



THE RECTOR AND VISITORS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

December 7, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Academic and Student Life Committee:

Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Chair  
Carlos M. Brown, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Paul C. Harris  
Stephen P. Long, M.D.  
The Honorable L.F. Payne

Amanda L. Pillion  
Rachel W. Sheridan  
Robert D. Hardie, Ex-officio  
Patricia A. Jennings, Faculty Rep  
Lillian A. Rojas, Student Rep

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Robert M. Blue  
Mark T. Bowles  
Thomas A. DePasquale  
U. Bertram Ellis  
Babur B. Lateef, M.D.

Paul B. Manning  
James B. Murray Jr.  
John L. Nau III  
Douglas D. Wetmore

**FROM:** Susan G. Harris

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of the Academic and Student Life Committee Meeting on December 7, 2023

The Academic and Student Life Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in open session, at 3:49 p.m., on Thursday, December 7, 2023. Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Chair, presided.

Committee members present: Robert D. Hardie, Carlos M. Brown, The Honorable Paul C. Harris, Stephen P. Long, M.D., The Honorable L.F. Payne, Amanda L. Pillion, Rachel W. Sheridan, Patricia A. Jennings, and Lillian A. Rojas

Mark T. Bowles, Thomas A. DePasquale, U. Bertram Ellis Jr., Babur B. Lateef, M.D., James B. Murray Jr., John L. Nau III, and Douglas D. Wetmore also were present.

Present as well were James E. Ryan, Ian B. Baucom, Jennifer W. Davis, K. Craig Kent, M.D., Susan G. Harris, Donna P. Henry, Clifton M. Iler, Kennedy Kipps, Megan K. Lowe, Mark M. Luellen, David W. Martel, Clark L. "Chip" Murray, and Margot M. Rogers.

The presenters were Kevin Pelphrey, Micah Mazurek, Bethany Teachman, Nancy Deutsch, and Carla G. Williams.

**Action Item: Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases**

Based on their family interest in neurodegenerative diseases, specifically Alzheimer's, the Botsfords made two generous gifts to UVA Health: the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases, and, through their estate, the Nina and Ken Botsford Research Fund in Neurodegenerative Diseases.

The income of the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases, strengthened through matching funds provided by the University's Bicentennial Professorship Fund, will be used to support a faculty member in the field of neurodegenerative diseases. This professorship will allow the dean of the School of Medicine to attract and retain the most innovative and distinguished physician scientists studying and treating Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and related diseases, and its holder will be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member.

On motion, duly seconded, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

**NINA AND KEN BOTSFORD BICENTENNIAL PROFESSORSHIP IN NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES**

WHEREAS, a longtime volunteer and donor to the University, Ken (Col '75, Med '79) Botsford is a member of the Health System Board and vice chair for health for the Honor the Future campaign, serving on the University's Campaign Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, based on their family interest in neurodegenerative diseases, specifically Alzheimer's, Dr. Botsford and his wife Nina made two generous gifts to UVA Health to fund the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases, and, through their estate, the Nina and Ken Botsford Research Fund in Neurodegenerative Diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Botsfords hope these gifts will help further discoveries in Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases, which could lead to future treatments and cures. They also hope their gifts will inspire others to contribute to UVA research in this field; and

WHEREAS, the income of the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases, strengthened through matching funds provided by the University's Bicentennial Professorship Fund, will be used to support a faculty member in the field of neurodegenerative diseases. This professorship will allow the dean of the School of Medicine to attract and retain the most innovative and distinguished physician scientists studying and treating Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and related diseases, and its holder will be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases in the School of Medicine; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors thanks Nina and Ken Botsford for their generous contributions to the University and the School of Medicine.

**Arts & Sciences Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity**

Donor Lisa A. Smith was inspired by the democracy and equity work at the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the University and chose to take advantage of the University's Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity Matching Fund to fund a research professorship in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences in democracy and equity.

On motion, duly seconded, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

**ARTS & SCIENCES RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP IN DEMOCRACY AND EQUITY**

WHEREAS, Lisa A. Smith took a B.A. in Economics from the College of Arts & Sciences in 1985 and went on to work for the Robin Hood Foundation, which works with other organizations to combat poverty in New York City, eventually becoming Deputy Director; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith has served in important volunteer roles for University-associated organizations including interviewing Jefferson Scholars candidates and as a member and chair of the College Foundation Board; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith was inspired to fund a research professorship by the work in democracy and equity at the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the University. The research professorship will receive matching funds from the University's Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity Matching Fund;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Arts & Sciences Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors thanks Lisa A. Smith for her generous contributions to the University and the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

**Renaming the Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine the Robert E. O'Connor Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine**

Dr. Robert E. (Bob) O'Connor recently retired as chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, after 16 successful years as chair of the department. Now that Dr. O'Connor is no longer chair of the department, the Department of Emergency Medicine would like to change the name of this professorship to honor Dr. O'Connor. The naming of this professorship for Dr. O'Connor will bring added prestige to this permanent endowment and assist with the recruitment process.

Through Dr. O'Connor's stewardship as department chair from 2007 to 2023, the academic, clinical, and research missions of the Department of Emergency Medicine have all advanced and added to the national and international stature of the University of Virginia while maintaining a strong and stable financial position with diversified revenue sources. For all of these reasons and in recognition of Dr. O'Connor's years of academic and community service, the Department of Emergency Medicine would like to honor Dr. O'Connor by renaming the Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine the Robert E. O'Connor Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

On motion, duly seconded, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

**RENAMING THE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE THE ROBERT E. O'CONNOR DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

WHEREAS, through Dr. Robert E. O'Connor's stewardship, the academic, clinical and research missions of the Department of Emergency Medicine have all advanced and added to the national and international stature of the University of Virginia while maintaining a strong and stable financial position with diversified revenue sources;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors renames the Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine the Robert E. O'Connor Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors congratulates Dr. O'Connor for this significant honor and thanks him for his service to the Department of Emergency Medicine, the School of Medicine, and the University.

**Executive Vice President and Provost's Remarks**

Provost Baucom said it has been an extraordinarily busy semester. Our students, faculty, and staff have persevered through difficult times. The conflict in the Middle East has created stress for members of the UVA community. We marked the one-year anniversary of the tragic loss of students Devin Chandler, D'Sean Perry, and Lavel Davis, Jr. and the wounding of Mike Hollins and Marlee Morgan. We have worked together to support the free expression of ideas and to keep our community safe. He said he appreciated the Board, J.J. Davis, Chief Longo, colleagues in Student Affairs, the President's Office, and University Counsel's office, among many others who have been wonderful partners in this work. He is particularly grateful to the deans and to the faculty who created learning opportunities for the UVA community. He spoke about the newly created Task Force on Religious Diversity and Belonging chaired by Dean Acampora.

Provost Baucom said Kenyon Bonner will join the University as Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer on January 16. He spent nearly two decades at the University of Pittsburgh. He said he was deeply grateful to Dr. Holstege and Mr. Rucker for their work as interims. Dr. Holstege will return to his regular posts leading the Student Health and Wellness Center, running the Blue Ridge Poison Center, and serving as chief of the division of medical toxicology. Mr. Rucker will continue through the spring semester, and will be invaluable to Mr. Kenyon as he settles in.

Provost Baucom reported briefly on the "Datapalooza" event and other recent events around Grounds. And he mentioned that Grant Giangrasso was awarded a Rhodes scholarship.

**The 2030 Plan: Report on Strategic Goals**

The Brain and Neuroscience Grand Challenge includes a University commitment announced in June 2022 to invest more than \$50M in an interdisciplinary effort to pioneer life-changing advances in neuroscience, while simultaneously mapping the workings of the human brain. It seeks to help scientists better understand conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and autism, as well as how the brain functions over a lifespan. Led by the UVA Brain Institute, it engages faculty, students, and staff from across Grounds. Central contributors to the work of the Brian and Neuroscience

Grand Challenge include Mr. Kevin Pelphrey and Ms. Micah Mazurek. Ms. Mazurek and Mr. Pelphrey presented and answered questions about their autism research.

