

DEVELOPMENTAL
& BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

NEWSLETTER

BOSTON
MEDICAL
CENTER

The Autism Program

A monthly newsletter for families of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) at Boston Medical Center

What's Happening?

Autism Acceptance Month!

It's finally Autism Acceptance Month! For this very special edition of our newsletter, we decided to highlight some very special voices from the Autism community.

We are also posting highlights from our own BMC Autism community, as well as some great resources and information on our Instagram and Facebook pages all month long. Make sure you are following us to keep the fun going!



Magazine Highlight:

(THE SPECTRUM)

The Spectrum magazine is created by autistic people for autistic people, with content covering all things autism—from articles on ASD and aliens to everyday reflections of life on the spectrum. There are over 100 previous editions of the magazine stored on the [National Autistic Society's website](#) for you to explore and enjoy!

Check out the most recent [January 2023 edition](#) for some relatable and hilarious autistic creations, such as a James Bond fan fiction or some introspective investigation between reading fiction and masking!



Highlighting Autistic Voices

★ Dani Bowman ★



Connect with
Dani!



Dani Bowman is an American animator, educator, and ASD activist. Perhaps you recognize her from the Emmy Award-winning, Netflix Original hit series, "Love on the Spectrum: US"! Dani started her own animation company, DaniMation, at the age of 14 and has been empowering young autistic artists since then. Over the last decade, Dani has taught more than 2,000 Autistic youth to help unlock their autistic & artistic potential through her animation classes, as well as through collaboration with various universities and camps. As a creator of 10 award-winning short films and PSAs frequently working with other autistic artists, Dani urges everyone to follow your dreams and be proud of yourself. Recently, Dani has partnered with Anna Kennedy Online to launch the first Autism's Got Talent: USA, coming soon! Stay tuned and in the meantime, check out Dani's [YouTube channel](#) for some of her amazing work!

★ Morénike Giwa Onaiwu ★



Connect with
Morénike!



Morénike Giwa Onaiwu is an American social justice leader and educator for intersectional ASD advocacy and disability rights. Morénike's deep dedication to making this world a better place can be felt in their life-long efforts towards advocacy and justice, which includes public speaking, writing, community organization, global activism, and social research. Morénike has spoken at the White House on the civil rights of parents with disabilities, as well as the United Nations Headquarters on empowering women and girls with Autism! They have also presented in numerous advocacy, disability, education, and research conferences, constantly pushing for change through their sincere professional and personal insights. As the Founder of Advocacy Without Borders, a grassroots nonprofit organization supporting community advocates, Morénike passionately emphasizes the importance of structural support through community-building and lived experiences.

Highlighting Autistic Voices

★ Holly Smale ★



Connect with
Holly!



Holly Smale is a British writer, most well known for her award-winning, multi-million bestselling *Geek Girl* series. The young-adult fiction series follows an autistic teenage girl, Harriet Manners, as she navigates through geeky social obscurity to the sudden spotlight of the modeling world. Reflecting her own experiences as an autistic 15-year-old teen model, Holly hopes to inspire everyone to stay true to yourself no matter what. Holly is also a strong social media advocate for ASD—especially for female Autism diagnosis, which she received at the age of 39.

By the way, it was *just* announced that *Geek Girl* has been picked up by Netflix to begin production later this year—Keep an eye out!

★ Chloé Hayden ★



Connect with
Chloé!



Chloé Hayden is an Australian Creative. She truly does it all— YouTuber of 78,000 followers, singer, actor, and author of a recently published book called *Different Not Less: A Neurodivergent's Guide to Embracing your True Self and Finding your Happily Ever After*. Chloé hopes to spread the message of self-acceptance and positive introspection to young autistic individuals through her humorous, heartfelt, and honest writing.

As an actor, Chloé has starred in the 2021 Netflix Original, *Heartbreak High*, as an openly autistic character Quinni. Quinni was created with Chloé's active collaboration with the writers and through her own input, Chloé was able to bring Quinni to life beyond the single stereotype of Autistic representation commonly seen in media. Chloé has shared that she was extremely proud of her efforts in bending the Autistic stereotype and appreciated the ability to stim freely on camera, as many Autistic individuals do!

Resources



The Autism Program is continuing to support families in many ways both inside and outside of Boston Medical Center. Check out our website to learn more about the services, supports and programs we offer including our Autism Friendly Hospital Initiative, Teens Engaged as Mentors (TEAM) program, and our training offerings. We also have a huge resource library where you can access free information on a variety of topics such as safety, behavioral support, transition to adulthood, insurance and more!

<https://www.bmc.org/pediatrics-autism-program>

Do you have an idea for a future newsletter? Email us at.

autismprogram@bmc.org

with suggestions.

Clinic

Our clinicians are available for developmental evaluations, assessments and follow up. To connect with the clinical team, please call 617-414-4841 and follow the prompts for Developmental Pediatrics.

Our Clinicians

Marilyn Augustyn, MD
 Naomi Steiner, MD
 Arathi Reddy, DO
 Rachel Amgott, NP
 Christina Lazdowsky, NP
 Mei Elensary, MD
 Alyssa King, PhD
 Jocelyn Kuhn PhD
 Audrey Christiansen, MD
 Sarah Canale, MD
 Britany Weissman, MD
 Mary Ellen Killion, NP

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is brought to you by the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center, a family support program of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. We are committed to supporting any family of DBP during this time, regardless of diagnosis. Please don't hesitate to reach out, and follow us on social media for more tips and information! **To unsubscribe, please reply by email with the word "stop!"**



[BMC.org/autism](https://www.bmc.org/autism)
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The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center



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