

# Becoming a VTCAR Affiliate

## What are the benefits of becoming a VTCAR Affiliate?

Affiliates are both researchers and community members who are interested in furthering the cause of understanding and treating autism spectrum disorders through research. Both research affiliates and community affiliates are described below.

Research affiliates of VTCAR benefit from access to participant recruitment through our Registry, access to a behaviorally characterized participant pool through our assessment database, identification of potential collaborators with needed expertise, coordination of collaborators for meetings and study progress, identification of funding mechanisms, assistance in grant submissions and proposal applications, public relations marketing and outreach, attendance at an annual conference, and access to physical space for interviews or services needed for specific research projects.

Community affiliates of VTCAR receive announcements on research findings, grants, research and professional trainings, the CAR annual conference, and study/research opportunities. They also can be matched with Research affiliates as scientific collaborators.

## Who can become an affiliate?

Affiliation is open to all departments and colleges within Virginia Tech and surrounding community organizations inasmuch as their work integrates with the unifying theme of the Center to conduct cutting-edge research related to autism. Currently, VTCAR is composed of a multidisciplinary team of faculty and researchers from across Virginia Tech including (but not limited to) faculty from Psychology, Biological Sciences, Engineering, Human Development, Computer Science, the School of Education, the Services for Students with Disabilities office, the VT Carilion Research Institute, and the Virginia Bioinformatics. Community organizations throughout Virginia are also represented, such as the Commonwealth Autism Service, Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center, Virginia Institute of Autism, and Montgomery County Public Schools.

## How do I become an affiliate? And how can I make use of the resources available to me through VTCAR?

To become an affiliate:

- (1) Contact Dr. Angela Scarpa at [ascarpa@vt.edu](mailto:ascarpa@vt.edu) or 540-231-8747 AND
- (2) Fill out a New Affiliate Information Sheet\* and forward the completed form to Dr. Julee Farley at [farleyjp@vt.edu](mailto:farleyjp@vt.edu).

***Making use of the VTCAR/VTAC Autism Research Registry***

The purpose of the Registry is to create and obtain a research Registry of families and individuals affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The Registry will serve as a database of demographic information that can be used for participant recruitment and preliminary (pilot) data for future studies.

Any investigator associated with VTCAR may seek to use the Registry for data analysis or participant recruitment for a study. This includes faculty, approved research staff, and students (graduate and undergraduate) with faculty support. For students, a faculty advisor or supervisor must be named on the request form.

To find additional information and instructions regarding use of the Registry, visit the Research page on the VTCAR website [vtcar.science.vt.edu].

***Advertising Information for Upcoming Events and Participating in Research***

VTCAR makes heavy use of the website as well as our monthly newsletter to communicate with our affiliates and surrounding community members. If you wish to advertise an event or post information on a study for which you are trying to recruit participants, please consider the website and the monthly newsletter to be resources for you as an affiliate.

Visit the Research page on the VTCAR website for more information. Contact Dr. Julee Farley with any information and relevant study details to have posted on the website or monthly newsletter. Please allow 2-3 days for posting and publishing on the website.

***The VTCAR Assessment Database***

The Assessment Database is also being created and considered to be a resource for VTCAR research affiliates. The database contains various behavioral and cognitive measures from participants coming through the Center, seeking an assessment, and allowing us to store collected data within the database for use in future research. As a research affiliate, if an individual from the assessment database participates in one of your studies, you can request their stored assessment data. This is beneficial to both researcher and participant to aid in participant selection and to prevent the need for repeating behavioral measures that have already been collected via participation in the assessment database.

***Identifying Funding Sources and Preparing Grant or Proposal Submissions***

Support is available through VTCAR to both identify relevant funding mechanisms as well as prepare grants and funding applications. The VTCAR Research Coordinator is a resource and primary contact for you as you search for funding and prepare applications. The VTCAR Research Coordinator will work closely with you and your team as well as the Office of Sponsored Programs to ensure that funding applications and proposals are submitted successfully.

**What if I am already an affiliate but I'm having trouble creating research collaborations?**

There are personnel and support mechanisms available through VTCAR to foster these research collaborations. If you have an idea for a study and are looking for other investigators from across the university who may be able to collaborate or offer consultation, contact Dr. Julee Farley or Dr. Angela Scarpa (all contact information listed below) with an Affiliate Request\* form and we are happy to facilitate contact with other affiliates or investigators.

\*All documents are available on the VTCAR website [[vtcar.science.vt.edu](http://vtcar.science.vt.edu)]

If you have questions regarding becoming a VTCAR affiliate, please contact:

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