Yun-Ju (Claire) Chen

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, McMaster University

Email: cheny793@mcmaster.ca / chenyunj@usc.edu   **Personal Website:** https://www.yunjchen.com

Education

2021   **Ph.D. in Occupational Science**, *University of Southern California, USA*
Dissertation: *Developmental trajectories of sensory patterns in young children with and without Autism: A longitudinal population-based study from infancy to school age (Advisor: Dr. Grace T. Baranek)*

2012   **M.S. in Medical Sciences**, *Keio University, Japan*
Thesis: *Impact of stimuli with audiovisual synchrony on attention triggering effects in individuals with autism spectrum disorders (Advisor: Dr. Motoichiro Kato)*

2009   **B.S. in Occupational Therapy**, *National Taiwan University, Taiwan*
(2008-2009 NTU Exchange Student Program at Waseda University, Japan)

Awards & Honors

2021   Elizabeth June Yerxa Award for Excellence in Research Distinction (University of Southern California)

2020   Dr. Zemke Scholarship in Occupational Science ($5,000 USD)

2020   International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Student Travel Award ($500 USD)

2016-2018   Fulbright Graduate Study Grant ($45,000 USD/yr)

2011   Social Neuroscience Conference Travel Award (National Institute for Physiological Sciences, Japan)

2011-2012   Keio University Graduate Student Scholarship (Japan; $580 USD)

2010-2012   Moritani Foundation Scholarship (Japan; $11,610 USD/yr)

2010-2011   Hakumon Foundation Scholarship (Japan; $2,320 USD)

2008-2009   Ministry of Education Scholarship for Exchange Students (Taiwan; $5,325 USD)

Grants

Funded

2022-2025   Transforming Autism Care Consortium (TACC) Training Grant ($54,000 CAD), **PI**: *A transdiagnostic investigation of co-occurring health conditions in autism among the Canadian Health Survey of Children and Youth cohort: Age-varying patterns and functional impact (Advisors: Eric Duku, Katholiki Georgiades, Stelios Georgiades, & Meng-Chuan Lai)*

2022-2027   Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) Project Grant ($1,147,500 CAD), **Co-PI** (PI: Georgiades S, Singal D, & Zwaigenbaum L): *Pediatric Autism Research Cohort (PARC): A patient-oriented prospective study examining trajectories of functioning in Canadian children with autism*

2019-2020   Organization for Autism Research (OAR) Graduate Research Grant ($2,000 USD), **PI**: *Developmental trajectories of sensory features and later functional outcomes in ASD: A longitudinal subtyping study from infancy to school age (Advisor: Grace T. Baranek)*

Submitted

Exp. 2023-25   CIHR Fellowship Grant, **PI**: *Developmental dynamics of autism symptomatology and functional impact across early childhood: Identifying intervention targets and time window for improved outcomes (Advisor: Stelios Georgiades)*

Research Experience

2021-present   **Developmental trajectories of stakeholder-informed outcomes in autism**

(Pediatric Autism Research Cohort, PARC)
- PI: Dr. Stelios Georgiades, McMaster Autism Research Team (MacART), Canada
- Large-scale cross-site inception cohort of autistic children – longitudinal behavioral data analyses for improving practice and informing policy development

2017-2021 **Early detection and intervention for autism among culturally diverse populations in Los Angeles**
- PI: Dr. Grace Baranek, Innovations in Neurodevelopmental Sensory Processing Research (insp!re) Lab, University of Southern California
- Population-based longitudinal data collection/management, measurement translations and cross-cultural adaptations, clinical assessment (sensory)

2016-2021 **Early level-1 screening of autism: First Years Inventory (North Carolina Child Development Survey, NCCDS)**
- PI: Drs. Grace Baranek, Linda Watson, & Elizabeth Crais, Early Autism Research, Leadership & Service (PEARLS), UNC-Chapel Hill
- Population-based longitudinal data collection/management, data analysis & measurement development/psychometrics

2012–2013 **Neurophysiological markers of social affect for autism at infancy**
- PI: Dr. Yawei Cheng, Social Neuroscience Lab, National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan
- EEG/ERP data collection (Neuroscan) & analysis (Matlab), clinical assessment (ADI-R) for infants at-risk for autism

2010-2012 **Audiovisual face/gaze processing in adults with autism**
- PI: Dr. Motoichiro Kato, School of Medicine, Keio University, Japan
- Experimental paradigm design/setup & data collection/analysis

Clinical Experience

Licensed Occupational Therapist (Taiwan)

2013-2014 Pediatric occupational therapist, Kang-Jian Rehabilitation Clinic, Taiwan
2013-2014 School-based occupational therapist, Special Education School System of New Taipei City, Taiwan
2007-2008 Occupational therapist internship (pediatrics, psychiatry, & physical rehabilitation)

