NIH ended the STAART program in May of 2008. However, CART is pleased to have been awarded two new prestigious NIH Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) grants - as an ACE Center, which began in August 2007, and as the lead research site in an ACE Genetics Network project which began in 2008.

CART’s new ACE Center grant, funded for 2007-2012, involves the five research projects listed below:

I. The development of the siblings of children with autism: A longitudinal study  
   PI: Marian Sigman, Ph.D.  Participants: Infants 6 months old at first visit.

II. Genetic investigation of language and social communication: Connecting genes to brain to cognition  
    PI: Daniel Geschwind, M.D., Ph.D.  Participants: Children from Projects I, III and V

III. Mirror neuron and reward circuitry in autism  
     PI: Mirella Dapretto, Ph.D.  Participants: Children with autism, ages 8-17 years old

IV. Optimizing social and communication outcomes for toddlers with autism  
    PI: Connie Kasari, Ph.D.  Participants: Toddlers from the UCLA Early Childhood treatment program

V. Understanding repetitive behavior in autism  
   PI: James McCracken, M.D.  Participants: ASD children, ages 8-16 years old

For more information about CART research programs, please contact Candace J. Wilkinson, Ph.D. (cwilkinson@mednet.ucla.edu) or visit the CART website: www.autism.ucla.edu