The Digital Technology and Society Grand Challenge includes a University commitment announced in June 2023 of \$50M in investments in initiatives with initial work focusing on improving youth mental health and keeping artificial intelligence algorithms fair and democratic online. It includes two related initiatives: Digital Technology for Democracy and Digital Technology and Youth Development. The Digital Technology and Youth Development Initiative explores how digital technology can contribute to healthy development in young people, with a focus on addressing the youth mental health crisis. Ms. Bethany Teachman and Ms. Nancy Deutsch serve as faculty leads for the Digital Technology and Youth Development Initiative. They spoke about their work and answered questions.

Their presentations can be found attached to these minutes.

### **The Changing Landscape of College Athletics**

Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Ms. Carla Williams has been involved in several key initiatives that have helped to shape the future of ACC and NCAA athletics. She was selected to work on the NCAA's NIL Legislation Solutions Group to examine student-athlete name, image, and likeness rights and the NCAA Federal and State Legislation Working Group. In 2021, ACC commissioner Jim Phillips appointed Williams to the ACC Football Subcommittee.

Ms. Williams reported on the landscape of college athletics, with a focus on student-athlete mental health and related staff, resources, and programming for student-athletes at the University. College athletics has worked hard to destigmatize mental health issues among student athletes. UVA was in the forefront in the 1990s focusing on mental health counseling. Ms. Williams reported on the services provided to current student athletes. They added a sports psychologist to their program recently and now have three on staff. Over half of student athletes seek mental health services in some form.

Ms. Williams also discussed the role of NIL in modern college athletics and the recent conference realignments and expansion. The ACC has added Stanford, Berkeley, and SMU recently. The most difficult part is scheduling. She spoke about Cavalier Futures, a "collective" formed to assist with name, image, and likeness opportunities for student athletes.

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The chair adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

SGH:ddr

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors website:  
<http://bov.virginia.edu/committees/179>

# **Attachments**

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Meeting of the

*Academic &  
Student Life  
Committee*

December 7, 2023







# Agenda

- I. Committee Chair's Remarks**
- II. Action Items**
  - A.** Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases
  - B.** Arts & Sciences Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity
  - C.** Renaming the Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine the Robert E. O'Connor Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine
- III. Executive Vice President & Provost's Remarks**
- IV. Discussion Items**
  - A.** The 2030 Plan: The Path to Research Preeminence
  - B.** The Changing Landscape of College Athletics



# Action Items



# Executive Vice President & Provost's Remarks

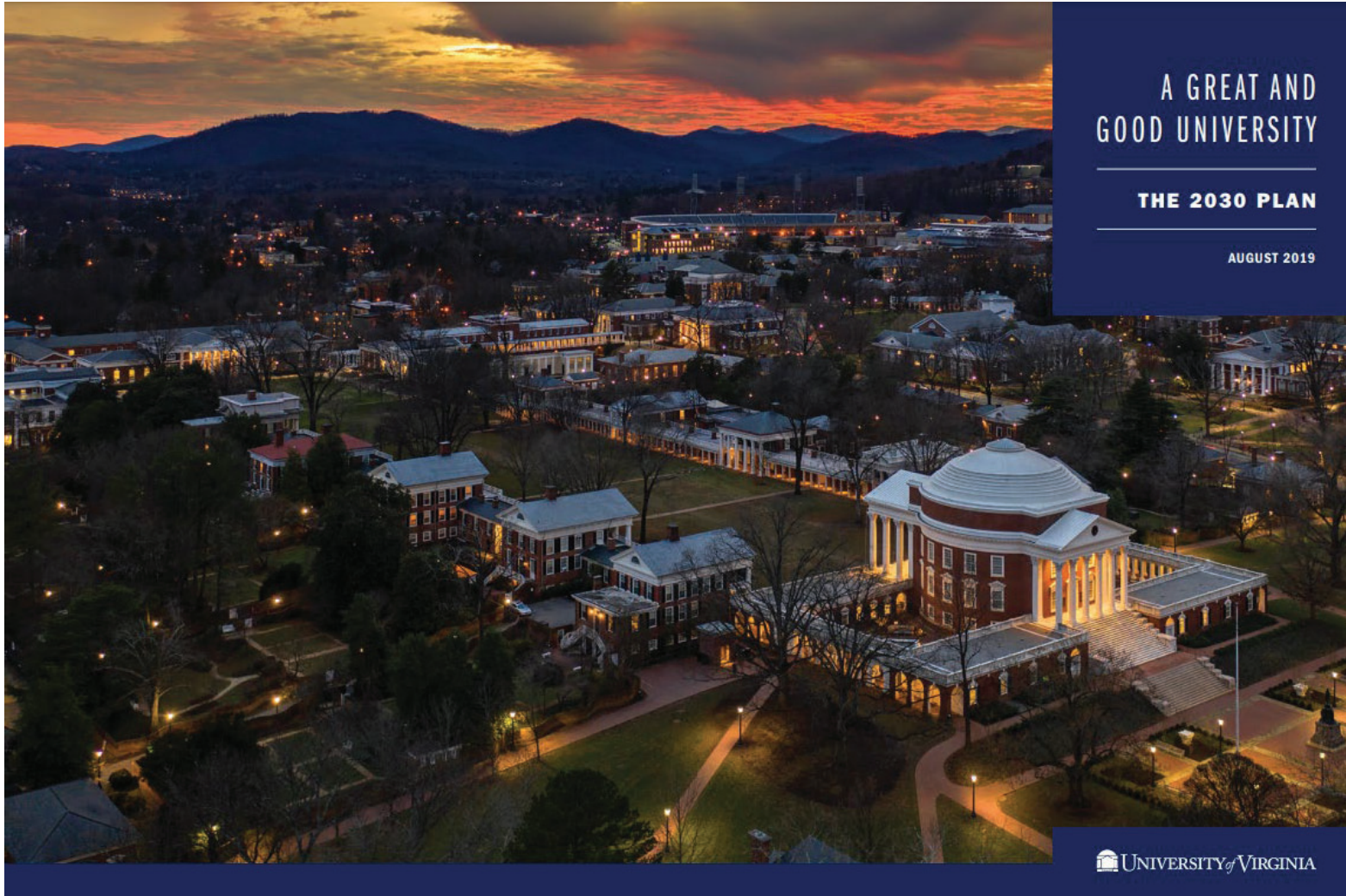




# Discussion Items







A GREAT AND  
GOOD UNIVERSITY

THE 2030 PLAN

AUGUST 2019

 UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

## STRATEGIC GOALS

**I.**

**STRENGTHEN  
OUR  
FOUNDATION**

**II.**

**CULTIVATE THE  
MOST VIBRANT  
COMMUNITY IN  
HIGHER  
EDUCATION**

**III.**

**ENABLE  
DISCOVERIES  
THAT ENRICH AND  
IMPROVE LIVES**

**IV.**

**MAKE UVA  
SYNONYMOUS  
WITH SERVICE**

## III. **ENABLE DISCOVERIES THAT ENRICH AND IMPROVE LIVES**

Enable faculty and students to work across traditional boundaries.

Become an international leader in several distinct and critical areas of research.

Shed new light on enduring and profound questions.

Approach all learning as an opportunity for discovery.



## The Path to Research Preeminence

1. Launch the Precision Medicine Challenge
2. Launch the Digital Technology & Society Challenge
3. Launch the Environmental Resilience Challenge
4. Launch the Brain/Neuroscience Challenge
5. Launch the Biotechnology Institute
6. Create Seed Funding for Interdisciplinary Research
7. Launch the Democracy Institute
8. Substantially Upgrade Alderman Library
9. Make strategic investments in research infrastructure

# *Autism Research*

**Micah Mazurek and  
Kevin Pelphrey**

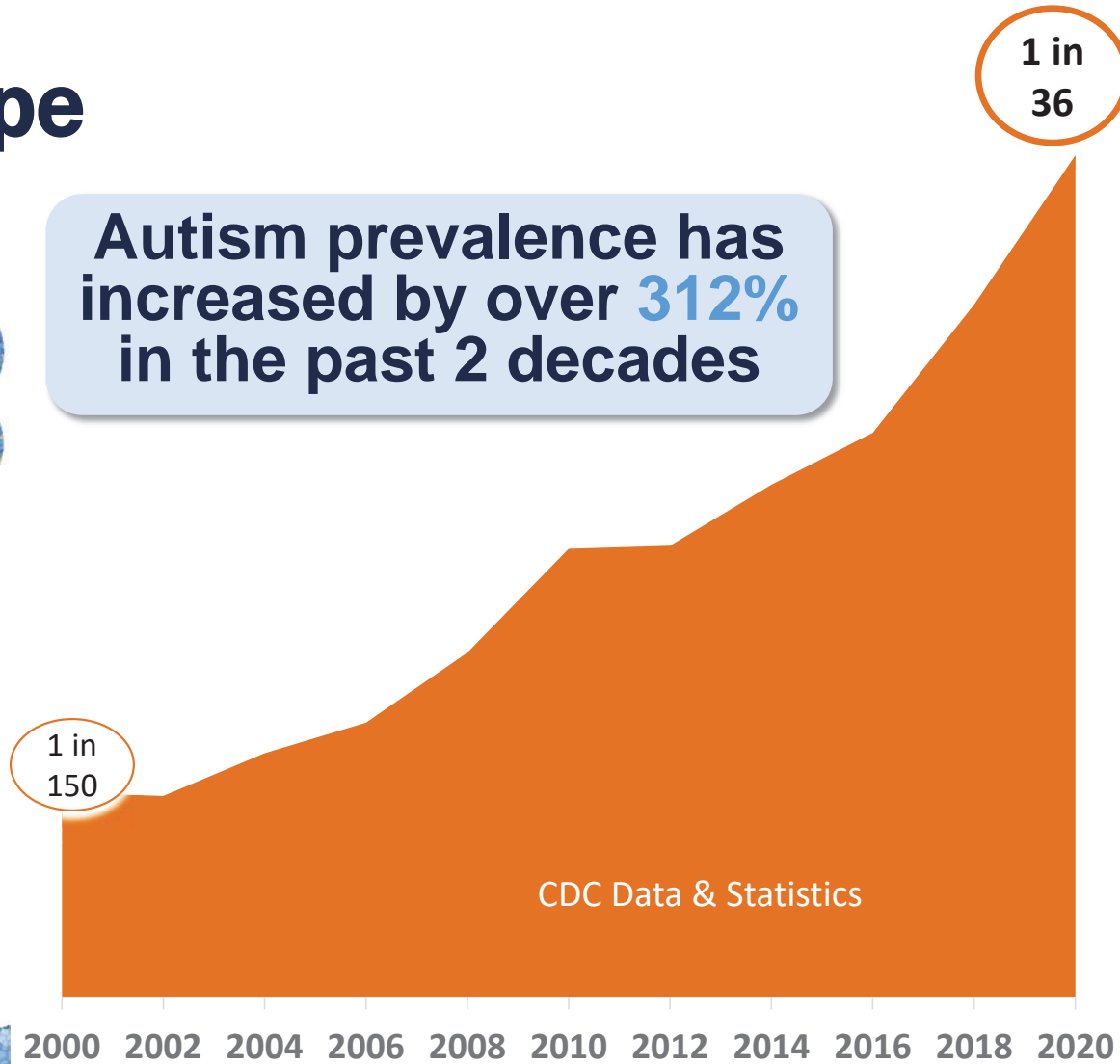


UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
VIRGINIA

# The Autism Landscape



Autism prevalence has increased by over **312%** in the past 2 decades



# Community-Driven Research Priorities



Community Goals & Priorities



# Supporting Transformative Autism Research (STAR)





A centralized system for autism research & resources for individuals, families & professionals.

# TRANSFORM OUTCOMES. TOGETHER.

We're bringing together researchers, professionals, and community organizations to improve the lives of individuals with autism and their families. Autism DRIVE gives you access to ground-breaking autism research and innovative models for care, support, and education.

## JOIN AUTISM DRIVE

Connect to upcoming studies at UVA and resources across the state relevant to you.



## FIND RESOURCES

Access autism-focused resources available in Virginia and online.







# Autism Research Highlights

## Interdisciplinary Research



SCHOOL of EDUCATION  
and HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

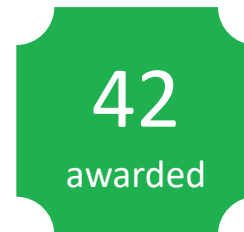
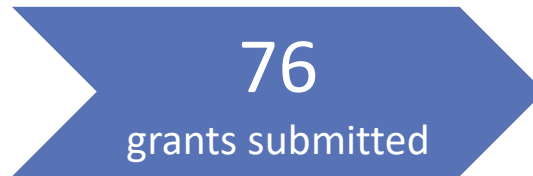
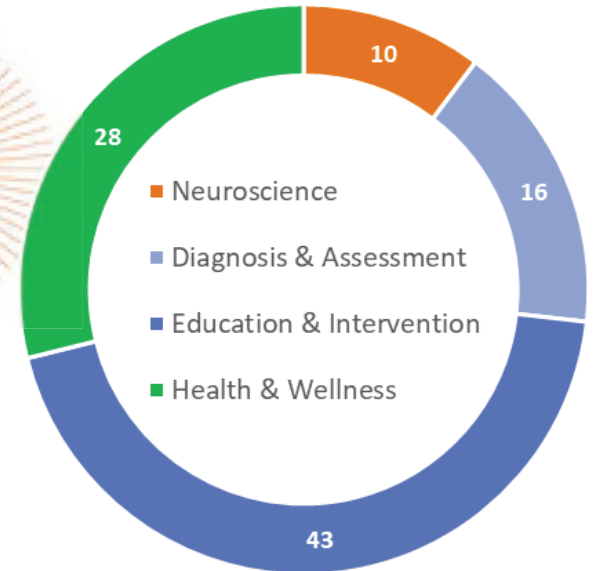
SCHOOL of MEDICINE

