

Dear IAN Research participant,

Based on your family profile, one or more members of your family may qualify for the study, below. You should contact the research team directly, using the information provided, if you are interested in joining. You do not have to participate in this study and your non-participation will neither affect the care you receive from any health provider nor your standing as a participant in IAN research.

Please note that IAN Research is serving as a resource for linking the autism community and researchers. This study is not endorsed by or performed under the auspices of the IAN Research project at Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins.

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

Location: New York State Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University Medical Center, NY, NY, 10032

Eligibility Criteria: One child age 4 or older with ASD or a suspected ASD diagnosis, and both biological parents willing to participate

Principal Investigator: Bradley Peterson, MD

Contact Information: Joanna Cahall, Recruitment Coordinator, phone (212) 543-6705; e-mail autismresearch@childpsych.columbia.edu

Dear Parents,

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 exactly one child with ASD and at least one child with typical development to be available to interested scientists around the world.

We are looking for families interested in helping researchers understand the genetic causes of ASD. Sponsored by the Simons Foundation, Columbia University 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 and <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05349/622925.stm>

For this study, we are recruiting families who have:

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

Family participation in this study involves the completion of interviews, questionnaires, and a blood draw. Families are also asked for permission to donate a portion of their blood samples 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.

Each family member will receive \$50 upon completion of the protocol. We will also provide each family with a brief written report describing the results of the assessment.

If you are interested in participating, please call or e-mail Joanna Cahall at the above-listed contact information, or you can tell us more about yourself by going to this web address:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=cm1McWFBbzVqWnhHSi1VMGFa1pfcnc6MA>

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

Regards,

Bradley Peterson, MD
Chairman, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry