

**Name of Study:** Studies of Attention and Brain Connectivity in Autism

**Location:** The Cognitive & Perceptual Development Lab, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

**Eligibility Criteria:** Individuals with Autism or Autistic Spectrum Disorders: ages 9-12 years or 21-26 years for Attention Study, or ages 9-14 years or 22-30 years for Brain Connectivity Study, with normal vision and no other major neurological or psychiatric illnesses

**Principal Investigator:** John R. Pruett, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.

**Contact Information:** Emma Squire, B.S. or Angela LaMacchia, M.A., our Research Coordinators; phone: 1-877-CPDLVOL (273-5865)

Dear Parent/Potential Participant,

I am writing this letter to offer you/your child an opportunity to participate in two different research studies at the Cognitive & Perceptual Development Lab, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO.

- The ***Attention Study*** looks at visual attention to social and non-social stimuli. We are recruiting individuals with Autism or Autistic Spectrum Disorders, ages 9-12 years or 21-26 years. The Attention Study involves three 45-60 minute visits to our lab plus other written, phone, and in-person assessments (total participation time may be 5-8 hours). Most participants who are able to follow instructions about playing a game-like task at a computer would successfully complete the study. As always, participant schedules will be accommodated, with after-school and evening hours also available. For their time, participants will receive \$15.00 per hour from the University.
- The ***Brain Connectivity Study*** explores connectivity between brain regions using modern brain imaging methods. We are recruiting individuals with Autism or Autistic Spectrum Disorders ages 9-14 years or 22-30 years. As with the Attention Study, participants will take part in written, phone, and in-person assessments. In addition, participants will have brain scans that take place on two different days (a one-hour practice scan and a 1-2 hour actual scan). Total participation time will be approximately 8 hours spread out over several days. Most participants who are able to lie still for about an hour in an MRI scanner would successfully complete the experiment. As always, participant schedules will be accommodated, with after-school and evening hours also available. For their time, participants will receive \$15.00 per hour for the assessments and \$25.00 per hour for the scans from the University. Brain imaging participants will also receive a picture of their brain if they qualify for the study.

By participating, you will receive important health information, including assessments (excluding MRI scans) that your/your child's doctor might want to review. Also, your participation will help lead to significant advancements in the way doctors, therapists, and caregivers respond to and treat this disorder.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Emma Squire, B.S. or Angela LaMacchia, M.A., our Research Coordinators; phone: 1-877-CPDLVOL (273-5865).

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. We look forward working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

John R. Pruett, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.  
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