

**Name of Study:** Genetic Components of Autism Spectrum Disorders

**Location:** Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Families with at least one individual diagnosed with autism who is older than 3 years of age;
- At least five immediate family members (e.g., father or mother) or second degree relatives (e.g., aunts, uncles, grandparents) who are interested in participating;
- At least one individual who has a history of language/learning problems (either in the immediate family or second degree relatives) or another individual who is on the autism spectrum (i.e. PDD, Asperger's Disorder)
- English is the primary language spoken in the home.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Linda Brzustowicz

**Contact Information:** Dr. Judy Flax or Ms. Zena Fermano: Tel: (732) 445-1224;

Email: [autism@biology.rutgers.edu](mailto:autism@biology.rutgers.edu).

Dear Parent,

We'd like to offer your family an opportunity to participate in The New Jersey Language and Autism Genetics Study (NJLAGS) that examines how genes influence the development of autism.

The project seeks to better understand the link between genetics and autism by gathering mental health information, language and cognitive development information, and genetic material (DNA) from people who have autism or are related to someone with autism. This study is sponsored by the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) as part of their national effort to learn more about the genetics of autism spectrum disorders.

As a part of the study, the testers will come to your home to conduct the language and cognitive testing on the family and complete a blood draw.

As a gesture of our thanks, each person taking part in the study will receive a \$20 MasterCard or Visa gift card. There is no charge to you for participating in the study.

If you are interested in participating, please contact our study team at: (732) 445-1224;

Email: [autism@biology.rutgers.edu](mailto:autism@biology.rutgers.edu).

We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Linda Brzustowicz, Principal Investigator  
Professor, Rutgers University  
Department of Genetics

*IAN Research ID SR00082*