

NEWS AND VIEWS

“The Grand Godfather” of the Biomedical Treatment of Autism

Compiled by Chris Sails, ND



**Dr. Bernard Rimland
& His Son
Mark Rimland**

Background: Dr. Bernard Rimland, a research psychologist, is Director of the Autism Research Institute, which he founded in 1967. He is also the founder of the Autism Society of America (1965), and the editor of the *Autism Research Review International*. His prize winning book, *Infantile Autism: the Syndrome and Its Implications for a Neural Theory of Behavior* (1964) changed the field of psychiatry from claiming that autism is an emotional illness caused by destructive mothers to its current recognition that autism is a biological disorder.

Dr. Rimland is the cofounder of the Defeat Autism Now! (DAN!) project, which proposes to reorient mainstream medicine from its current overreliance on marginally effective drugs toward a new emphasis on identifying and treating the basic biological causes of autism. He has lectured on autism and related problems throughout the world, and is the author of numerous publications. Dr. Rimland has received many awards for his work on autism. He served as primary technical advisor on autism for the 1988 film **Rain Man**. Mark Rimland, his son, who had high functional autism, was interviewed by Dustin Hoffman, serving as a model for the character portrayed by the movie star. The movie helped establish worldwide awareness of autism, just when the epidemic was first becoming apparent.

Dr. Rimland began his investigation of the potential roles of mercury and of vaccines in autism in the 1960s. He was the first to call national attention to “The autism epidemic” in 1995.

Biographical Information

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Biographical Information Continued

Born: November 15, 1928. Cleveland, OH
Resident of San Diego, California since 1940
Married, has three children

Education

San Diego State University, Major: Experimental Psychology, B.A. - 1950
San Diego State University, Major: Experimental Psychology, M.A - 1951
Penn State University, Major: Experimental Psychology, Ph.D. - 1954

Positions

Research Fellow, Instruct Film, research Program. Penn State University - 1951-1953.

Project Director to Department director, Naval Personnel Research and Development Center, San Diego. - 1953-1985.

Adjunct Professor, San Diego State University - 1955-present.

Founder and Director, Autism Research Institute, San Diego - 1967- present.

Executive Secretary, Stallone Fund for Autism Research, Scientific Advisory Board - 1967 - present.

Editor, Autism Research Review International - 1967 - present.

Publications/Books

Infantile Autism: The Syndrome and Its Implication for a Neural Theory of Behavior, New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts - 1964.

Modern Therapies (Coeditor). New Jersey: Prentice Hall-1976.

Treating Autism: Parent Stories of Hope and Success (Co-editor), San Diego: Autism Research Institute - 2003.

Publications/ Papers

Over 400 published articles, reports and book chapters
Four encyclopedia articles
Over 50 book forwards.

Films and Videotapes: Technical Consultant:

Infantile Autism-The Invisible Wall (U. of OK, Psychiatry Dept., Film) -1968

Promise to Keep (TRW Corp. film on autism) - 1983.

With Eyes Wide Open (Creative Learning Environments Film) - 1984.

Nutrition and Behavior (San Diego State University, 8 part video series) - 1984.

Rain Man (Chief Technical Advisor) - 1988.

House of Cards - 1988-1991

Vitamin B6 and Magnesium in the Treatment of Autism - 1990.

Honors and Awards

Award for Distinguished Contribution to Psychology (for *Infantile Autism*) - 1962.

Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford - 1964-1965.

Founder and Honorary Board Member, Autism Society of America - 1967 - present.

Creative Scientist of the Year (San Diego Institute for Creativity) - 1967.

Major Armstrong Award got Best FM Radio Public Service Broadcast (Awarded to WOR FM, NYC Served as interviewee and consultant) - 1969.

American Medical Association Medical Journalism Award (for above radio show) - 1969.

Navy department Nominee for Rockefeller Foundation Public Service Award - 1971.

Air Force/ Navy Technology. Symposium Award (Best Paper: Human Factors Area) - 1978.

Achievement Award of International Academy of Applied Nutrition - 1979.

Huxley Institute: Dixie Annette Award for Scientific Contribution - 1981.

"Citation Classic" status awarded to Book *Infantile Autism* by the Institute for Scientific Information - 1981.

Navy Department Distinguished Civilian Service Medal - 1985.

Bronze Medal, British Medical Society, for film With Eyes Wide Open - 1985.

Community Service Silver Bowl Award, United Way - 1985.

Rolex Award of Achievement - 1987.