Selected Additional Training

2020-2022 Advanced Quantitative Methods, Curran-Bauer Analytics, NC
2018 Fall Biosemi EEG and body movement data collection, USC, CA (Dr. Beth Smith)
2018/11 EEGLAB Workshop, Swartz Center for Computational Neuroscience, UCSD, CA
2013 Spring Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Training Program, Taiwan Association for Behavioral Analysis, Taiwan
2012/04 ADI-R Training, Japan (Dr. Catherine Lord)
2011-2012 RIKEN Brain Science Institute Graduate Student Training Program, Japan

Teaching Experience

2014-2015 Visiting Lecturer, Bennett College (historically black liberal arts college), NC

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (in press). Early developmental profiles of sensory features and links to school-age adaptive and maladaptive outcomes: A birth cohort investigation. *Development and Psychopathology*. doi: 10.1017/S0954579422001195

2. **Chen YJ**, Duku E, & Georgiades S (2022). Rethinking autism intervention science: A dynamic perspective. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, *13*, 827406. doi: 10.3389/fpsyt.2022.827406

3. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (2022). Developmental trajectories of sensory patterns from infancy to school age in a community sample and associations with autistic traits. *Child Development*, *93*(4), e446-e459. doi: 10.1111/cdev.13745

4. **Chen YJ**, Harrop C, Sabatos-DeVito M, Bulluck J, Belger A, & Baranek GT (2022). Brief report: Attention patterns to non-social stimuli and associations with sensory features in autistic children. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, *98*, 102035. doi: 10.1016/j.rasd.2022.102035

5. Lee H, **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (2022). Sensory features of young children from a large community sample: Latent factor structures of Sensory Experiences Questionnaire (Version 2.1, Short Form). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, *76*(3), 7603205140. doi: 10.5014/ajot.2022.046995

6. Baranek GT, Sideris J, **Chen YJ**, Crais ER, Turner-Brown L, & Watson LR (2022). Early measurement of autism risk constructs in the general population: A new factor structure of the First Years Inventory (FYIv3.1) for ages 6-16 months. *Autism Research*, *15*(5), 915-928. doi: 10.1002/aur.2691

7. Campi E, Choi E, **Chen YJ**, Holland C, Bristol S, Sideris J, Crais ER, Watson LR, & Baranek GT (2022). Sensory reactivity of infants at elevated likelihood of autism and associations with caregiver responsiveness. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 1-10. doi: 10.1007/s10803-022-05764-z

8. Huang WC[*], **Chen YJ**[*], Chien CL, Kashima H, & Lin KC (2011). Constraint-induced movement therapy as a paradigm of translational research in neurorehabilitation: Reviews and prospects. *American Journal of Translational Research*, *3*(1): 46-58 ([*]: equal contribution).

9. Konishi M, **Chen YJ**, & Kato M (2011). The assessment and rehabilitation of attention impairments. *Japanese Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, *22*(3): 295-301.

Manuscripts Under Revision/Review

1. **Chen YJ**, Duku E, Zaidman-Zait A, Szatmari P, Smith IM, Ungar WJ, …, & Georgiades S (under revision). Variable patterns of daily activity participation across settings in autistic youth: A latent profile transition analysis.

2. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (under review). Do toddlers' age and sex impact parental reports of early signs of autism? A moderated nonlinear factor analysis.

3. Gentles S, Ng-Cordell E, Hunsche M, McVey A, Bednar D, **Chen YJ**, ..., & Georgiades S (under revision). Trajectory research in children with an autism diagnosis: A scoping review.

Manuscripts In Preparation

1. **Chen YJ**, Duku E, Szatmari P, Smith IM, Zwaigenbaum L, …, & Georgiades S (in prep). Key correlates and turning points of adaptive functioning trajectories towards various participation outcomes in adolescence across the autism spectrum.

2. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (in prep). The developmental impacts of sensory features on school-age functional outcomes in autistic and non-autistic children.

Conference Presentations

Panel/Oral Presentations

1. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (2022). Do toddlers' age and sex impact parental reports of early signs of autism spectrum disorder? A moderated nonlinear factor analysis. *International Congress of Infant Studies; Ottawa, ON.*

2. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (2022). Early developmental profiles of sensory patterns in a community sample: Associations with later autistic traits and adaptive functioning. *INSAR Annual Meeting; Austin, TX.*

3. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (2021). Developmental trajectories of sensory patterns from infancy to school age in children with ASD and non-ASD conditions. *INSAR Annual Meeting (Virtual).*

4. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (2020). Early screening for autism: Analytic approaches to assessing psychometric validity and phenotypic variability. Panel on "Challenges and Innovations in Screening Infants for Markers of Autism Spectrum Disorder" with Drs. Watson LR & Talbott M at: *Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention; San Diego, CA.*

