

WCMC

IRB APPROVED

Approved:

2/8/2010

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2/7/2011

RESEARCH STUDY



**Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College and
Graduate School of Medical Sciences of
Cornell University**

Genetic Study of Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Weill Cornell Medical College is enrolling families with children older than 12 months of age with unknown types of intellectual disabilities or autistic spectrum disorders to participate in a study to identify the factors that are associated with these conditions. The study involves about three to five hours of time. The study will include a detailed clinical evaluation including neuropsychological testing, completion of a questionnaire, and blood drawing. For more information about eligibility please contact the research coordinator, Ms. Nelen Jackson at (646) 962-8318 or nej9004@med.cornell.edu.

**WEILL CORNELL AUTISM
RESEARCH PROGRAM
(WCARP)**



**Joan and Sanford I. Weill
Medical College and
Graduate School of Medical
Sciences of
Cornell University**

Our Mission is to understand the genetics and neurochemistry of autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Our Team is comprised of world-renowned medical scientists and clinicians from the Departments of Pediatrics, Neurology, Development Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Medicine.

Our Protocol involves (IRB, Institutional Review Board approved) evaluation of individuals with autism, their parents, and siblings at the Weill Cornell Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC). Evaluation will require a single visit, will take no more than 3-5 hours of your time and is free of charge. No compensation is available for participation and/or transportation.

What Will Be Studied: Our scientists will correlate clinical manifestation of ASD with genetic patterns and anomalies in calcium registry and regulation and the BDNF (brain-derived neurotrophic factor) gene and BDNF levels in blood platelets; both systems have been implicated in the pathogenesis of ASD.

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*Please note: this is a research program only.
No treatment is available at present.*

Faculty

WCARP is comprised of international leaders in neuroscience and growth factor biology.

Armin Alaedini, PhD is Assistant Professor of Neuroscience focusing his research on the characterization of the link between immune response to foreign antigens, particularly bacterial and dietary proteins, and the development of immune-mediated disease processes directed at the nervous system. Dr. Alaedini's lab is currently undertaking studies on the potential role of dietary gluten and casein in neuropsychiatric deficits.

BJ Casey, PhD is the Sackler Professor for Development Psychobiology, a Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry, Neurology and the Director of the Sackler Institute and Neuroscience Graduate Program at Weill Cornell. She is a pioneer in novel uses of brain imaging to understand childhood disorders.

Emily Forrest, MD is an Instructor in Pediatrics in the Division of Child Development at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Forrest has performed research in interventions to promote early childhood development, and bilingual language development.

Barbara Hempstead, MD, PhD is the O. Wayne Isom Professor of Cardiovascular Research in the Department of Medicine, and Co-Chief of the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology. She is a seminal investigator of how neuronal growth factors (BDNF), may be mis-regulated in ASD. Dr. Hempstead is past chair of the Gordon Conference on Neurotrophic Factors and is a recipient of the Burroughs Wellcome Clinical Scientists Award in Translational Research. She is a member of the American Association of Physicians and American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Joseph J. Higgins, MD, FAAN is Professor of Pediatric Neurology. Dr. Higgins has held leadership positions in the Federal and State government and private sector. His expertise is in the clinical and basic science of neurogenetics with major academic achievements in the identification of loci for mental retardation, essential tremor, Parkinson's disease, and spinocerebellar ataxia, and the discovery of the human gene, cereblon, which is involved in a pathway that leads to autism, mental retardation, and seizures.

Barry Kosofsky, MD, PhD is the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation Professor of Pediatrics, Pediatrics in Radiology, and Neurology, and Neuroscience, and the Chief of the Division of Child Neurology. He is the Director of the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation Laboratory of Molecular and Developmental Neuroscience where he has developed animal models of diseases which affect human brain development, including mouse models of autism, with a focus on calcium signaling mechanisms that have been associated with ASD.

Maureen Lane, PhD is a Research Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology in Medicine. She directs the Translation Core within the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology. Dr. Lane has more than a decade of experience in collecting, tracking, processing, and storing biologic samples for clinical research.

Francis Lee, MD, PhD is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology. He directs the Molecular Neurobiology Laboratory whose focus is unraveling the biologic mechanisms of psychiatric disorders. He has recently identified a BDNF genetic variation that may predict patients' responses to drug treatment. Dr. Lee is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigators and has been awarded the Burroughs Wellcome Clinical Scientist Award in Translational Research and was one of twelve to receive the prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers presented by the President at the White House.

Anjali M. Rajadhyaksha, PhD is an Assistant Professor in Child Neurology, Pediatrics and the Graduate Program in Neurosciences. She is a molecular neuroscientist whose research studies the role of abnormal calcium signaling in brain disorders.

Mary Jo Ward, PhD is an Associate Research Professor of Psychology in Pediatrics and Psychiatry. Dr. Ward's primary activity at Weill-Cornell has been conducting research on issues relevant to the lives of young children, using methods from basic developmental science. The central theme of Dr. Ward's research has been the study of special populations of infants and young children.

Kaleb H. Yohay, M.D. is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Child Neurology and the Director of the Neurofibromatosis Clinic. His clinical research is on elucidating genetic and epigenetic factors associated with autism.

To Make an Appointment Contact

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checks should be made out to "WCARP" and sent to***

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