Pioneering Service Award, Canadian Schizophrenia Foundation - 1987.

Burgener Foundation Award for Humanitarian Achievement - 1989.

California Autism Foundation Award for Achievement - 1994.

California State Senate Award for Achievement in Autism Research - 1995.

Princeton-Eden Institute Award for Excellence in Autism Treatment - 1995.

Presidential Citation, Autism Society of America - 2001.
Living Treasure Award Mothering Magazine - 2002.
Courage in Science Award, National Vaccine Information Center - 2002.
Rick Rollens Award, Orthomolecular Medical Society - 2003.
Lifetime Achievement Award, Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder - 2003.
Lighthouse Award, Safe Harbor Foundation - 2003.
Lifetime Achievement Award, Princeton-Eden Institute - 2004.

Schools Named for:

Rimland Services for the Autistic, Evanston, Illinois
Centro de Educacion Especial Down-Rimland, A.C., Uruapan, Mexico
Escuela Taller para Autistas "Bernard Rimland", Orsono, Chile
Centro Bernard Rimland del Autista, Caracas, Venezuela,

Lectures

Visiting Professor or guest lecturer at well over 100 universities and medical schools; invited speaker at well over 1000 conferences.

Guest appearances at well over 100 TV broadcasts, including NBC, CBS, PBS, and ABC.

Board Memberships (Past and Present - partial list)

Editorial Partial List:
Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders
Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine
Journal of Learning Disabilities
Focus on Autism

Schools Partial List:

Rimland School, Evanston, Illinois
Walden School, Nashville, Tennessee
Family Tree, Corte Madera, California
The Finding Place, Lauderdale Lakes, Florida
Bittersweet Farms, Whitehouse, Ohio
Plus Group Homes, New York City.
Willaway Ranch for Handicapped, Eagle Point, Oregon
Rusty's Morningstar Ranch, Flagstaff, Arizona
Talented and Handicapped Artists Workshop, West Islip, New York
Linwood Children's Center, Ellicott City, Maryland

Canadian Institute for Neuro-Integrative Development, Westmont, Quebec, Canada
Kaplan Foundation, Orangevale, California
Spark Foundation, Los Gatos, California
Sean Ashley House, Houston, Texas
Foundation for Educating Children with Autism, Carmel, New York
The Pathway School, Norristown, Pennsylvania
Possibility Ranch, Lake Arrowhead, Colorado
Geneva Center for Autism, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
New York Families for Autistic Children, New York, NY

Scientific Advisory: (Past & Present-partial list)

Autism Society of America (Maryland)
Huxley Institute for Biosocial research (Florida)
Nutrition Education Research Organization (California)
Adele Davis Nutrition Foundation (California)
Wacker Foundation (Texas).
Price Pottinger Foundation (California)
Fragile X Foundation (Colorado)
Institute for Improvement of Human Functioning (Kansas)
Nutrition for Optimal Health (Illinois)
Cancer Federation (California)
Institute for Bio-Ecologic Medicine, (Florida)
Libby Institute for Orthomolecular Research (California)
Help Autistic Persons, Please (New York)
Biosocial Medical Center (Oregon)
Parents for Better Nutrition (Oregon)
Autism Services Center (West Virginia)
Rio Hondo Drug Abuse Coalition (California)
California Programs for Autistic (California)
Stallone Fund for Autism Research (California)
National Academy for Child Development (Pennsylvania)
New Hope Parents Association (California)
Holistic Health Enrichment Center (New Jersey)
Southern California Neuropsychiatric Institute, La Jolla, California
American Institute for Neuro-integrative Development, Fairfield, Connecticut
Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine & Health Sciences, Scottsdale, Arizona
Action against Autism, Glasgow, Scotland
Northwest Clinic for Children, Portland, Oregon
Pediatric and Adolescent Ability Center, Richmond, Virginia
Personnel Preparation National Significance Project, Kansas City, KS
Kalamar Productions, New York City

Professional Organizations (Past and Present-partial list)

Academy of Orthomolecular Psychiatry (Vice President)
Orthomolecular Medical Society (Vice President)

Fellow Member

American Psychological Association
American Association for Educational Research
National Council Measurement Education
Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy
Classification Society
International Council of Psychologists
Psychometric Society

Research Interest

Research Design and Methodology
Cause and Treatment of Behavioral Disorders
Psychological Research Methodology
Approaches to Education and Training of Atypical
Individuals
Nutrition, Health, and Behavior

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