

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

Location: Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, MA

Principal Investigators: Dr. Louis Kunkel and Dr. Christopher Walsh

Contact Information: Kayla Greenberg, Research Assistant, phone: (617) 355-0526 and email: kayla.greenberg@childrens.harvard.edu

Dear Parent,

Children's Hospital Boston is working with the Simons Simplex Collection, the Autism Consortium, and the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIHM), three groups of autism researchers who are setting up “repositories” of medical information and biological samples from families with ASD to be available to interested scientists around the world.

We are looking for families interested in helping researchers understand the genetic causes of ASD. Through genetic studies, we hope to discover information that will help us better understand and treat this disorder. Children’s Hospital Boston is one many centers in North America recruiting families to participate in the Simons Simplex Collection study sponsored by the Simons Foundation. For additional information about the Simons Foundation, see: www.simonsfoundation.org. We are also collaborating with the NIMH and are part of the Boston, MA area Autism Consortium both of which are working to accelerate autism research. For more information on the Autism Consortium, see: www.autismconsortium.org.

For our study, we are recruiting families who have:

- A child age 24 months or older with an ASD

Other siblings and parents are also asked to participate. As part of this study children with an ASD undergo an assessment and we will provide families with a brief written report describing the results of this assessment. Additionally, participation in this study involves the completion of in person interviews, questionnaires, and a blood draw. Of note, the blood samples and information collected are not stored in a way that could identify participating families. Furthermore, each participating child will receive a gift certificate as a token of appreciation.

If you are interested in learning more about our study, please contact Kayla Greenberg at the contact information listed above.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Louis Kunkel, Ph.D.,
Director, Program in Genomics, Children's Hospital Boston

Christopher Walsh, M.D, Ph.D.,
Chief, Division of Genetics, Children's Hospital Boston

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