

*P*roject Title

Interdisciplinary Studies of Insistence on
Sameness in Autism Spectrum Disorders

*P*rincipal Investigators

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*G*oals

The overall goal of this study is to learn about the genetic influences and neurobiological substrates of autism and other autism spectrum disorders. In addition, we are studying the relationship of genes to medication response.

*E*ligibility Criteria

Genetics of Autism

- Ages 3-50
- Individuals who meet criteria for Pervasive Developmental Disorders (including Autism and Asperger's syndrome) and their biological parents and/or siblings
- No significant history of alcohol or substance abuse
- No current use of psychotropic medications, antidepressants, stimulants, or anti-psychotics

*P*rocedures

Diagnostic & Clinical Procedures:

Participants will receive detailed clinical diagnostic assessments for autism, cognitive testing, and a demographic/history assessment.

Biological Testing:

Blood will be collected from participants, including family members, for DNA analysis to investigate genetic influences in Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

Neuroimaging (if eligible):

- Ages 6-50
- Participants will undergo paper/pencil, computerized, and eye movement tests of memory, attention, and motor skills. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans will allow investigators to see the brain at work while participants are performing a memory or attention task.

Medication treatment (if eligible):

- Ages 5-50
- Interested and eligible participants can participate in a medication treatment study, involving an 8-week trial of Lexapro, an antidepressant that has shown promise in reducing some repetitive behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorders.
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*L*ocation of Testing

Studies are conducted at the Institute for Juvenile Research (IJR) and the Neuropsychiatric Institute (NPI) at the University of Illinois at Chicago. IJR is accessible using public transportation. Parking validation is provided for those who travel to IJR by car.

*P*articipant Payments

Participants will be compensated accordingly for each of the studies completed.

*C*ontact

If you would like more information or are interested in referring patients for participation in this study, please call Lana Roth at **(312) 413-4624** or email us at **autism@psych.uic.edu**.

We welcome referrals, comments, questions, and requests for information.

For further information, please contact us!
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Email us at autism@psych.uic.edu

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*Patient Participants Needed
for Medical Research Study*

**“Understanding the
Genetics and Neurobiology
of Autism Spectrum
Disorders”**

*Sponsored by
An Autism Center of Excellence grant
funded by the National Institutes of
Health*



The Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) is conducting research to better understand and diagnose:

***Autism,
Asperger's Syndrome,
and Pervasive
Developmental
Disorders***



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