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Pilot Research Funding Supports Training for First Responders Working with People with Autism

iTHRIV Scholar Rose Nevill, PhD is leading a community-informed, evidence-based research program to develop training for first responders on autism. People with autism are seven times more likely to require emergency assistance/have emergency response interactions than the neurotypical population, and it is a difficult condition to support in crisis contexts. The goal of the team's work is to develop an Autism Response Protocol (ARP) that enables a unified response across the different branches of emergency response.

This project represents a collaboration between UVA and the Thomas Jefferson Emergency Medical Services Council (TJEMS) to develop, evaluate, and plan for the sustainability of an ARP. They will train first responders on safe, evidence-based, and community-informed procedures for supporting people with autism in crisis. This training will be delivered to first responder agencies (i.e., police, EMS, fire, and 911 dispatch) across the Thomas Jefferson EMS region, which includes the Blue Ridge Health District and Madison County. ARP effectiveness will be evaluated by comparing pre, post, and 3-month follow up data on trained first responders' autism knowledge, performance, and confidence in working with autistic people. Once the protocol is developed, UVA and TJEMS will implement a sustainability plan for ARP training across the region by collaborating with state and county-level partners, incentivizing training, hiring adjunct instructors, and leveraging capabilities via online training.



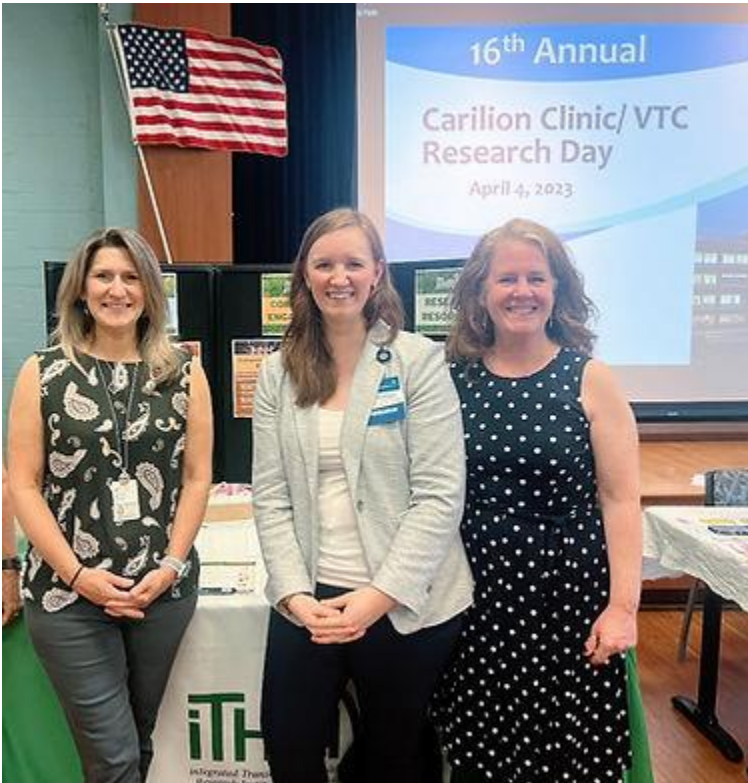
Rose Nevill, PhD, Research Assistant Professor of Education

This work is funded in part through the iTHRIV community partnership seed grant program and has been featured by local news recently: [UVA initiative helping first responders interact with autistic people during emergencies \(nbc29.com\)](https://www.nbc29.com/news/local/uva-initiative-helping-first-responders-interact-with-autistic-people-during-emergencies/).

Learn more about this work: <https://education.virginia.edu/news-stories/researchers-pilot-autism-training-emergency-responders>

Carilion Clinic Research Day showcased latest research by Carilion, Virginia Tech, VTC and RUC experts

