



February 22, 2021



To All Department Members:

I am very pleased to be able to announce that thanks to the generous support of Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) and the HHS Foundation we have created a new Chair, the McMaster Children's Hospital Chair in Autism and Neurodevelopment.

And I am delighted to also announce that the inaugural chairholder will be **Stelios Georgiades** who is currently the Co-Director of McMaster's Autism Research Team (MacART), a research collective that brings together 45 researchers from 7 different Departments at McMaster, that he has played a major role in building and leading over the last 6 years.

The Chair will continue and expand much of the work already underway including research into different facets of the course and presentation of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), building partnerships and networks with community organizations who are working in this area, supporting individuals and their families living with ASD, and advocating at a provincial and national level for much needed changes that will benefit these populations.

Stelios came to McMaster in 2002 after completing a Masters in Psychology at the University of Oregon and worked as a Research Coordinator with Peter Szatmari while completing his PhD in Health Research Methods, following which he joined our Department where he is currently an Associate Professor. In addition to being the founder and Co-Director of MacART, he has made many other important contributions to the Offord Centre, our Department, and the Faculty, as well as building an increasingly influential research career.

I would also like to invite you, not only to congratulate Stelios on his appointment, but also to join us on **Thursday, March 11th at 4:00pm** for a virtual ceremony when we will be formally announcing the Chair and the chairholder. A formal invitation will follow.

Nick Kates