

## **Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised: A Revised Version of a Diagnostic Interview for Caregivers of Individuals with Possible Pervasive Developmental Disorders<sup>1</sup>**

**Catherine Lord<sup>2</sup>**

*The University of Chicago*

**Michael Rutter**

*Institute of Psychiatry*

**Ann Le Couteur**

*Royal Free Hospital*

*Describes the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R), a revision of the Autism Diagnostic Interview, a semistructured, investigator-based interview for caregivers of children and adults for whom autism or pervasive developmental disorders is a possible diagnosis. The revised interview has been reorganized, shortened, modified to be appropriate for children with mental ages from about 18 months into adulthood and linked to ICD-10 and DSM-IV criteria. Psychometric data are presented for a sample of preschool children.*

<sup>1</sup>We acknowledge the help of all the parents who participated in these interviews and of Sharon Storoschuk, Joyce Magill, Cathy Mulloy, and Lyn Anderson-Cook who conducted interviews. Support was provided by Public Health Service Grant #7 R01 MH46865-03, Training in RESH Diagnoses of Autism and Spectrum Disorder 7-T35-MH 19726-02 and the Alberta Heritage Fund for Medical Research, first author and the MRC Child Psychiatry Unit.

<sup>2</sup>Address all correspondence to Catherine Lord, Department of Psychiatry, University of Chicago, 5841 S. Maryland Avenue, MC 3077, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Data for all items, including those not in the algorithm are available upon request.

The Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R) is a newly modified version of the Autism Diagnostic Interview (ADI; Le Couteur et al., 1989), a standardized, semistructured, investigator-based interview for caregivers of autistic individuals, which provides a diagnostic algorithm for the ICD-10 definition of autism (World Health Organization [WHO], 1992) and DSM-IV (American Psychiatric Association [APA], 1993). In this report, we describe the revision of the ADI and procedures for training and use of the new instrument, the ADI-R.

Psychometric properties for the original ADI were provided for a carefully selected, blindly interviewed and coded, sample of 16 autistic and 16 mentally handicapped children and adults covering a range of IQs and chronological ages (Le Couteur et al., 1989). The interview yielded separate scores in the areas of communication, social skills, and restricted, repetitive and stereotyped behaviors, as well as early history, allowing the separate quantification of severity in each of these domains. Since work on the ADI began in the early 1980s, a number of developments have suggested revisions that allow items to more accurately reflect autism-specific deficits and current theoretical perspectives (see Lord & Rutter, 1994). The original ADI was intended for research purposes and provided behavioral assessment for subjects with a chronological age of 5 years or above and a mental age of at least 2 years. However, because most autistic children are now diagnosed during the preschool years (Short & Schopler, 1988), there was a need for an instrument that could differentiate autism from other disorders as they present in very young children. In addition, if the interview were to be used regularly for clinical purposes, it was important to increase its efficiency and shorten its length, so that it could be incorporated more easily into existing multidisciplinary diagnostic assessments.

### CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION

The original ADI began with a series of opening questions; followed by questions concerning infancy and early (under age 5 years) development in social skills, communication and play; followed by an overlapping, but not identical, set of items convening social and communication skills at the time of interview; a section on restricted and repetitive behaviors and interests scored for both current behavior and their occurrence "ever"; and a final section on general behavior difficulties. Because two goals of the revision were to make the interview briefer and more appropriate for younger children, questions concerning early development were consolidated with those concerning careened behaviors. Thus, the ADI-R consists