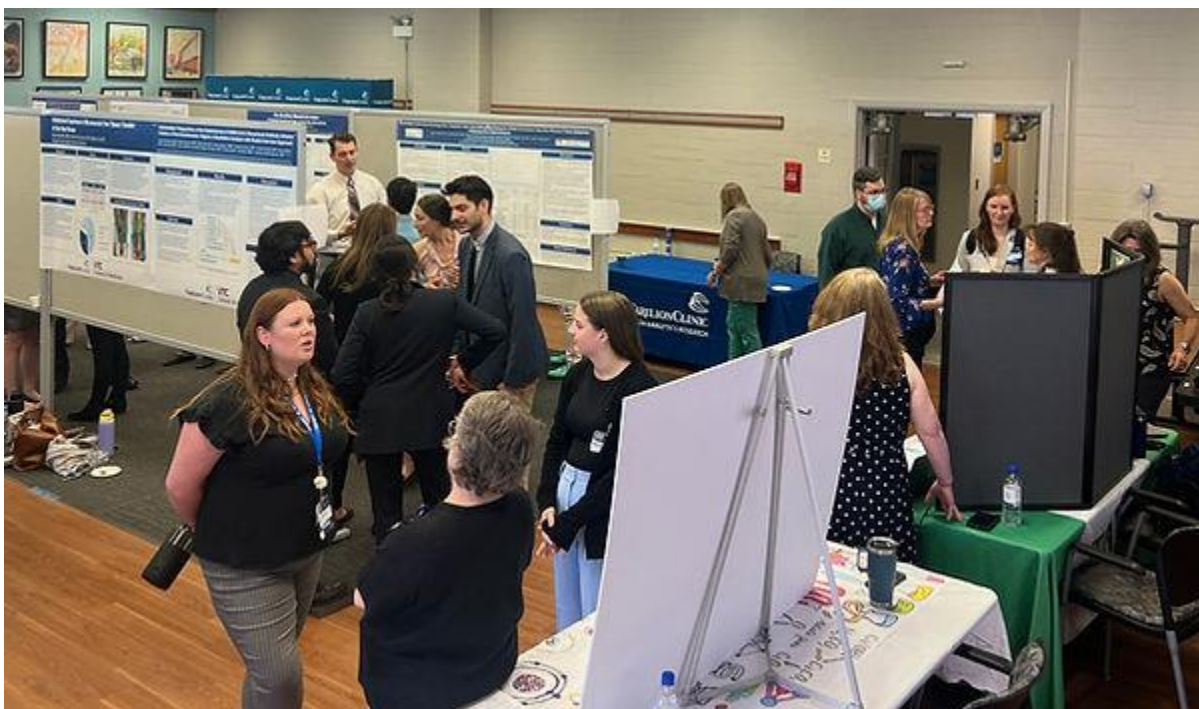
Article written by: Hannah Curtis, MHA Media Relations Carilion Clinic – Marketing and Communication



iTHRIV Team Members: Jennifer Phillips, Andrea Mohr and Kristin Miller share research resources

iTHRIV partners from Carilion Clinic, Virginia Tech, and UVA were spotlighted as part of Carilion's 16th annual Research Day on April 4th. The hybrid event was a collaboration between Carilion, Virginia Tech, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC and Radford University Carilion.

Nearly 150 people attended the event, which consisted of virtual presentations, in-person poster presentations, and a keynote lecture by Francine Garrett-Bakelman, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. "We were so excited to spotlight the important work happening right here in Roanoke," said Francis Farrell, Ph.D., senior director of Research and Development for Carilion. "Our region has become a hub for research, collaboration and curiosity, and our communities benefit from this medical exploration happening close to home."



iTHRIV Under the Microscope Matt Dimond

Matt Dimond is a Clinical Research Specialist for the Inova Heart and Vascular Research Department and a Clinical Research Intern for the Heart Failure Collaboratory. Matt joined Inova upon his graduation from Clemson University in May of 2021. Since then, he has worked as part of the advanced heart failure research team and helped with the study start-up and conduct of two randomized controlled trials. As an intern for the Heart Failure Collaboratory, he has learned from field-leading experts in heart failure and worked on numerous research projects aimed at improving the overall efficiency of therapeutic development programs. These experiences have contributed to his passion for research and goal of becoming a physician. Matt is actively engaged with Inova-iTHRIV team members to help organize the annual Inova-iTHRIV Research Day event. During this event, all Inova service lines will gather to highlight their research efforts, share some of their challenges and opportunities, and network with other researchers.

Outside of work, Matt loves watching sports, playing the guitar, playing ice hockey, and golfing with friends. In the fall of 2023, Matt will begin his formal training at medical school.



Matt Dimond

Meet an iTHRIV Scholar Mentor

Micah Mazurek, PhD
Novartis U.S. Foundation Professor of Education, UVA
School of Education and Human Development

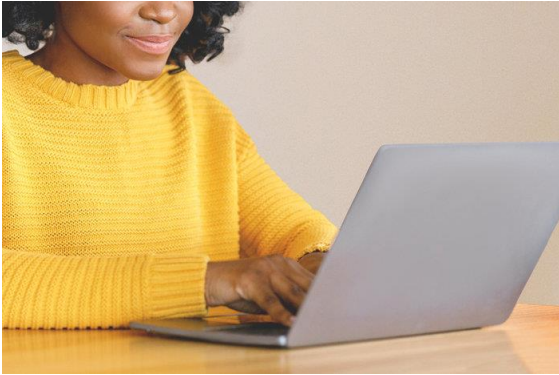
"Dr. Micah Mazurek is a leader in the field of autism research and is internationally recognized for her research on autism diagnosis, sleep, and mental health interventions. Her success in intervention research and grant writing has been incredible to learn from, and is inspiring to myself and her colleagues across UVA. She is generous with her time, ideas, and insight which helps foster a positive learning environment. I have truly appreciated learning from her as a mentor and colleague."

- Rose Nevill, PhD



Micah Mazurek, PhD

Struggling to find time to write? Don't know where to start? iTHRIV can help!



iTHRIV Writing Accountability Group (WAG) is a peer-facilitated, active writing group that meets once a week for 1 hour over a 10-week block

[Get the Details](#)