In this talk, Dr. Iverson will present findings from two lines of research designed to address the broader issue of the relationship between motor, communicative, and language development. The first assesses whether delays and atypicalities in early motor abilities and in the development of gesture and language provide an index of eventual ASD diagnosis. The second asks whether such delays also influence infants’ interactions with objects and people in ways that exert far-reaching, cascading effects on development that extend beyond the individual to impact the behavior of social partners and the communicative environment more broadly. Improving our understanding of communicative delays of the sort observed in ASD and developing effective intervention methods require going beyond the individual to consider the constant, complex interplay between developing communicators and their environments.

The VKC welcomes participants with disabilities. Contact kc@vumc.org for disability access information.