ENGINEERING

SCHOOL of DATA SCIENCE

SCHOOL of NURSING

COLLEGE and GRADUATE SCHOOL  
of ARTS & SCIENCES



# Next-Level Discovery & Impact: Key Focus

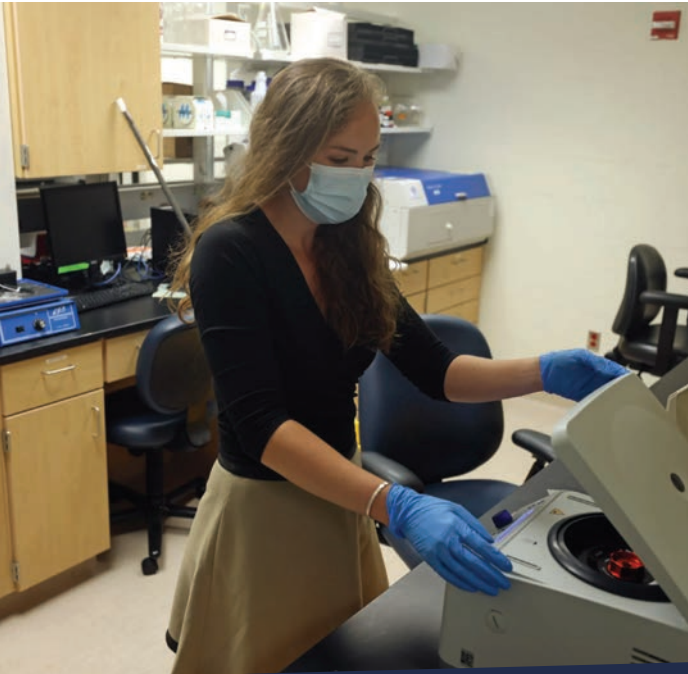


## Understanding “Autisms”

Underlying neurobiology,  
heterogeneity, & subtypes

Earlier & more accurate  
identification

Personalized & more  
effective treatments

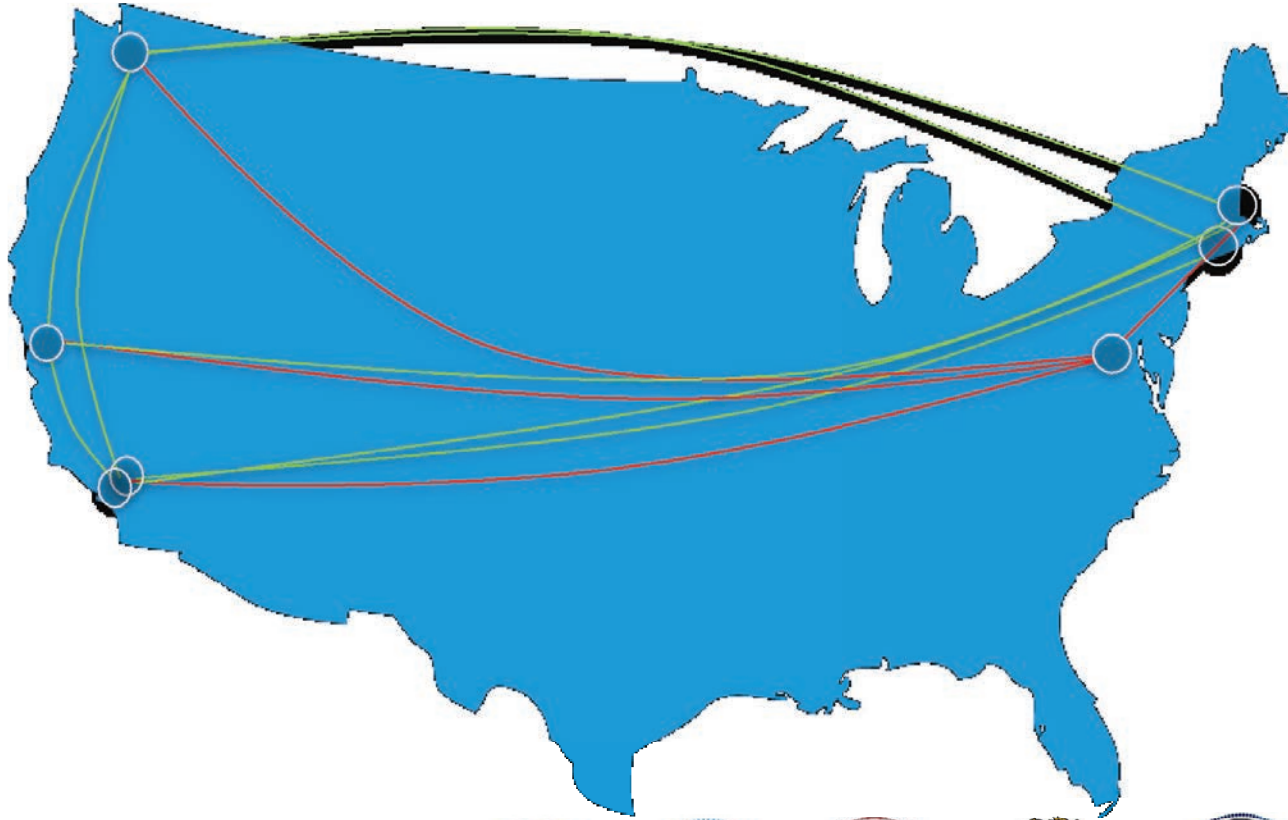


**Undergraduates engage in cutting-edge multidisciplinary research.**

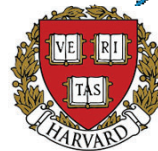
**Genetics and brain imaging for earlier and more accurate diagnosis.**



# NIH Autism Center of Excellence (ACE): Girls' Neurogenetics Network (\$13 million; 1 of 9 funded)



Integrating genetics, brain imaging, and clinical phenotyping to enable precision medicine for autism.





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# *Grand Challenge: Digital Technologies & Healthy Youth Development*

