

**Name of Study:** Maternal Antibody Binding to Lymphocytes of Offspring with Autism

**Location:** Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, Maryland

**Eligibility Criteria:** Children with moderate to severe autistic disorder, each with a typically developing sibling (both ages 2-12 years), and their shared biological parents (both ages 18-55 years)

**Principal Investigator:** Andrew W. Zimmerman, M.D.

**Contact Information:** Pam Gillin, Research Assistant; phone: (443)923-9150; e-mail: [gillinp@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:gillinp@kennedykrieger.org)

Dear Parent,

I am writing to you to inform you about an opportunity for your family to participate in a research study at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. The primary objective of this study is to determine the effects of antibodies found in the parents' blood, on the lymphocytes (white blood cells) of their children, both with and without autism. The immune and nervous systems share common properties, so by studying the effect of antibodies on lymphocytes, we may learn more about how cells in the brain might also be affected by parents' antibodies.

The study requires one blood sample (about 3 teaspoons) from each mother, father, child with autism and nonaffected sibling. This can be done free of charge, by appointment, at the outpatient clinic at Kennedy Krieger Institute. The mother will also be required to complete a health history interview, which can be done over the phone in about 30 minutes. Each child who participates will receive a \$25 gift card.

The child with autism should have a diagnosis of moderate to severe autistic disorder, confirmed by Autism Diagnostic Interview (ADI) or Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) testing. This child must have been nonverbal, or had less than 20 spontaneous, communicative, spoken words, for the span of a year, between the ages of two and four. The nonaffected sibling must have no diagnoses of neurodevelopmental disorders such as ADHD, language impairments or autism spectrum disorders. Both children must be between the ages of 2-12 years. Mothers and fathers must be the biological parents of both children and between the ages of 18-55.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Pam Gillin, our research assistant, at (443)923-9150 or [gillinp@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:gillinp@kennedykrieger.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Zimmerman, M.D.