## **Treating Developmental Issues in Preterm Infants** and Toddlers with a Nutraceutical

## Measuring **CWR's Success**





Between 2013 - 2017, Cures Within Reach funded 2 projects led by **Dr. Sarah Keim** at the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital addressing and improving latencies in developmental milestones or symptoms of **Autism** Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in preterm infants and toddlers using readily available fatty acid (FA) supplementations.



Previously, various FA combinations had shown promise in a handful of small trials of mostly older children with autism. Dr. Keim was the first to test this intervention earlier (infants and toddlers) in a population at high risk for autism and ADHD. She demonstrated that the FA combination treatment reduced symptoms of autism in premature infancy: children who received the treatment exhibited greater improvements on behavioral tests than those receiving the placebo. Dr. Keim then investigated the impact FAs could have on other developmental consequences of prematurity, now being tested in larger trials, which could lead to even broader impact.

## **KEY FACTS** AND IMPACT

- CWR provided \$65,000 to help support 2 clinical trials addressing developmental issues in preterm infants and toddlers.
- Dr. Keim has received more than \$4.3 million from the NIH for several follow-on studies, with results have been published in at least 10 papers.
- Dr. Keim confirmed preliminary support for improving developmental outcomes in preterm infants, while discovering a potential low-risk alternative to drugs currently used to manage autism.