Nancy Deutsch and  
Bethany Teachman



# Initial Focal Area: Youth Mental Health

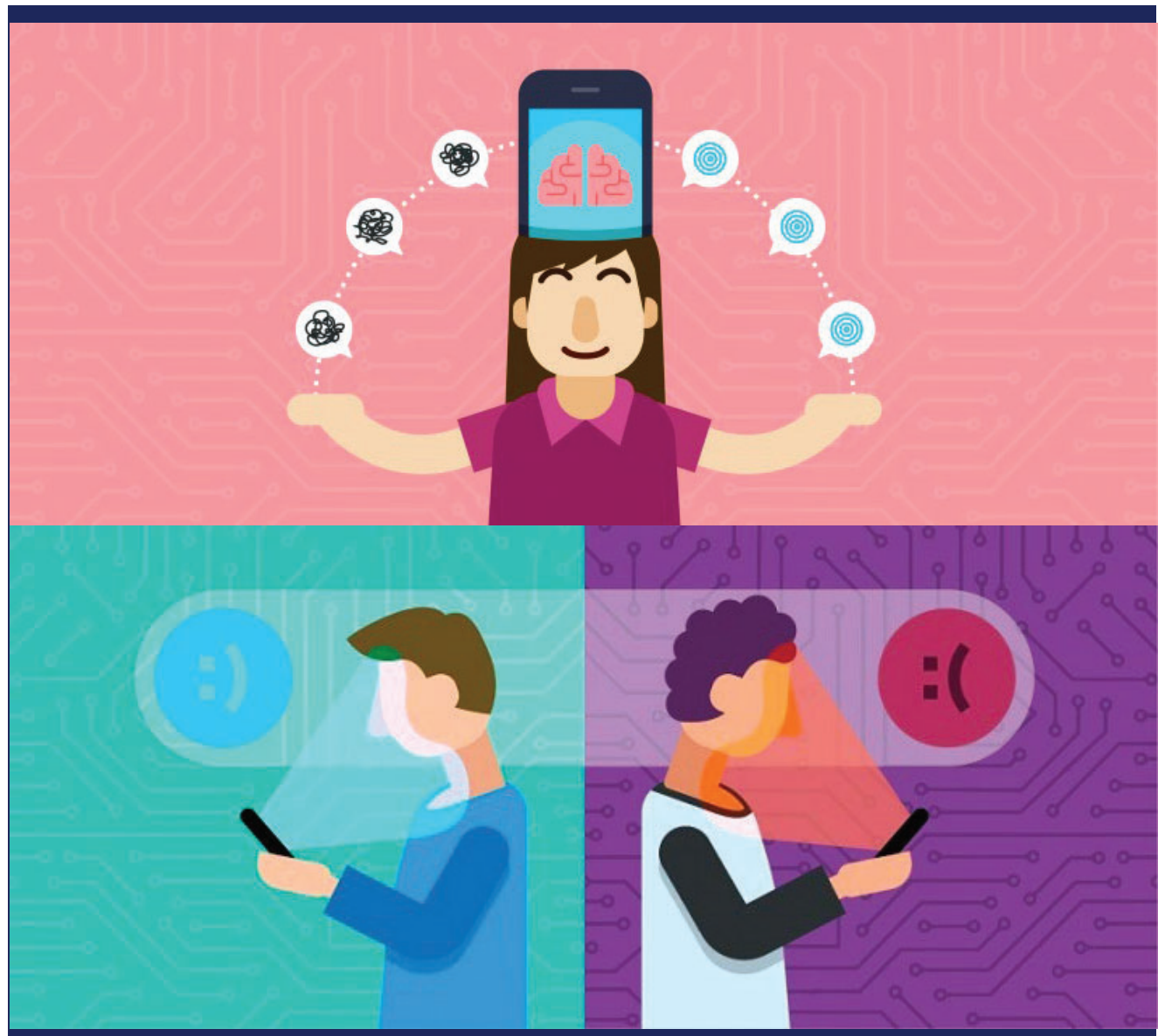


**1) Understand how digital technology hurts and helps youth mental health**

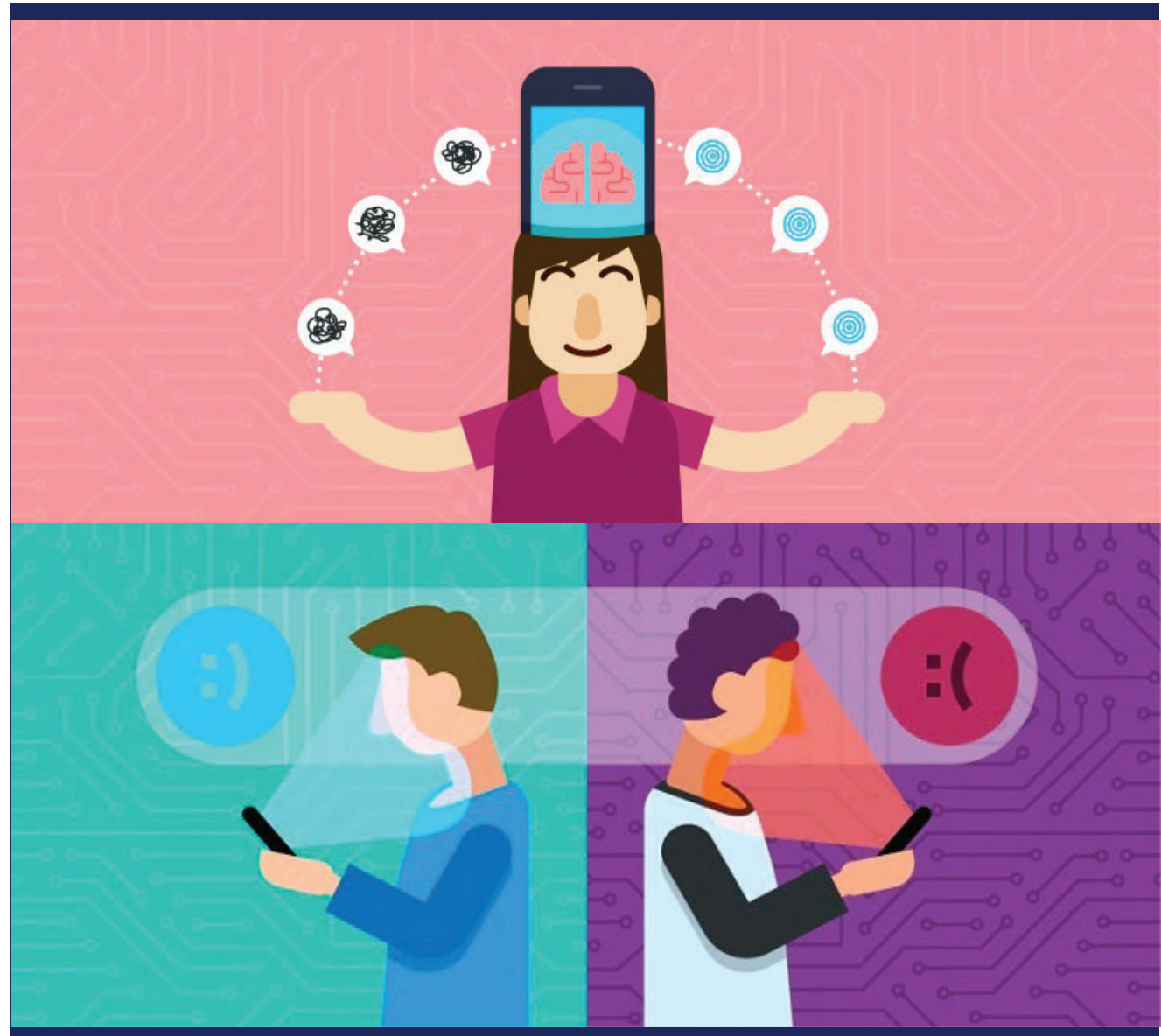
**2) Harness digital technology to get youth help when & where they need it most**



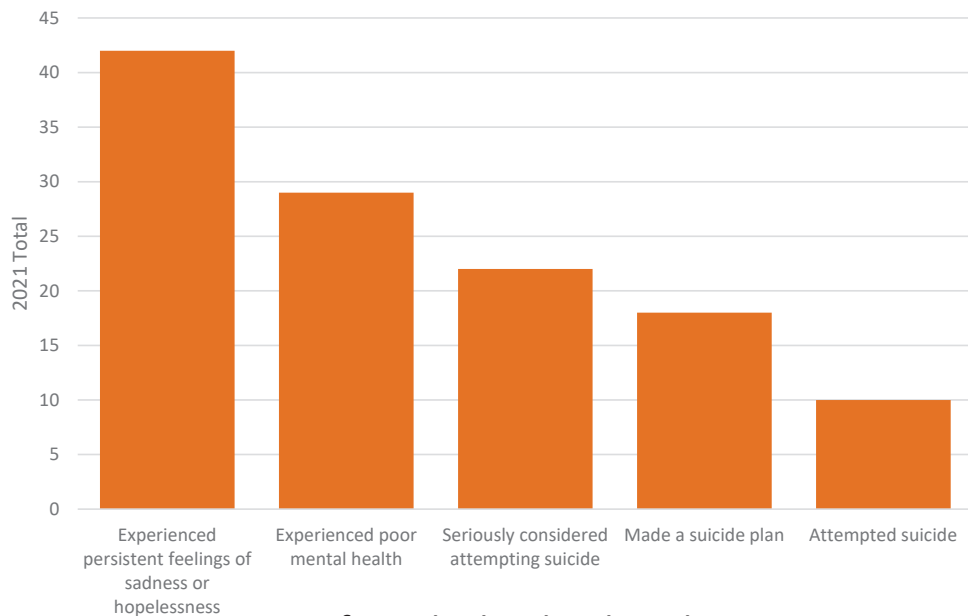
# From Fear to Facts to Fixes



# From Fear to Facts to Fixes

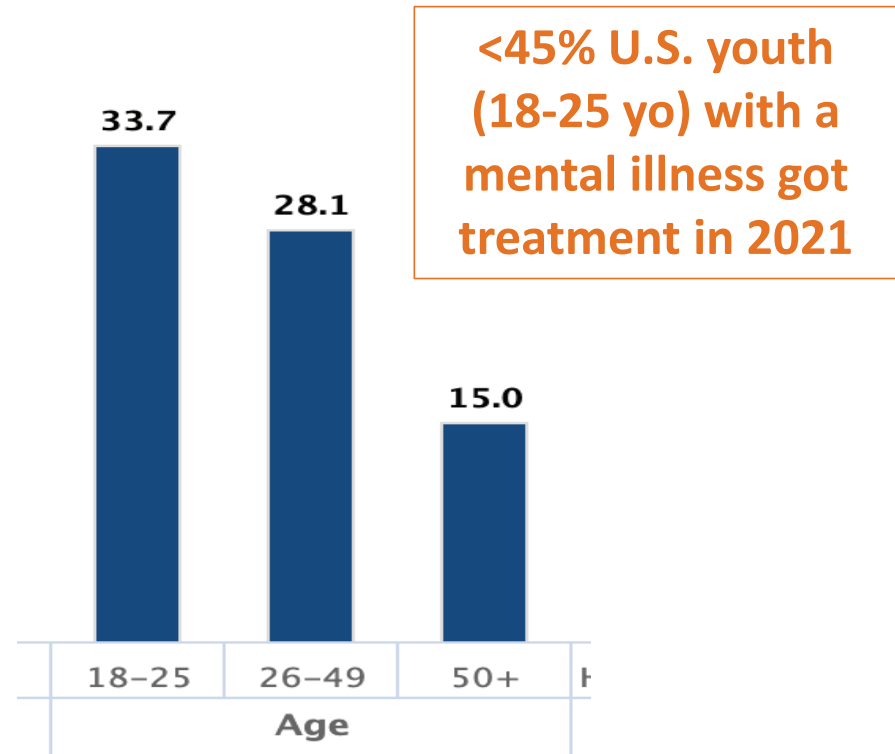


# Youth are struggling & not getting the help they need...



% of U.S. high school students with mental health difficulties in 2021

[https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/YRBS\\_Data-Summary-Trends\\_Report2023\\_508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/YRBS_Data-Summary-Trends_Report2023_508.pdf)



% of U.S. adults with a mental illness in 2021

SAMHSA data; [https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness#part\\_2539](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness#part_2539)

# Not a new problem but it has gotten worse...

The New York Times

## *E.R. Visits for Teenage Girls Surged During the Pandemic*

The proportion of teen girls visiting emergency rooms in mental health crisis rose 22 percent in the pandemic's second year, while the proportion of teen boys visiting declined.

