

Name of Study: Molecular and Family Genetics of Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders (Simons Simplex Collection)

Location: University of Michigan Autism and Communication Disorders Center, Ann Arbor, MI

Principal Investigator: Dr. Catherine Lord

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Dear Parent,

The Simons Simplex Collection is following in the tradition set by AGRE in setting up a biobank of phenotype and biological samples of families with one child with ASD and at least one child with typical development to be available to interested scientists around the world. Children with ASD and their family members will receive a comprehensive assessment and will become part of an autism initiative to be followed through their centers as new advances emerge.

We are looking for families interested in helping researchers understand the genetic causes of ASD. Sponsored by the Simons Foundation, the University of Michigan Autism and Communication Disorders Center (UMACC) is one of 13 clinical centers around the U.S. and Canada that are recruiting families to participate. The Simons Foundation provides support to researchers studying ASD. For additional information about the Simons Foundation, see: www.simonsfoundation.org.

For this study, we are recruiting families who have:

- One child aged four or older with ASD or a suspected ASD diagnosis,
- One or more child(ren) age four or older without ASD, and
- Both biological parents also willing to participate.

If your child has not previously participated in a diagnostic assessment at UMACC, he/she may be eligible for a free research assessment as part of this study. We will provide your family with a brief written report describing the results of the assessment.

Additionally, participation in this study involves the completion of interviews, questionnaires, and a blood draw. Blood will be donated to the Simons Simplex Collection. The Simons Simplex Collection obtains, stores, and distributes DNA to researchers who are studying the genetics of ASD. Through performing genetic analyses, we hope to discover information that will help us better understand and treat this disorder.

As compensation for your time and travel, each participating family member will receive a \$25 gift certificate for completing the initial questionnaire packet, and a \$50 gift certificate upon completion of the entire protocol (including the blood draw).