



Dr. James Bebko
– Chair of Autism Ontario’s Research Committee 2008-10

As the current chair of Autism Ontario’s Research Committee, I have the privilege of leading a group of dedicated ASD Researchers, students, clinicians, volunteers and Autism Ontario support staff to work as a group of people committed to ASD research in Ontario. This eclectic team appreciates all the ingredients that make research happen and what makes it relevant. Those two issues aren’t always linked in the public eye, but they are so important if research is to have the impact we hope for; that is informing our understanding of people and the world around us and/or how we respond with new information.

One of the most important functions of the Research Committee is to spend money! We couldn’t do that without the funds generated through donations made to Autism Ontario and particularly through their annual Together for Autism campaign. Each year, the committee members strategically determine what types of scholarships, studentships, grants and bursaries to support with the funds we have. It is a great experience to see so many enthusiastic and bright Canadian researchers apply for and receive these awards.

These students are researching a wide range of subjects; all of them are searching for information that we currently don’t have on topics such as brain functioning in children with autism; social understanding in young people with Aspergers, how families cope in raising children with ASD, response times in learning new skills and even examining the views people have about what it means to have autism. We hope that by providing these scholarships that we will encourage those researchers to pursue excellence in their work, consider staying in this exciting field of ASD and continue to make a difference for people with ASD and their families.

Thank you for your support.