Share full article



A study showed a particularly sharp rise of hospitalizations for eating disorders and suicidal behavior among teen girls. Tim Gruber for The New York Times

By Ellen Barry

July 12, 2023

f 23

OCTOBER 7, 2023

Editors' notes

Twit

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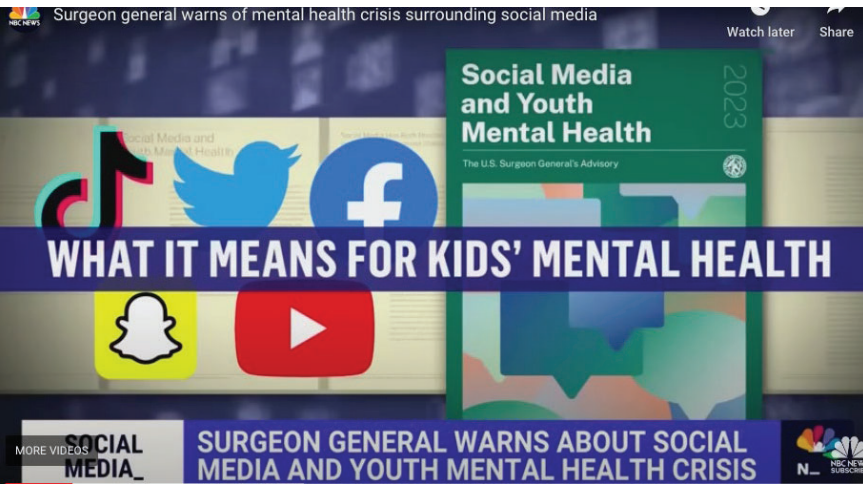
Email

## A decade of data describes nationwide youth mental health crisis

by Mayo Clinic Staff, Mayo Clinic News Network







MIND & BODY

# New report on teens and mental health: How screen time impacts kids

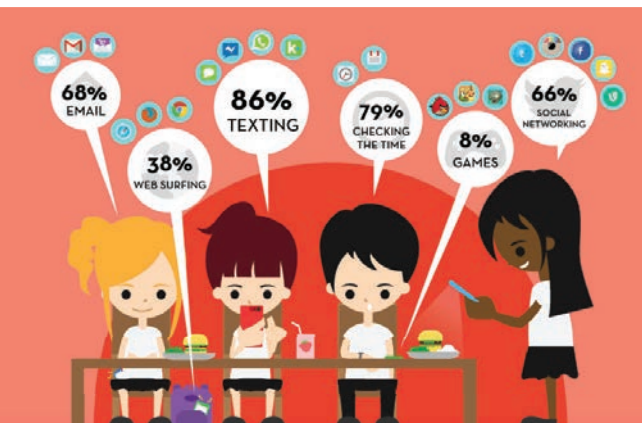
## The truth about teens, social media and the mental health crisis

April 25, 2023 · 9:28 AM ET

Heard on All Things Considered

IDEAS • PARENTING

## Stop Debating Whether Too Much Smartphone Time Can Hurt Teens, and Start Protecting Them



**Social Media**  
a 'Silent Killer' of  
your Mental Health

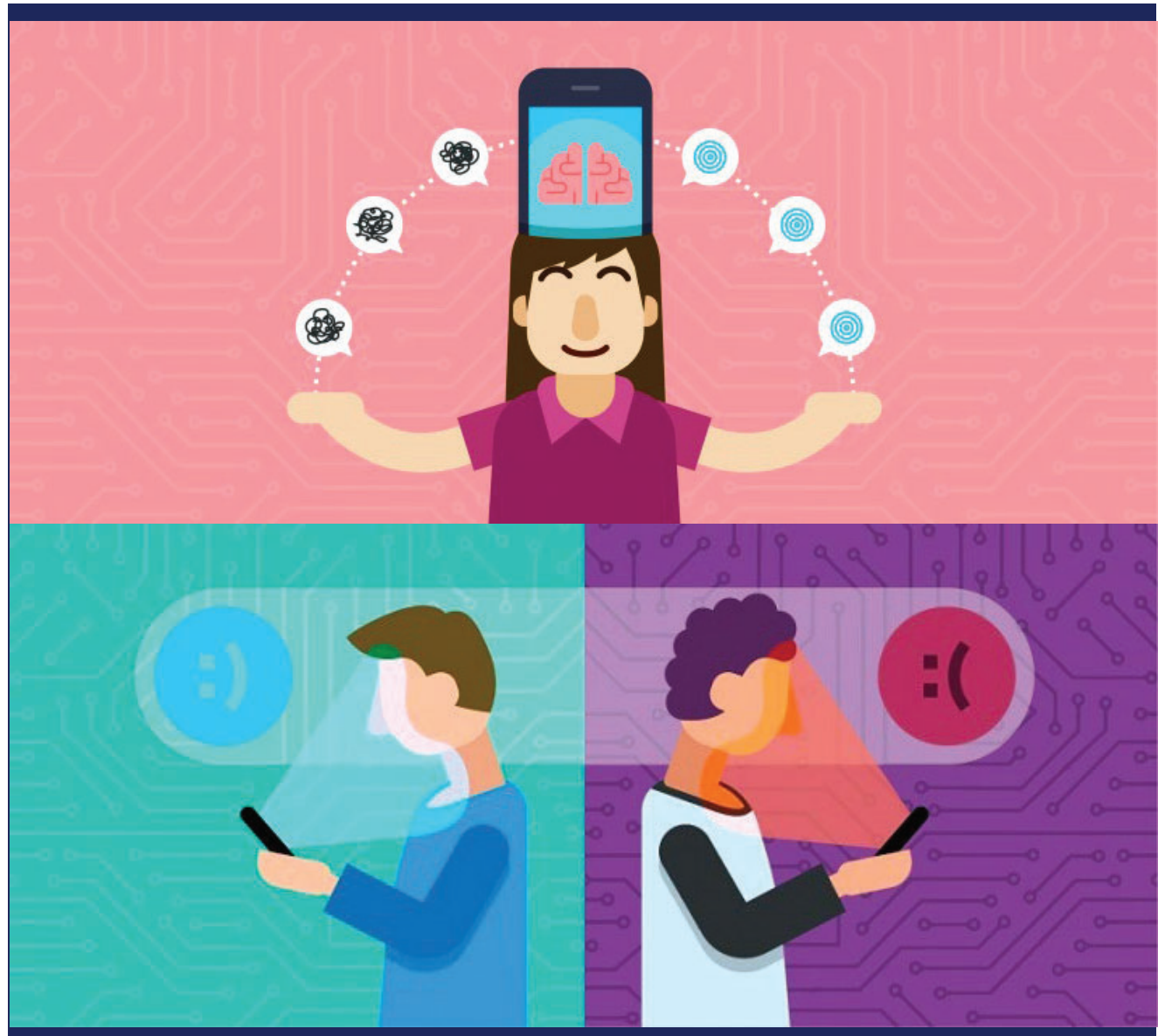
## Social media is driving teen mental health crisis, surgeon general warns

Advisory calls attention to growing concerns about the link between social media use and depression and anxiety in children and adolescents.



