First described by Dr. Harry Angelman in 1965, Angelman syndrome is a genetic disorder that results in severe developmental delays and neurological impairments.

**Fast Facts**
- Usually caused by deletion of gene region on chromosome 15
- Typically not passed on from parent to child
- Affects 1 in 15,000 people
- Boys and girls equally affected
- Diagnosed around age 2 to 5
- Occasionally, but infrequently, co-occurs with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Broad range of different symptoms

**Common Characteristics**
- Developmental delay* (e.g., not walking until several years old)
- Jerky, poorly coordinated movements*
- Frequent, unprovoked laughing and happy demeanor*
- Severe speech impairment*
- Abnormal patterns in brain activity
- Attention deficits and hyperactivity
- Learning disabilities
- Abnormal sleep patterns
- Seizures (usually starting before 3 years of age)

**Frequent Physical Features**
- Wide mouth and widely-spaced teeth
- Excessive drooling and chewing behavior
- Protruding tongue
- Prominent chin
- Flat back of head
- Smaller-than-average head size
- Lack of pigmentation in skin, hair, and eyes
- Abnormal eye alignment
- Curved spine
What to expect from therapists’ approach to care:

- Team approach
  - Physical therapist for gross motor movements
  - Occupational therapist for fine motor movements
  - Speech therapist for communication development
  - Including parents in aspects of intervention
  - And more!
- Speech Therapy Goals
  - Maximizing functional communication (e.g., turn-taking, appropriately rejecting undesired object)
  - Gesture training, especially using Enhanced Natural Gestures
  - Picture communication to express choices between objects
- Therapists should maintain high expectations and challenge your child to reach his or her full potential!

FOR CAREGIVER SUPPORT AND MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

- http://www.angelman.org/
- http://cureangelman.net/
- https://rarediseases.org/