5. **Chen YJ**, Konishi M, Saito F, Akiyama T, & Kato M (2011). The impact of stimuli with audiovisual synchrony on attention triggering effects. *Social Neuroscience Conference at National Institute for Physiological Science; Okazaki, Japan.*

Poster Presentations (Selected)

1. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (2020). A latent profile analysis of infants' sensory, motor, and social communication risk on the First Years Inventory and age-3 outcomes in a community sample. *INSAR Annual Meeting (Virtual).*

2. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (2020). Prevalence and differentiating patterns of sensory symptoms among 3-year-olds with and without ASD. *Annual Gatlinburg Conference; San Diego, CA (Canceled).*

3. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, & Baranek GT (2019). First Years Inventory: Examining measurement invariance across age, sex, and prematurity status. *INSAR Annual Meeting; Montreal, QC.*

4. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, & Baranek GT (2019). Potential use of First Years Inventory to differentiate autism spectrum disorder from other developmental delays within the first two years of life. *American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Annual Conference; New Orleans, LA.*

5. **Chen YJ**, Harrop C, Sabatos-DeVito M, Bulluck J, & Baranek GT (2018). Patterns of attention to non-social stimuli in children with autism spectrum disorder. *INSAR Annual Meeting; Rotterdam, Netherlands.*

6. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, & Baranek GT (2018). Sensory-regulatory functioning as an important aspect of early identification of autism spectrum disorder. *Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention; San Diego, CA.*

7. **Chen YJ**, Sideris J, Watson LR, Crais ER, Turner-Brown L, & Baranek GT (2018). Validation of FYI-Lite as a short screening tool for infants at risk for autism. *AOTA Annual Conference; Salt Lake City, UT.*

8. **Chen YJ**, Davis VL, Watson LR, Crais ER, Turner-Brown L, Bulluck J, Zhang W, Faldowski R, & Baranek GT (2017). Examination of developmental sensitivity of items on the revised First Years Inventory screener for infants at risk for a later diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. *INSAR Annual Meeting; San Francisco, CA.*

9. **Chen YJ**, Lee SY, & Cheng Y (2013). Emotional mismatch negativity as a potential neurophysiological biomarker for autism spectrum disorder. *Organization for Human Brain Mapping; Seattle, WA.*

Invited Talks

1. **Chen YJ** (Oct 2022). Sensory patterns and autistic traits: What are the implications? (conversations with Dr. Sarah Schoen). *2022 STAR Institute Sensory Symposium, Denver, CO.*

2. **Chen YJ** & Baranek GT (Jul 2022). Sensory features in autism (broadcast interview with Dr. Michael Romas). *DDI on Autism, Long Island News Radio, NY.*

3. **Chen YJ** (Apr 2022). Autism across the lifespan: Conceptual issues and analytic strategies. *Offord Centre for Child Studies Lunch and Learn, Hamilton, ON.*

4. **Chen YJ**. Prevalence and differentiating patterns of sensory features among 3-year-olds and 6-year-olds with and without ASD (Mar 2021). *USC OT564: Sensory Integration, Los Angeles, CA.*

Professional Service

Ad hoc reviewer of the following journals:
- American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (2022-present)
- Autism (2022-present)
- Autism Research (2022-present)
- BMC Psychiatry (2022-present)
- Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders (2021-present)
- Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (2022-present)

Abstract reviewer of the following conference(s):
- Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting (2022-present)

Professional Affiliations

International Society for Autism Research (2017-present)
Society for the Study of Occupation (2020-present)
International Congress of Infant Studies (2021-present)
Society for Research in Child Development (2022-present)
American Psychological Association (2022-present)

Skills

Languages	Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent), Japanese (fluent), Spanish (conversational)
Programming	R, Python, MATLAB
Statistical Software	R, Mplus, Stata, SAS, SPSS
Analytic Techniques	Regression, mediation, moderation, structural equation modeling, multi-level modeling, latent curve modeling, mixture modeling, psychometrics (factor analyses, item response theory)

References

Stelios Georgiades, PhD (Postdoc advisor)
Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, & Director, Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University, ON, Canada
Email: georgis@mcmaster.ca

Grace T. Baranek, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA (PhD advisor, dissertation committee chair)
Associate Dean, Chair and Professor, Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California, CA, USA
Email: chair@chan.usc.edu

Eric Duku, PhD (Postdoc co-advisor)
Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, McMaster University, ON, Canada
Email: duku@mcmaster.ca

Linda R. Watson, EdD (PhD co-advisor, dissertation committee member)
Professor, Department of Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA
Email: linda_watson@med.unc.edu