

Name of Study: Phenotypic and Genetic Factors in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Location: Massachusetts General Hospital/LADDERS Clinic

Eligibility Criteria: Eligible participants in this study are individuals with a suspected ASD diagnosis (primarily children), their biological parents, and biological siblings. The minimum age for participation in this study is 24 months. There is no age maximum for study participation. English must be primary language spoken.

Principal Investigator: Susan L. Santangelo, Sc.D.

Contact Information: Andy Duda, MS, CGC- Certified Genetic Counselor, phone (617) 643-3396; email ADUDAIII@partners.org

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter to offer you and your family an opportunity to participate in a research study at Massachusetts General Hospital/LADDERS located in Boston. Through this research effort, we hope to learn more about possible genetic causes of autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We want to better understand the behaviors of individuals with ASDs and their family members. We think that it is important to examine how behavior and genetics interact together to learn more about ASDs.

Eligible participants in this study are individuals with a suspected ASD diagnosis (primarily children), their biological parents, and siblings. The minimum age for participation in this study is 24 months. There is no maximum age for study participation. English must be the primary language spoken in the home. The study will involve providing a blood sample from each participant. Trained and experienced phlebotomists are available for each sample collection. Each participant will participate in a series of assessments, which may include cognitive measures, medical/family history forms, questionnaires, and behavioral observations.

There is no charge to participate in the study. We will also reimburse you for parking, travel and meal expenses while participating in this study. Each child who participates will receive a \$40 gift card for participating in the study at the end of the last research visit. Our Clinical Director of Phenotyping will explain the report we generate regarding your child, with the ASD, to you in person or over the phone.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Andy Duda our genetic counselor, at (617) 643-3396 or via email at ADUDAIII@partners.org

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan L. Santangelo
Principal Investigator
Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit
Center for Human Genetic Research
Massachusetts General Hospital