

Name of Study: North American Extended Family Study of Autism

Location: The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Eligibility Criteria: Extended families with individuals who have a diagnosis of autism, Asperger's syndrome, or PDD in three or more nuclear families.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Joseph Piven

Contact Information: Ashley Stevens, Clinical/Social Research Specialist,
(919) 843-5437

Dear Family Member,

Hello from the University of North Carolina Autism Research Program, under the direction of Joseph Piven, MD. We would like to introduce you to some research that we are involved in at the University. We are very excited about this new research, and your family may be eligible to be part of our research effort!

Our Autism Research Program is looking at the genetics of autism in a unique new way. We are looking at extended families, not just the mother, father and children. We are looking at families that have individuals with autism in more than one branch of the family. This way we can trace the genes in the family to see if there are any similarities among family members. We are also looking at language and personality styles, two very important parts of how we relate to others, to see if these traits are similar among family members. We are hoping to establish patterns among extended families that will increase our knowledge about the genes that contribute to causing autism.

If you have an extended family with individuals who have a diagnosis of autism, Asperger's syndrome, or PDD in three or more nuclear families, we would like to talk to you about our study. In other words, if autism or autistic traits seem to "run in the family" or if you and your spouse seem to both have autism or autistic traits in your family; please contact us about our study. We will tell you more about the study and ask you questions about your family to determine whether this study is right for your family.

If you would like to contact us or you want to learn more about this study, please feel free to visit our website: www.ndrc.unc.edu/familystudy or call us toll-free at (800) 793-5715 and ask about the "Extended Pedigree Study". You can also email us at extendedfamilystudy@med.unc.edu.

We wish you all the best and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Piven, MD
and the Autism Research Team

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