

Name of Study: Simons Simplex Collection Autism Genetic Research Study

Location: University of Missouri-Columbia Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Columbia, MO

Principal Investigator: Judith H. Miles, MD, PhD

Contact Information: Nicole Takahashi, Study Coordinator, phone: (573) 884-1893; email: takahashin@missouri.edu; Web site: <http://www.thompsoncenter.missouri.edu>

Dear Parent,

The Simons Simplex Collection is following in the tradition set by AGRE in setting up a biobank of phenotype and biological samples from families with one child with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and at least one child with typical development to be available to autism research scientists around the world. Children with ASD and their family members will receive a comprehensive assessment free of charge.

We are looking for families interested in helping researchers understand the genetic causes of ASD. The University of Missouri Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders is one of 13 clinical centers in the U.S. and Canada that are recruiting families to participate in this work which is sponsored by the Simons Foundation. For additional information about the Simons Foundation which is dedicated to providing support to researchers studying ASDS see: www.simonsfoundation.org.

For this study, we are recruiting families who have:

- One child aged four to seventeen with ASD or a suspected ASD diagnosis,
- One or more child(ren) age four or older without ASD, and
- Both biological parents available to participate.

The assessment for your child will include comprehensive ASD diagnostic interviews and questionnaires, cognitive, psychological and physical exams, performed at the Thompson Center in Columbia, Missouri. We will provide your family with a written report describing the results of the assessment and all the testing, which may be of use to you, your school and health care providers.

Additionally, participation in this study requires a blood draw from your child with an ASD, your unaffected child/children and both biological parents. Blood will be donated to the Simons Simplex Collection biobank. 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.

As compensation for your time and travel, each participating family member will receive \$50 upon completion of the entire protocol.