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LAURIER EXPERT ALERT: World Autism Awareness Day

WATERLOO – April 2 marks World Autism Awareness Day, established in 2008 by the United Nations to raise awareness about autism spectrum disorder.

The following Laurier experts are available to speak about autism:

Laurier Professor **Margaret Schneider**'s research focuses on understanding the experience of having a disability or chronic illness, such as autism, from the perspective of the individual, their family and their support network. She also studies the ways in which areas of life may be improved for individuals and their families through effective programs. Contact information: mschneider@wlu.ca or at 519-888-9266.

Schneider's other areas of expertise include:

- Caregiving
- Spirituality and health
- Quality of life
- Adapted physical activity and programming

Laurier Professor **Janet McLaughlin** is an interdisciplinary scholar trained in medical anthropology. She is developing an emerging research area on how families of children with autism navigate various therapeutic approaches, and how families' socioeconomic status may influence treatment outcomes. Contact information: jmclaughlin@wlu.ca or 519-756-8228 x5568.

McLaughlin's areas of expertise include:

- Autism therapies
- Autism's impacts on families
- Health care and workers' compensation access