Dear ASDtech Members,

Welcome to the fourteenth monthly ASDtech Digest. I hope you are all doing well as the September digest reaches you. School is back in session and we are experiencing a lovely start to fall here in the Great Lakes region of the Midwestern U.S., as this month’s digest goes out to our international subscribers from clinical, educational, commercial and educational backgrounds. The newsletter aims to contain information relevant to researchers, but also to parents, practitioners and other members of the autism community. Please forward this email to anyone who you feel would be interested – there is also a pdf version attached for posting to your website, twitter or blog.

This month’s digest contains information about:

1. Evidence-based guidelines on technology and autism written for parents
2. Interactive tools to promote positive post-secondary outcomes for youth with ASD
3. New web catalog helps individuals with autism find the best apps to suit their needs
4. International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) 2015: Call for abstract reviewers
5. Choosing an APP for Communication: An online interview lead by a Speech Language Pathologist specializing in ASD
6. Quick Questions
7. Open Access Zone
8. Recent publications in Autism & Technology

NB: The content of information attached or linked to within this email should not be assumed to represent the views of the sender. To unsubscribe from this mailing list please reply with the single word unsubscribe in the subject box. Please send any feedback or inclusions for the October letter to macfar31@msu.edu

1. Evidence-based guidelines on technology and autism written for parents

Dr. Sue Fletcher-Watson and colleagues, in partnership with the National Autistic Society, created a short piece of guidance for parents who are new to either technology or autism. This was accomplished via a survey of over 200 parents of children with autism in the UK (and about the same number in Spain, thanks to partners at Fundación Orange). As a result of the aforementioned survey, Sue and colleagues have now: 1) published a free, downloadable, online pdf providing detailed advice to parents of children with autism on how to get the most from technology and 2) contributed to a National Autistic Society, web page
which distils the key advice from the research. Additional information about the underlying research may be found on the DART website.

with thanks to Sue Fletcher-Watson

*******************************************************************************

2. Interactive tools to promote positive post-secondary outcomes for youth with ASD

Autism & Uni, a European funded project aiming to widen access to higher education for people on the autism spectrum, is working to create an interactive tool/resource that helps prospective students find out about the challenges of entering and succeeding in higher education (HE). The focus of their research is less on aspects of learning and academics and more on components relating to student life and the successful transition to post-secondary education. Autism & Uni has recently begun an initial research phase in which they have invited a variety of people (e.g., young people with autism, parents, teachers, lecturers) to take part in their surveys. Check out their surveys at www.autism-uni/get-involved/.

with thanks to Marc Fabri

*******************************************************************************

3. New web catalog helps individuals with autism find the best apps to suit their needs

Fundación Orange and iAutism have collaborated in the recent development of a new website called Appyautism. Appyautism aims to offer individuals with ASD, their families and professionals in the field, a selection of the best applications for Windows and Mac computers, Android, iOS and Windows phone devices. The proliferation of applications and software developed in the field of autism in recent years has created a complex ecosystem in which families and professionals may experience difficulty when attempting to select a suitable app for their child or student with autism. Appyautism seeks to remedy the aforementioned app selection challenges via an extensive database featuring more than 400 applications for computers, tablets and SmartPhones combined with a powerful search engine to display the apps according to several criteria (e.g., types of devices, categories, user’s age, price range).

with thanks to Blanca Villamia Uriarte

*******************************************************************************

4. International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) 2015: Call for abstract reviewers
Due to an increasing number of abstract submissions each year, the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Scientific Program Committee is inviting all current INSAR Full members to volunteer to review abstracts that are submitted for presentation at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) next year. Reviewers will need to be available to review abstracts during November.

Abstract reviewers will be chosen: 1) based on their expertise; 2) to maximize strength in different areas of expertise; and 3) depending on the number of abstract submissions. Interested Full members should register online by Monday, October 6, 2014.

with thanks to Mohammed Habash

******************************************************

5. Choosing an APP for Communication: An online interview lead by a Speech Language Pathologist specializing in ASD

Check out this informational online interview lead by Lois Jean Brady, CCC, SLP, author of Apps for Autism and the Speech in Action book series. Lois is joined by Dr. Stephen Mark Shore, who was diagnosed with “strong autistic tendencies”, nonverbal until age four and recommended for institutionalization. Dr. Shore is now a professor of special education at Adelphi University and his work focuses on helping people with ASD lead fulfilling and productive lives.

with thanks to Ouriel Grynszpan

******************************************************

6. Quick Questions

This is the designated section within the digest where subscribers can post requests for information and assistance in their areas of interest. Please send any questions/requests for information that you would like posted to me for inclusion next month.

We currently have two questions posted by subscribers:

Submitted by Blanca Villamia Uriarte:

- Fundación Orange (Spain) is committed to promoting philanthropic projects in several areas, and we have a special focus on helping people with autism. We believe that technology is a valuable aid to improving the communication and social skills of people with ASD, which is why we
promote continuous innovative Spanish research and development projects applied to autism in a regular and consistent way. In this sense, in addition to continuing to develop our own projects with Spanish collaborators, we are working to identify important and free tools or apps that have been developed internationally for people with autism, and translate them into Spanish, in order to make them available for the Spanish population. We are looking for successful, very useful and, if possible, evidenced based apps or technological projects (e.g., social skills, leisure, sensory sensitivity, games). As you are experts in this field, perhaps you could help us. We would appreciate any suggestions or recommendations (send e-mail to: blanca.villamia@orange.com).

Submitted by Dr. Sue Fletcher-Watson:

- One of the outcome goals from the ASD & Technology SIG at IMFAR 2014 was to create a global map of autism and technology research and expertise. Does anyone subscribed to this list have expertise to create this? I am wanting to do something like the graphics in this paper on collaborative networks in autism research, but ideally with a bit of interactivity - or at least colour coding to represent different forms of expertise. If you’re able and willing to help please contact sue.fletcher-watson@ed.ac.uk

************************************************************

7. Open Access Zone

This is the designated section within the digest where subscribers can share open access resources. I located the following open access article in Autism Research and Treatment. Please send any open sources that you would like posted to me for inclusion next month.

doi:10.1155/2014/935686

************************************************************

8. Recent Publications in Autism and Technology

- Thanks to Sue Fletcher-Watson for sharing the following publications on autism and technology this month. Please send any new papers you would
like to share to me for inclusion next month.


**************************************************************************************************

NB: The content of information attached or linked to within this email should not be assumed to represent the views of the sender. To unsubscribe from this mailing list please reply with the single word unsubscribe in the subject box. Please send any feedback or inclusions for the October letter to macfar31@msu.edu