Brain Networks for Social Processing in Autism

Lucina Uddin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department Psychology
University of Miami

After receiving a Ph.D. in cognitive neuroscience from the psychology department at UCLA in 2006, Lucina Uddin completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Child Study Center at NYU. For several years she worked as a faculty member in Psychiatry & Behavioral Science at the Stanford School of Medicine. She joined the psychology department at the University of Miami in 2014. Dr Uddin's current projects focus on understanding dynamic brain network interactions underlying social information processing and flexible behaviors in neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism.

*

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopment disorder of largely unknown aetiology affecting 1 in 68 children in the United States. The disorder is associated with atypical development of multiple inter-connected brain systems, leading to deficits in social, communicative, and sensorimotor processes. Cognitive neuroscientists have recently begun to map dysfunctional brain circuits in children with ASD using non-invasive neuroimaging approaches to characterize the neural basis of social deficits associated with the disorder. In her talk, Dr. Uddin will summarize the state of the field of autism neuroimaging, identify open questions for future research, and point to unresolved issues including developmental and anatomical considerations.

Objectives

1. Identify current approaches for examining large-scale human brain networks
2. Understand key issues in the cognitive neuroscience of social cognition and attentional control in autism
3. Discuss the most recent issues and challenges in neuroimaging of autism spectrum disorder