

**Name of Study:** Participant Database for Persons Interested in Autism Research Studies: Recruiting, Pre-Screening and Diagnostic Assessment

**Location:** TRANSCEND Research Program, Charlestown and Lexington, MA, USA

**Eligibility Criteria:** Infants/toddlers/children/teenagers with Autism Spectrum Disorders, infant siblings of toddlers/children/teenagers with ASD, as well as typically developing infants/toddlers/children/teenagers

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Martha Herbert

**Contact Information:** Please contact our research coordinator, phone (617) 966-9766 or email [transcend@partners.org](mailto:transcend@partners.org). Website [www.transcendresearch.org](http://www.transcendresearch.org).

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter to offer your child an opportunity to participate in an exciting research study with the TRANSCEND Research Program. We are trying to find out how the brains of children with autism spectrum disorders process information and sensory experience differently from typically developing children. We use some of the latest advances in noninvasive brain imaging techniques, including Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), which takes pictures of the brain, as well as MagnetoEncephaloGraphy (MEG) and ElectroEncephaloGraphy (EEG), which measures brain waves. These tools allow us to study both the structure and function of the brain. We also use cognitive, behavioral and biological evaluations, which enable us to take a whole-body approach to understanding developmental disorders. Over time, our studies aim to characterize subgroups of autism which eventually might lead to more individualized and effective treatments.

Our success depends on the participation of many families and children, and we welcome all of you to participate and help. Participation in the study requires several visits. The first visit entails questionnaires for parents/adults and assessment of your child to determine study specific eligibility. Once eligible, subsequent visits will include the imaging process and further cognitive and behavioral testing.

We understand that brain imaging might sound like a daunting experience. Before you enroll your child in our studies, you will have the chance to discuss the study process with our staff. This will allow you to determine whether our studies are appropriate for your child. We would like to assure you that our staff is well-trained in working with all children, and we are committed to making this experience a positive one. Also, TRANSCEND's research facilities are located at MGH Charlestown and at the MGH LADDERS clinic in Lexington, both of which are far more welcoming and quieter than the main MGH hospital.

Participation is voluntary. Whether or not your child participates will have no effect on his/her medical care.

Compensation for your time and travel expenses will be provided, and your child will be given the opportunity to pick a prize at the end of each visit. We will also provide you with a summary report of your child's scores on any completed cognitive and behavioral evaluations.

If you are interested in participating in the studies or would like to find out more about what we do and how we do it, please call our Research Coordinator at (617) 966-9766 or contact us by email at [transcend@partners.org](mailto:transcend@partners.org).

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you might have about the studies!

Martha Herbert, MD, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor, Pediatric Neurology  
Harvard Medical School  
Director, TRANSCEND*

Tal Kenet, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor, Pediatric Neurology  
Harvard Medical School  
Scientific Director, TRANSCEND*

Katherine Martien, MD

*Neurodevelopmental Pediatrician  
LADDERS  
Clinical Research Director, TRANSCEND*

TRANSCEND Research Program

Treatment Research and NeuroSCience Evaluation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders

IAN Ref: SR00054