Amber Angell is an assistant professor in the Mrs. T. H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. The overarching purpose of her lab is to identify, measure, and reduce disparities in autism diagnosis and services among underserved groups. Her research focuses on understudied and underserved groups of individuals on the autism spectrum, including Latinx children, girls and women, and LGBTQ+ adolescents and adults.

Soo Lee is a Ph.D. candidate researcher at the UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment and is part of the Human Development and Psychology Program in the Department of Education at UCLA. Soo works with autism researchers across the country through the Autism Intervention Research Network on Behavioral Health (AIR-B Network; Participating sites: UCLA, UC Davis, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, Drexel University, University of Washington and University of Kansas), a research-community partnership grant funded by the U.S. government agency, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Soo leads monthly meetings for AIR-B at the Los Angeles site, directs many of AIR-B’s events and projects, helping African American, Korean and Latino families participate in autism research. As a 1.5 generation immigrant from Korea, Soo serves as a cultural broker between researchers and the Korean community, manages all Korean translations and cultural adaptations of AIR-B projects to help Korean-speaking families access autism information, and mentors many undergraduate students. Soo obtained her B.S. in psychology at UC San Diego and has worked with children with autism and their families since 2011. Recently, Soo established Special Education Research, Advocacy & Consulting LLC (SERAC), providing research-based special education consulting and advocacy services for families.

Dr. Erin Graham is a clinical psychologist, working in both research and practice, who earned a B.S. in applied psychology from New York University and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and women’s studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She completed her American Psychological Association (APA) accredited internship at the former National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, where she served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. While on active duty, Dr. Graham evaluated incoming Navy recruits for psychological suitability for military service and later served as head of the Stress Control Clinic in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where she managed the mental health needs of deployed military service members. Currently, Dr. Graham works in psychiatry research at UCLA, managing a study of genetic risk for autism in the African American community. She provides evidence-based psychotherapy with a specialty in culturally sensitive and positive psychology approaches to mental health.
Stephanie Keeney Parks is a doctoral student at UCLA in the Department of Anthropology, where she studies medical/psychological and linguistic anthropology. Stephanie is a Cota Roble’s Fellow and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Health Policy Research Scholar and has a master’s degree in medical anthropology from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Stephanie’s research centers on the everyday lives of Black parents who have children with autism. She is also interested in the process of diagnosing a Black child with autism and the healthcare disparities these families face, as well as in centering the Black parent’s narrative and experience as the expert to decenter white ideologies on health, healthcare, disability, and Black culture. Her research stems from her experiences as a Black woman, wife, and mother of two children. Stephanie’s oldest child is diagnosed with autism and her family and research are featured in the award-winning documentary *In a Different Key*.

Dr. Amanda Gulsrud is an associate professor in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in autism and the development of behavioral interventions. She is the Clinical Director of the UCLA Child and Adult Neurodevelopmental (CAN) Clinic, which focuses on the evaluation and treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) across the lifespan. Her primary research and clinical efforts focus on the early identification and treatment of infants and toddlers with ASD and related neurodevelopmental. Recently, she was awarded an Autism Speaks Adult Transition grant to extend her work supporting young adults transitioning to the work force. Dr. Gulsrud leads UCLA’s participation in the SPARK study, a Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative to build the largest autism genetic research cohort in the United States.

Soryl Markowitz, MSW LCSW, is an early childhood specialist who has worked in the field of behavior management and autism since the early 1970s. Soryl recently retired from a 31-year career at Westside Regional Center (WRC) where she facilitated the WRC Learning Collaborative that began in the early 2000s and participated on a multi-disciplinary team that provided medication evaluation and review at the WRC/NPI clinic at UCLA. She was a member of the California Autism Professionals Training and Information Network Leadership team, a statewide group comprised of educators and regional centers focused on collaboration and increasing awareness of autism and the resources and trainings available to enhance the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum. In her capacity as Autism/Behavior Specialist at Westside Regional Center, Soryl oversaw all behavior programs and counseling services. Soryl continues to provide support and information on resources to families and collaborates with service coordinators at Regional Center, as well as education agencies, community agencies and organizations, and behavior providers to create and provide appropriate, effective services for individuals with developmental disabilities.