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**Subject:** Comments for the IACC meeting, May 4

The Strategic Plan needs to be updated to include consideration of:

- (1) Invasive obstetric procedures, induction of labor, Cesarean section, and the current protocol for clamping the umbilical cord within seconds of birth whether or not the infant has begun to breathe.
- (2) Auditory system impairment as an impediment to learning to speak. A brief lapse in respiration during transition from placental to pulmonary respiration selectively affects the auditory system.

Complications at birth are associated with later development of autism, although epidemiologists make only fleeting mention of how the brain might be affected. All of the evidence regarding umbilical cord clamping indicates that a delay is beneficial. I submitted annotated citations to the literature in previous submissions to the IACC, and posted them at:

<http://www.conradsimon.org/IACC.html>

It may prove embarrassing in the long run if obstetrics is not investigated as a possible cause of the increasing prevalence of autism, and if auditory system impairment is not made a priority for investigating the developmental language impairment characteristic of children with autism.

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Conrad Simon Memorial Research Initiative  
To seek understanding of brain system impairments in autism.  
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