

Contact Information:

If you would like to learn more, please call our research assistants or visit our website.

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Website:

<http://www.childrenshospital.org/research/autism>

Thank you for considering participation in our study!



We hope to see you soon!

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Phenotypic and Genetic Factors in Autism Spectrum Disorders



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Who we are

We are a group of doctors and researchers from the Developmental Medicine Center, the Division of Genetics, the Department of Neurology, and the Program in Genomics at Children's Hospital Boston. Together we are working towards gaining an enhanced understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other related disorders. We collaborate with other health professionals locally, nationally, and internationally to achieve insight into these complex disorders. A number of sources fund our efforts, including the Simons Foundation, the Autism Consortium of Boston, and the National Institute of Mental Health.



What we study and its importance

We are studying ASD and related disorders in order to better understand why they occur, increase our ability for early identification, and find improved treatments and an eventual cure. In our study we look at information such as medical history, current symptoms, and genetic make-up. While we are gathering and analyzing information to answer questions about ASD, we also hope to develop training and teaching tools for those who work with children and their families affected by these disorders.



We need your help!

With the number of children diagnosed with ASD progressively rising, now is the time to explore the causes and seek better treatment. We need to raise awareness of these disorders and improve services and options for individuals and families impacted by ASD. We depend on families like yours to make this happen!

Your involvement

Participation in this study involves two research visits, one in your home and one at Children's Hospital Boston. Should you agree to participate, we will review your child's past records from Children's Hospital and other care providers. In order to answer the important questions we are asking, we look at a wide range of information. We interview all immediate family members including parent(s) and sibling(s) as well as the individual affected by autism. The data we collect includes general facts about developmental history, family history, and environmental information. In addition, we will ask about therapies that your child may have received, as well as look at specific physical traits and behaviors ("**phenotypes**") that your child may exhibit. We also collect genetic material from a blood and saliva sample in order to look for possible gene changes ("**genotypes**") that may be related to ASD. All information will be stored securely in a way that keeps your family's participation confidential.

Shortly after the visits, participants receive a research report of our observations. These results include cognitive, behavioral, developmental, and social findings.

For more information please call us:

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