The surgeon general's warning about social media comes as the rates of teenage depression, sadness and hopelessness have skyrocketed over the past decade. Carol Frenn / Getty Images

# From Fear to Facts to Fixes





# Digital technology is not only part of the problem ...it should also be part of the solution

## Why youth aren't getting the help they need

- Costs
- Logistics
- Stigma
- Limited access to providers
- Lack of access to evidence-based treatments
- Fear and avoidance

**Clinics alone  
are not  
enough**



# Digital technologies can address many barriers to accessing care

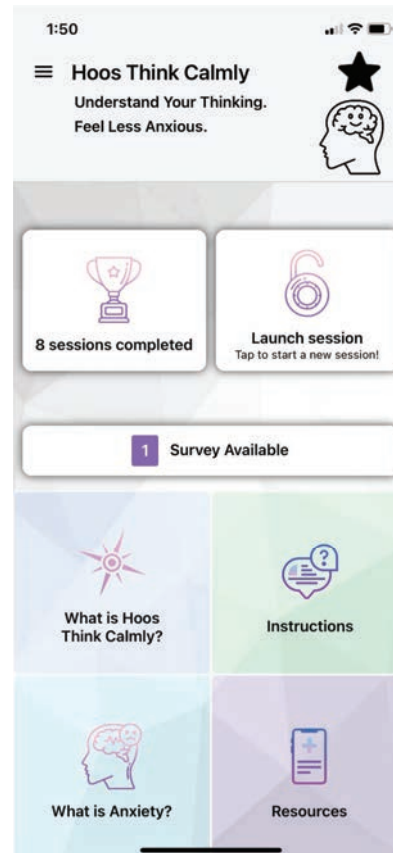
- Costs
- Logistics
- Stigma
- Limited access to providers
- Lack of access to evidence-based treatments
- Fear and avoidance

**...but most are untested!**

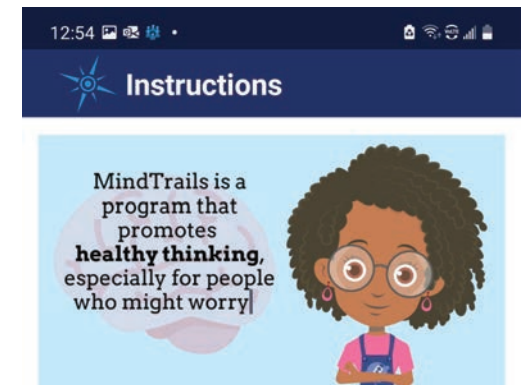
# UVA is poised to help solve the youth mental health crisis



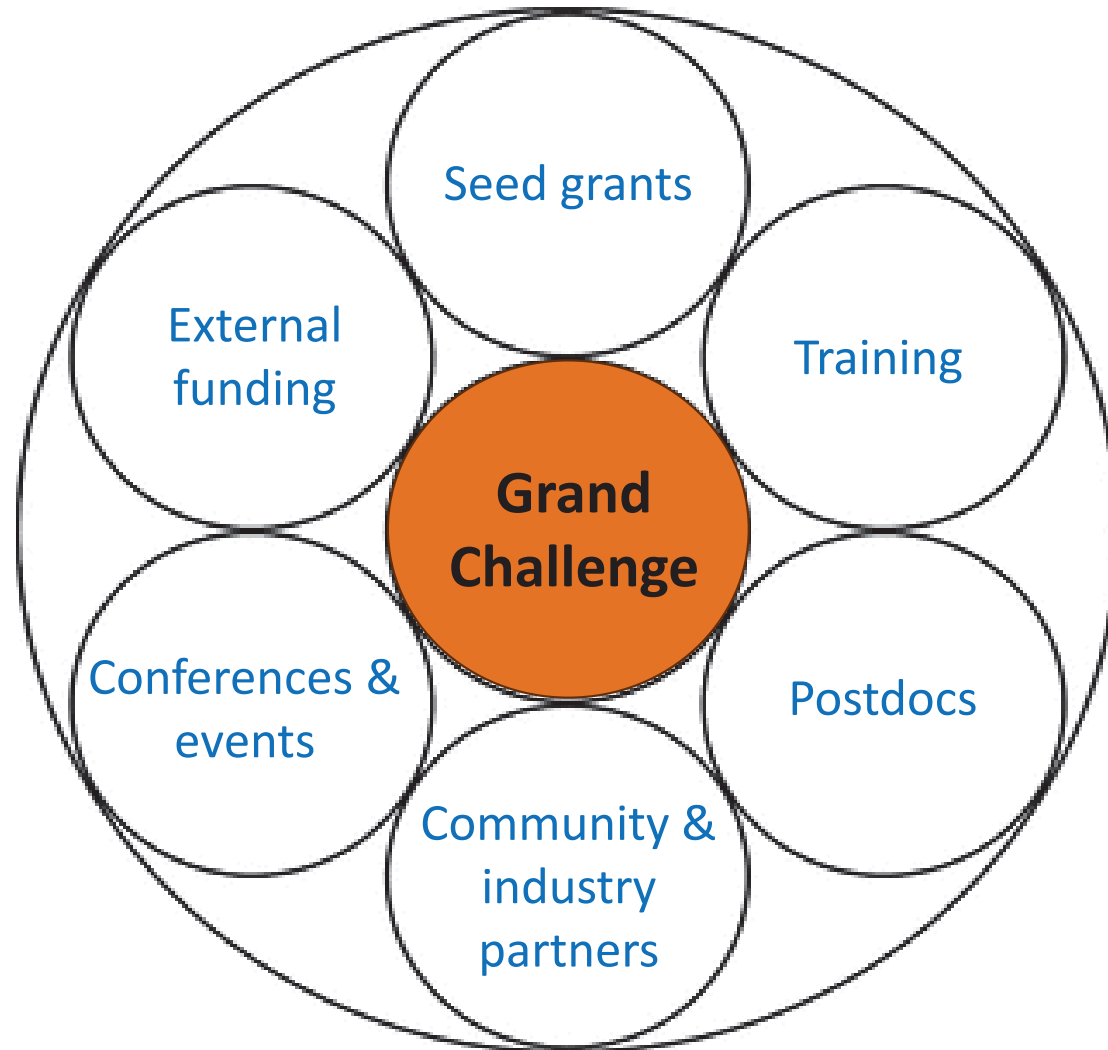
Analysis of texts to help prevent youth suicide



Mobile apps to reduce high school & college students' anxiety









**Together, UVA will make digital technology work for youth instead of against them**

# Questions





# *The Changing Landscape of College Athletics*

Carla Williams





# UVA Athletics: Sports Psychology

- Mission: Promote mental well-being, safety, and optimal performance in all aspects of student-athlete (SA) life. We respect and maintain our SA's confidentiality, autonomy, and resiliency. We provide confidential one-to-one meetings for members of all Division I sport teams to optimize their experience in their roles as members of our community, as students, and as athletes.

