RUANE PRIZE
FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH

Joseph Piven, M.D.

Thomas E. Castelloe Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics
University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill

Director
Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities

"I am honored to receive this award. It is truly a reflection of the extraordinary team of research collaborators with whom I have been privileged to work in studying early brain development in autism. It is our hope that this work will have an impact on improving outcomes in this condition and that this award will encourage others to pursue a similar path of research on psychiatric disorders in children."

Joseph Piven, M.D., is the Thomas E. Castelloe Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill and Director of the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, a comprehensive institute for services, research and training in neurodevelopmental disorders. He directs the federally funded UNC Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center and North Carolina University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, a National Institute of Health (NIH)-funded postdoctoral research training program in neurodevelopmental disorders. He is also the Principal Investigator of an NIH-funded Autism Center of Excellence Network study of brain development in infants at risk for autism. He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*.

Dr. Piven received his bachelor's and medical degrees from the University of Maryland. During the first part of his career he served on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Iowa. He has been on the faculty at the University of North Carolina since 1999.

Dr. Piven has studied various aspects of the pathogenesis of autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders, conducting family behavioral, molecular-genetic, and neuroimaging studies, and more recently conducting research on the late-life manifestations of autism.

Over the past 12 years with colleagues across North America and as part of the Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS), Dr. Piven has examined manifestations of autism in the first two years of life—a period prior to the consolidation of the defining features of the disorder. This research has led to an appreciation of the cascade of brain-behavior changes leading to the emergence of autism in the second and third years of life and has demonstrated the ability of brain imaging to provide pre-symptomatic, predictive markers of autism in infancy that have the potential to enable pre-symptomatic preventative interventions for those at highest risk.

"Dr. Piven's work has been at the forefront of brain imaging in autism for more than two decades. His most recent findings suggest that dynamics of brain development in the first year of life may provide clues for early intervention before an autism spectrum disorder fully develops."

—Daniel Pine, M.D., Chair of the Ruane Prize Selection Committee