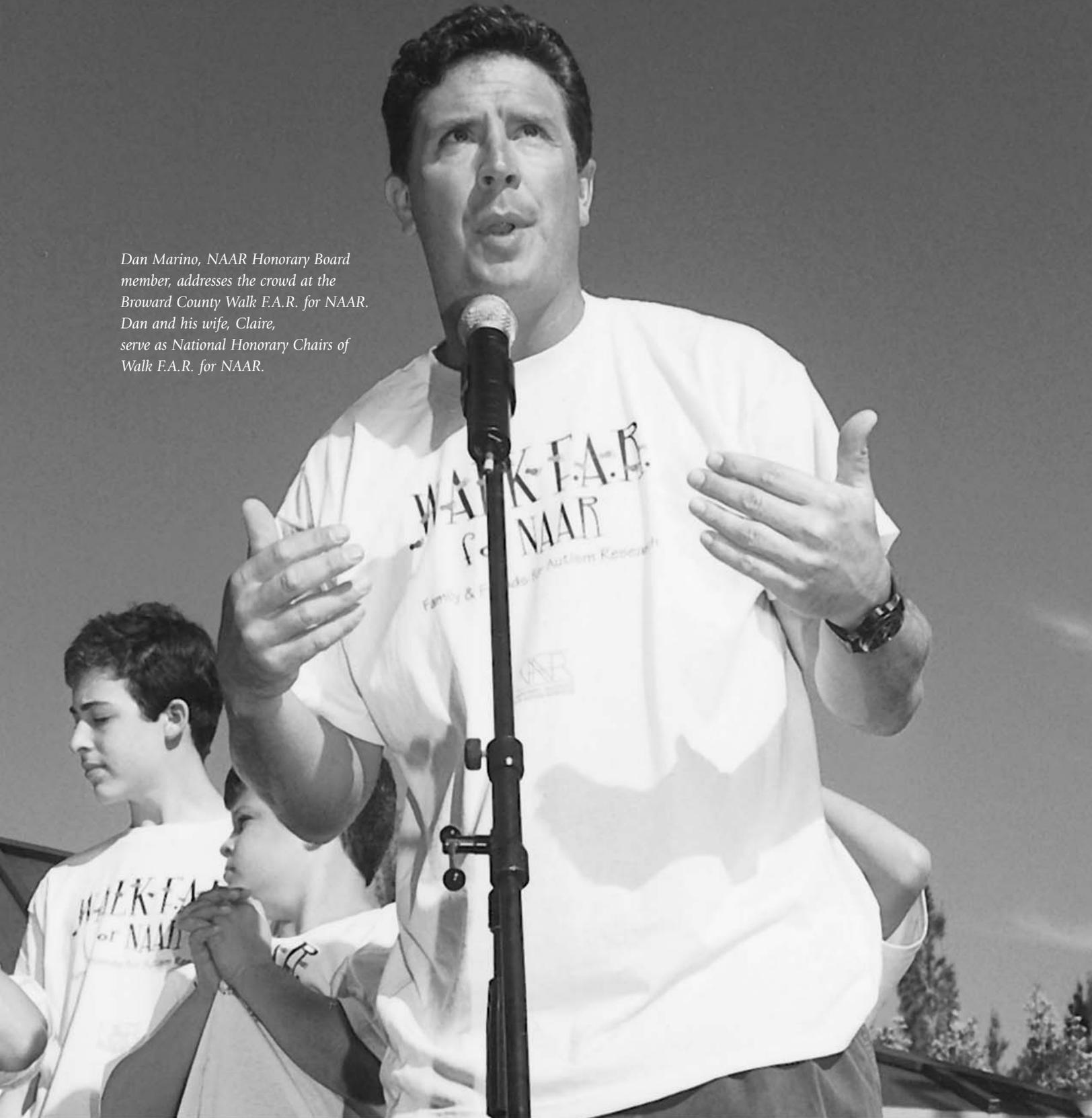
million in research grants, fellowships and funding for larger, collaborative programs.

