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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

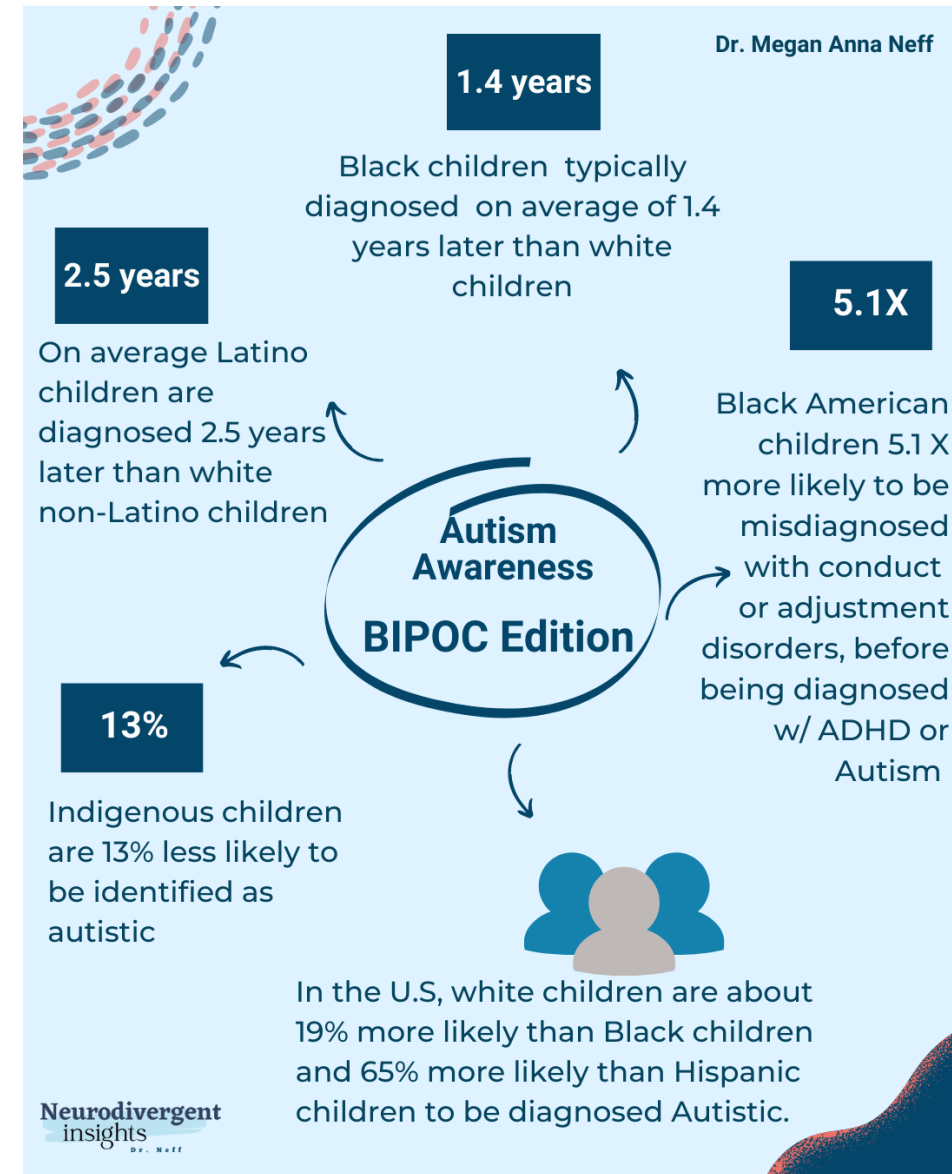
# Identification/Screening of Autism in Primary Care

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# Background

- Research has consistently shown tremendous benefits in early identification of autism and participation in early intervention
- The average age of diagnosis is 5 years of age and even later for:
  - BIPOC children
  - Those rural areas
  - Individuals with lower-income



# Context

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends universal screening for autism at 18 and 24 months of age

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) maintains that there is insufficient evidence to recommend routine screening for autism in children aged 18 to 30 months without specific concerns

# Benefits of Universal Screenings in Primary Care Settings

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- Reduces disparities in diagnosis
- Promotes early intervention
- Mitigates some provider bias
- Support equity in education
- Engages families early

# Scholarly Project

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- Given the importance of early identification and intervention, I created a training specifically for family medicine physicians
- Approximately 16%-26% of children in the United States receive care from family medicine physicians
  - They are vital in rural and underserved areas
- From conversations with residents rotating in our JFK Evaluation clinic, it was clear that they wanted more training in autism and felt unprepared to have conversations with parents about neurodevelopmental concerns

# Project Goal

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- Increase the use of universal screening tools in the primary care setting
- Increase provider comfort in talking about developmental concerns/autism with families
- Educate providers about neurodiversity
- Dissuade the “wait and see” approach
- Increase provider knowledge on appropriate next steps if there are developmental concerns

# Dissemination

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- I led a training on the importance of identification/screening of autism in primary care to family medicine residents
  - Keys aspects included: neurodiversity, disparity in age of diagnosis, the importance of early intervention, and how to have a conversation with parents about developmental differences
- This is a topic I am passionate about and would be excited to lead a training on the topic in the future!

# References

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