# Sports Psychology

Licensed Clinical Psychologists

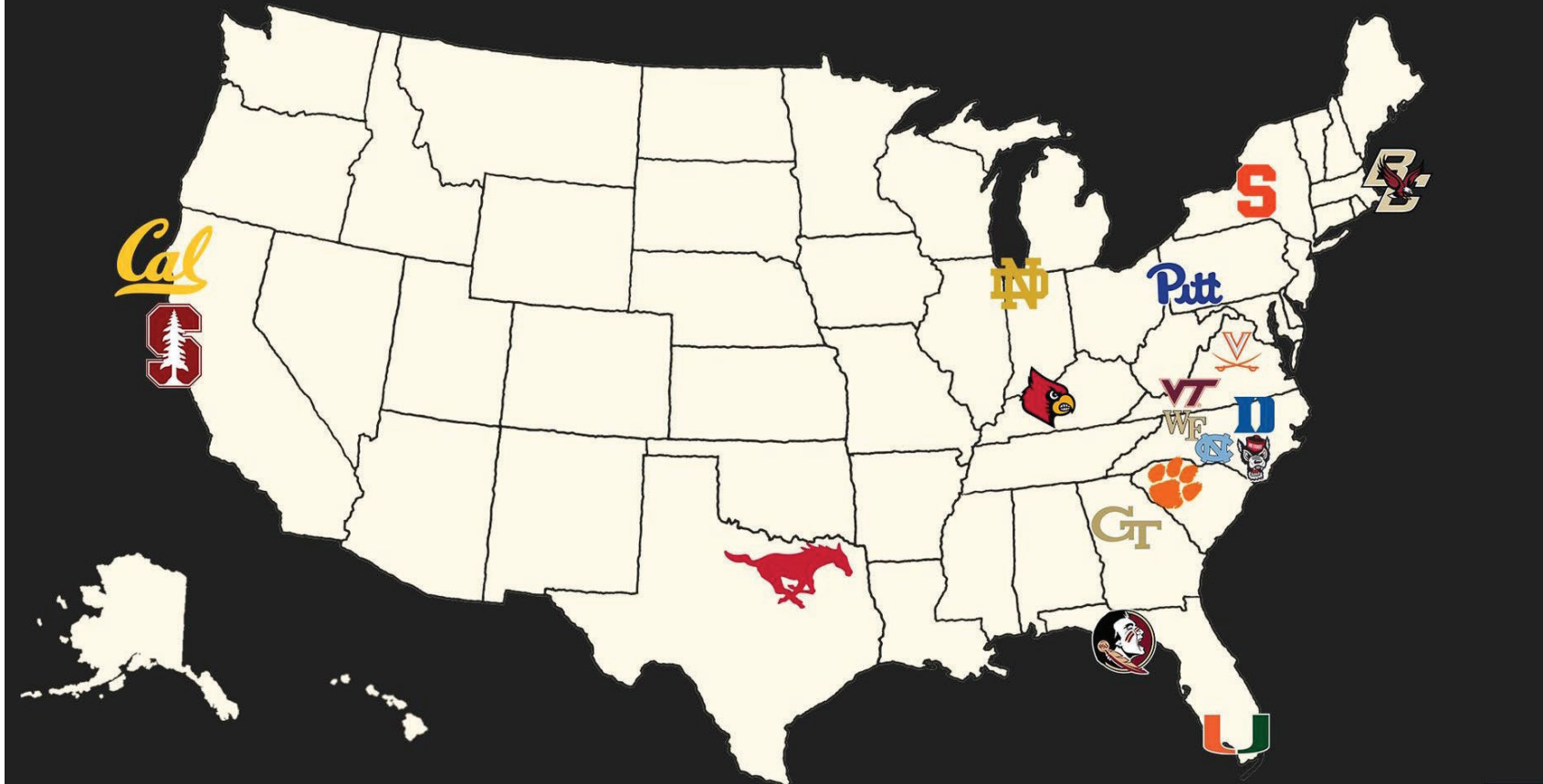
(July 2022 – June 2023)

- Primary service is 1:1 confidential counseling.
- Group sessions:
  - Athletic performance (1:1, small group and team)
  - Psychoeducational
  - Mental health team meetings
  - Onboarding for 1st years, mid-years, transfers
  - Team Captains' meeting
  - Coaches and Staff
  - Most prevalent athletic performance topics
  - Most prevalent mental health topics
  - Consult with SA leadership groups including SAAC, SAM, BOSS, and Athletes for Equality.

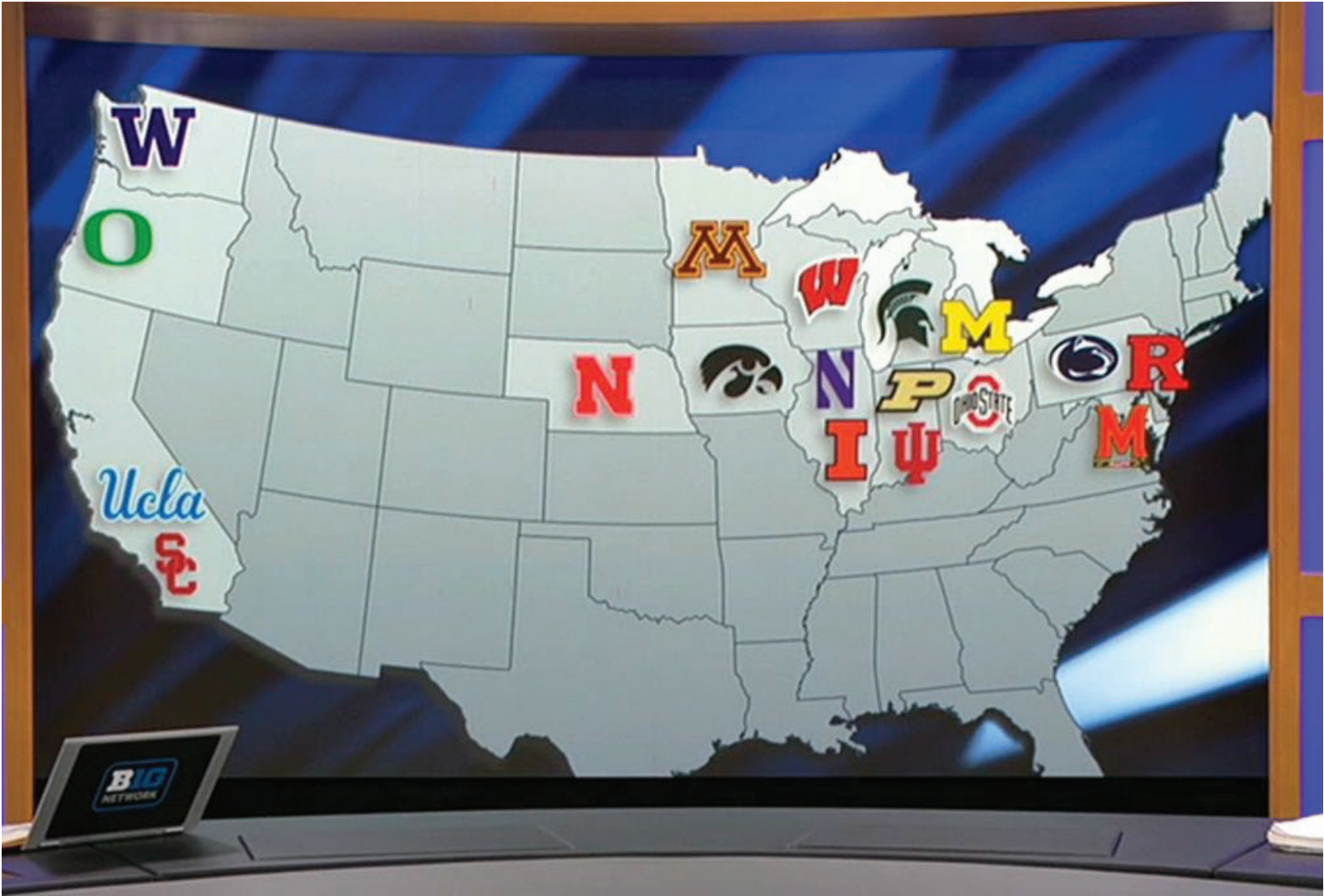
# Sports Psychology

- SAs face unique challenges related to their responsibilities as students and athletes while balancing development as a young person.
- Unique needs of SAs related to the 11/13 tragedy.
- Additional services/support provided as a result of the tragedy.

# ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE IN 2024 SEASON











# Cav Futures/Collectives

- A collective is an organization formed to benefit student athletes, usually at a specific institution. The models vary somewhat, but the basic premise of most is that an alum, or group of alums, form a company to provide NIL opportunities to student athletes of that institution. (BCS.com 2023)
- Cav Futures (cavfutures.com) established in March 2021 and Cav Futures Foundation (cavscare.org) established in January 2023



# Questions



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*Thank You*

