Dr. Catherine Lord and her lab are preparing for a new ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule) study with bilingual individuals, where participants will be tested in English or Spanish. This is a unique opportunity to advance our understanding of autism.

SPARK is a landmark national autism research study designed to speed up research and advance our understanding of autism to help improve lives. SPARK will collect unique information from thousands of individuals affected by autism to give researchers the ability to make a significant impact.

SPARK is a rapidly growing study, and more participants in SPARK means more good data for our research. Dr. Amanda Gulsrud from UCLA has been working hard to encourage participation in SPARK, and her efforts have paid off. Since she joined the study, they have observed rapid growth in the number of participants.

The study is designed to collect data from individuals with autism and their families to help researchers better understand the disorder and identify new treatments. Dr. Gulsrud and her team are working hard to reach a diverse range of participants, and they are making great progress.

From a practical standpoint, SPARK is a great example of how research can be conducted in a way that is accessible to a wide range of individuals. The study is designed to be flexible and accommodating, and participants can choose to participate in the study either in person or through a remote video call.

Research on autism is critical to understanding the disorder and developing new treatments. SPARK is an important study that will help researchers make progress in this area.

More than 70% of autistic adults are unemployed or underemployed, and many struggle to find suitable employment. Each year, an estimated 70,000 autistic teens will enter adulthood. This is a critical time for these individuals to make the transition from high school to work, but it can be a challenge.

Autistic adults through the PEERS® for College to Career shows significant gains for autistic adults as they transition from high school to work. The program provides social skills training and support to help autistic adults develop the skills they need to succeed in the workplace.

In recognition of this important day and month, I share with you some interesting statistics about autism.

- Approximately 1 in 40 children aged 8 years old are identified with an autism disorder (ASD) and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder. In ASD, motor delays are common. When we witness dysfunction in infant movement, we see negative effects on the complex motor abilities through movement mistakes and achievements. Conversely, normal development of motor ability is observed when we witness positive advancement and growth.

- As a behavioral child neurologist and clinician-scientist, I witness daily the dynamic between the manifestations of autism and the child’s needs. The developmental journey of autistic children is highly individualized, and the impact on the family is profound. The best way to experience autism is to understand the impact on each patient, and that patient is offered therapy tailored to his or her specific form of ASD.

- Never has there been a more opportune time to invest in CART. Private philanthropy continues to be essential to advancing innovative research and clinical care. No matter your passion or interest, when you invest in CART, your gift has an outsized impact for CART and into the world.

To learn more about how you can make an impact by investing in CART, please visit the UCLA website. To learn more about how you can make an impact by investing in CART, please visit the UCLA website. To learn more about how you can make an impact by investing in CART, please visit the UCLA website.