**Spr 2001** Walk F.A.R. for NAAR continues to grow, with Walks now in eight communities, including the new markets of Rochester, NY; northern New Jersey; New England; Broward County, Fla.; and Palm Beach, Fla.

**Nov 2001** NAAR co-sponsors the inaugural International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), the first scientific conference focusing exclusively on autism research. The meeting is held in San Diego, CA, as a satellite meeting of the annual Society for Neuroscience conference.

**Win 2001** NAAR holds its first retreat in Boca Raton, FL, bringing together NAAR trustees, Walk leadership and staff to discuss how to continue dramatically increasing autism funding over the next decade.

*Dan Marino, NAAR Honorary Board member, addresses the crowd at the Broward County Walk F.A.R. for NAAR. Dan and his wife, Claire, serve as National Honorary Chairs of Walk F.A.R. for NAAR.*



**Apr 2002** Following the sixth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board, NAAR commits a record \$4 million to fund 37 autism research programs, including the investment of \$1 million to fund mentoring fellowships for pre- and post-doctoral candidates as well as a unique study lead by Dr. David Skuse of the Institute of Child

Health in London, and Dr. Eric Lander, of the Whitehead Institute at MIT in Cambridge, MA, that is designed to identify a genetic cause of male susceptibility to autism.

**Apr 2002** NAAR commits funding to add a new component to the Autism Tissue Program.

**Spr 2002** The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke announce that the Autism Genetics Cooperative will receive a \$3.6 million infrastructure grant.

**Spr 2002** Walk F.A.R. for NAAR expands to five new communities, including Westchester, NY/Fairfield, CT; southern New Jersey;

Buffalo, NY; Des Moines, IA, and Seattle, WA.

**June 2002** NAAR holds its second Award Dinner and honors NYSE Chairman & CEO Dick Grasso at a gala fundraiser at the Waldorf = Astoria in New York, raising more than \$640,000 for autism research.

## 2002 NAAR AWARD DINNER

The Wall Street community rallied around New York Stock Exchange Chairman & CEO Dick Grasso to raise more than \$640,000 for autism research at NAAR's 2002 Award Dinner.



*Dick Grasso, Chairman & CEO of the New York Stock Exchange, praised NAAR's efforts to advance autism research at the 2002 Award Dinner.*

Nearly 400 guests, including many from the Wall Street community, attended the event held June 18 at the Waldorf = Astoria in Manhattan. Mr. Grasso was the honoree of the event, which was chaired by Bill Bell, vice chairman of Cablevision Systems Corporation, and John Mulheren, chief executive officer of Bear Wagner Specialists, LLC. Honorary chairs included NAAR Honorary Board members, Lisa and Will Clark, Laurie and Doug Flutie, and Claire and Dan Marino.

Also key to the success of the event were Dinner Committee Chairs, Andy Cerise, Managing Director, Bear Wagner Specialists, LLC; John Cleary, Partner, Seward & Kissel; and Danny Ryan, Executive Vice President, SG Cowen. Andy and Danny are members of the Board of NAAR's Long Island chapter and played an instrumental role in the coordination of the 2002 Award Dinner.



**NAAR-NFL Films Connection:**  
*NAAR volunteer Todd Schmidt, a producer with NFL Films, co-chaired the South Jersey Walk (with his wife, Debbie) and produced NAAR's new national Walk video in FY 2002.*

## WORKPLACE GIVING

In FY 2002, NAAR was accepted as a member of the Medical Research Agencies of America (MRAA) and became eligible for MRAA workplace giving campaigns, including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Employees of the U.S. military, postal system and civilian federal government employees may support NAAR through the CFC (#1717).

