



## Poster Presentation

# The CHARGE Syndrome Research Lab at Central Michigan University

Timothy Hartshorne, Central Michigan University

### Presenter Information

Tim Hartshorne is a professor of psychology, specialized in school psychology, at Central Michigan University. His doctoral degree is from the University of Texas at Austin. He also has a master's degree in counseling and is a licensed professional counselor. He is the grant holder for DeafBlind Central: Michigan's Training and Resource Project, which provides support to children who are deafblind in Michigan. Much of his work is influenced and motivated by his son Jacob, who was born in 1989 with CHARGE syndrome. Tim's particular interests include understanding the challenging behavior exhibited by many individuals with deafblindness, CHARGE, and related syndromes, and also how severe disability impacts the family. He is the lead developer of a deafblind intervener training module on behavior for the National Center on Deaf-Blindness. He has been awarded the Star in CHARGE by the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation. His research was recognized in 2009 with the Central Michigan University President's Award for Outstanding Research. He is a frequent presenter on CHARGE and deafblindness.

### Presentation Abstract

The CHARGE Lab at Central Michigan University began about 1999 when Tim Hartshorne started to study behavior in children with CHARGE. At first, it was quite small, but over time, more students, both graduate and undergraduate, have become interested in CHARGE and the work of the lab. Some of the graduates continue to work with children who have CHARGE. This presentation provides a bit of history, and then describes the research of the current lab members.



# CHARGE Syndrome Research Lab

## Central Michigan University

CHARGE Syndrome Research Lab  
At Central Michigan University



### What is the CHARGE lab?

- We focus research primarily on the social and behavioral aspects of CHARGE syndrome;
- Graduate and undergraduate students under the supervision of Tim Hartshorne, Ph.D.;
- Housed in an office in Sloan Hall at CMU;
- Weekly lab meetings focus on our research and other information related to CHARGE;
- We do occasional consultations for families.

### Lab beginnings

- In 1999 Tim decided to study behavior in CHARGE;
- He was (and is) very confused by the behavior;
- Abby Cypher assigned as a graduate assistant;
- Hartshorne, T. S., & Cypher, A. D.

(2004). Challenging behavior in CHARGE syndrome. *Mental Health Aspects of Developmental Disabilities*, 7(2), 41-52.



- Initially the lab was staffed by graduate students who were somewhat arbitrarily assigned as research assistants.

Nichole Dailor – publications on sleep, cranial nerves, and psychiatric diagnoses and meds



### Joanna Russ

- A junior interested in autism joined the lab in Fall, 2003;
- She died in an auto accident in March, 2004;
- Her family established an endowed scholarship in her name to support undergraduates studying CHARGE.
- Six students attending with Russ funds

Joanna Russ



### Kasee Stratton

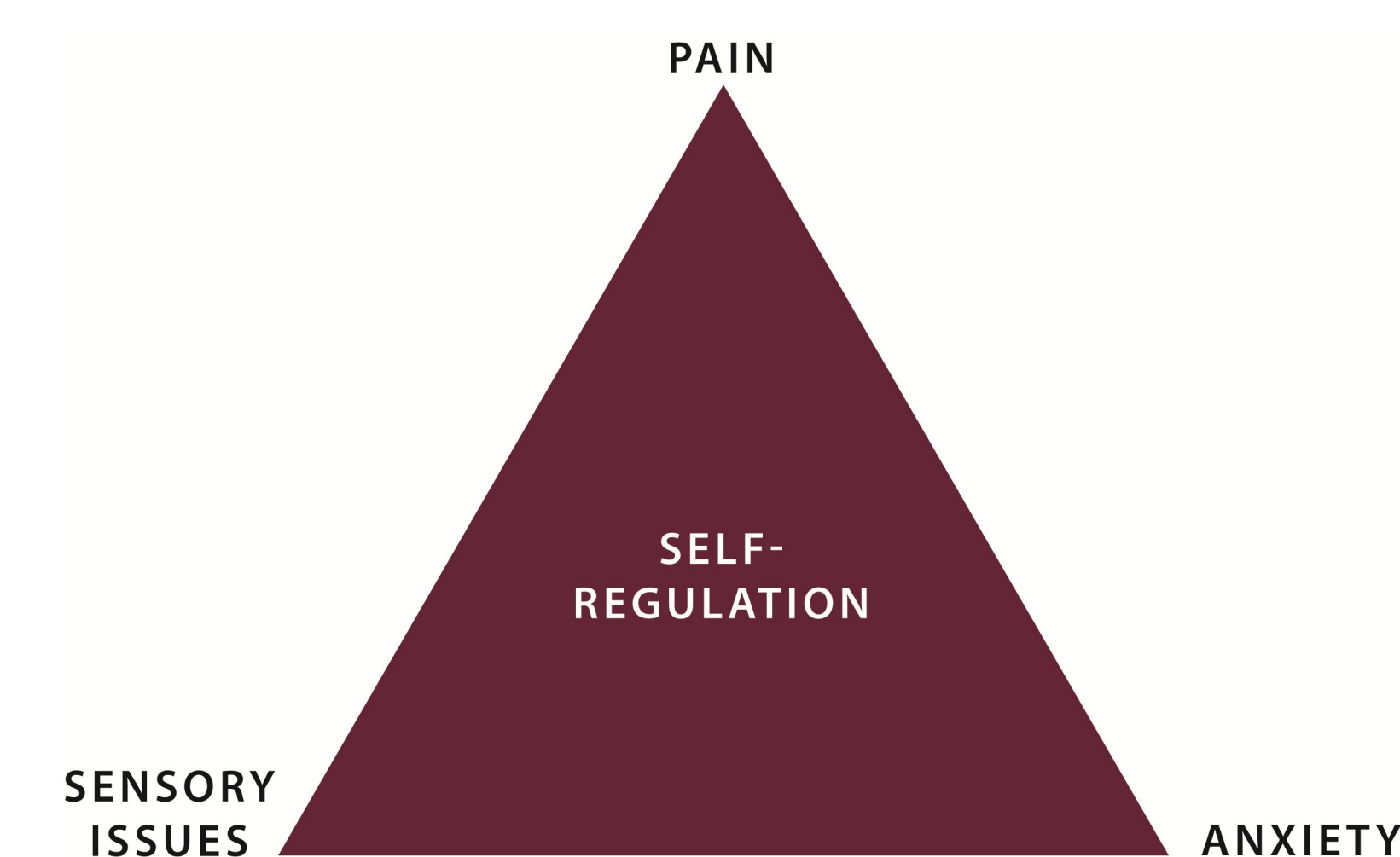
- A junior psychology major joined the lab in Fall, 2004; first student dedicated to CHARGE
- She remained for 7 years;
- Research focused on pain;
- Now associate professor at Mississippi State University.

Kasee Stratton



### Trying to understand behavior

- Is it because they are deafblind?
- Is it because they have communication problems?
- Is it because of vestibular difficulties?
- Is it because of early experiences?
- Is it because of neurological issues?
- Research on
  - Executive function
  - Autistic like behaviors
  - Attachment
  - Sleep disturbances
  - Psychiatric diagnoses and medication



### Current Projects

- Development of Play
- Fun Chi
- Profiles of ability in CHARGE
- Anxiety and calendar systems
- Restorative Environments
- Educational checklist
- Balance and development
- Sensory intervention
- Communication with physicians
- Psychiatric medications
- Social stories

### Members



### Contact the Author

Contact the Author Tim Hartshorne, if you have any questions about the CHARGE lab:

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