

# Autism 208: Screening for ASD

## *A Preventative Intervention*

**Thursday**  
**Sept. 21,**  
**2017**

**7:00pm –**  
**8:30pm**

Facilitated by:  
Lisa Ibanez, PhD

Seattle Children's  
Wright Auditorium

**Free**  
**No RSVP**  
**required**

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The prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) has been rising steadily, with rates now estimated to be as high as 1 in 68 children. Although parents often become concerned about their child by 17–19 months of age, children do not typically receive an ASD diagnosis until they are 4 years old. It is now well documented that early participation in ASD-specialized intervention can lead to significant improvements in skills and behavior for toddlers with ASD. However, despite the availability of publicly funded early intervention (EI) services, delayed detection of ASD risk and long waits for a formal ASD diagnosis can prevent children from receiving appropriately specialized intervention during the critical birth-to-three-years period. In addition, parents concerned about ASD experience high levels of uncertainty and stress during this waiting period. This provider-focused lecture will discuss how a preventive intervention approach may improve outcomes for both children and parents by increasing rates of ASD screening, promoting earlier referral to EI programs, initiating early ASD-specialized intervention, and reducing the time between ASD concerns and diagnosis