## NAAR'S PRESENCE ON THE WEB

Gary Mirkin, M.D., and Jim Edgar are two largely unsung heroes of NAAR's extraordinary volunteer network whose contributions to the alliance are visible worldwide, even though they have mostly remained "behind the scenes."

Gary and Jim are NAAR's first webmasters who pioneered the alliance's presence on the Internet by creating, launching and maintaining the first websites for both NAAR and Walk F.A.R. for NAAR, respectively. Each of these talented volunteers performed vital online services for NAAR during FY 2002, from posting the latest news about NAAR-funded research, government affairs, and Walk information to enabling supporters to register for Walk events online and make electronic contributions to benefit autism research. In addition, both

men are active Walk supporters. In FY 2002, Jim co-chaired the Pittsburgh Walk with Jackie Kulich; and Gary served on the Long Island Walk committee.

## NAAR Board of Trustees

NAAR's Board of Trustees is composed mostly of parents and family members of people with autism. The Board guides long-term planning strategies, organizational oversight and development.

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CIE, CPCU

\*Joined Board after FY 2002.

## Honorary Board

NAAR is honored to have a wide array of influential supporters throughout the country, including actors, sports figures, musicians, politicians, authors and artists, including many who have a family member with autism. These extraordinary individuals have contributed their time, effort and influence to further NAAR's mission by serving as Honorary Board Members.

Lisa & Will Clark  
Audrey Flack  
Laurie & Doug Flutie  
Temple Grandin, Ph.D.  
Lisa & Dustin Hoffman  
Arlene & Joe Mantegna  
Claire & Dan Marino  
Nancy Lurie Marks  
Branford Marsalis  
Wynton Marsalis  
Sue & Scott Mellanby  
Elizabeth & Aidan Quinn  
The Honorable Barbara Roberts  
Lynn & Bret Saberhagen  
Oliver Sacks, M.D.

## Scientific Advisory Board

NAAR's esteemed Scientific Advisory Board, the first of its kind ever to be assembled to guide a research agenda for autism, provides ongoing expert guidance in developing an aggressive and far-reaching program of research for autism spectrum disorders and convenes yearly to review and recommend grant applications.

**Melissa Down Begg, Ph.D., Sc.D.**  
Columbia University

**William E. Bunney, Jr., M.D.**  
University of California, Irvine

**Manuel F. Casanova, M.D.**  
The Medical College of Georgia

**Verne S. Caviness, Jr., M.D., D. Phil.**  
Massachusetts General Hospital/  
Harvard Medical School

**Joseph T. Coyle, M.D.**  
Harvard Medical School.

**Thomas Curran, Ph.D.\***  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

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**Mony J. de Leon, Ed.D.**  
New York University Medical Center

**Martha Bridge Denckla, M.D.**  
The Kennedy Krieger Institute &  
The Johns Hopkins University School  
of Medicine

**Emanuel DiCicco-Bloom, M.D.**  
University of Medicine and Dentistry of  
New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical  
School

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**James T. Wilson, Ph.D.\***  
Emory University

**Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, M.D.**  
Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention

\*Joined Board after FY 2002.



## Facts About Autism Spectrum Disorders

- Autism spectrum disorders affect people of all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds and occur in an estimated one in every 250 births. Some studies place the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders even higher.
- Recent prevalence studies suggest that more than 1 million Americans are living with an autism spectrum disorder, such as Asperger Syndrome, Autistic Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD), Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDDNOS) or Rett Syndrome.
- Autism spectrum disorders are the second most common developmental disability, after mental retardation.
- There are no biological markers, medical treatments or cures for autism spectrum disorders and a diagnosis is based solely on the observation of behaviors.
- Most people with autism spectrum disorders require lifelong supervision and care.
- Autism is four times more prevalent in boys than in girls.



**NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
FOR AUTISM RESEARCH**

RESEARCH • HOPE • COMMITMENT

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*\* Joined NAAR staff after FY 2002 ended.*

*\*\* Office opened after FY 2002 ended.*