

11 July 2019

# Message from David Amaral, Director of Autism BrainNet

While virtually all of the effort of the Autism BrainNet team is dedicated to spreading the word about the need for postmortem brain donations or making it easy for family members to make a donation of the brain of their loved one, we never lose sight of the fact that we do all of this to improve the quality of life of living people with autism.

Read more here.

#### **SCIENCE**

# Single-cell study identifies brain cell types linked to autism

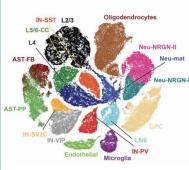
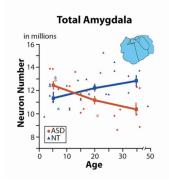


Image from Velmeshev D. et al.

Dmitry Velmeshev, Arnold Kriegstein and their collaborators used a novel technique called 'single nucleus RNA sequencing' to find the cell types in which gene activity is most dysregulated in the autism brain. A greater understanding of the role of different brain cell types in autism is important to clarify the molecular mechanisms underlying the disorder's pathophysiology and identify potential targets for treatment.

Read more about this research here.

# The amygdala, a brain structure involved in processing emotional information, shows microscopic changes in individuals with autism



Research from the director of Autism BrainNet Sacramento node, Cyndi Schumann, and her colleagues, showed microscopic changes in the number and structure of neurons located in the amygdala of the brain of individuals with autism.

Read more about this research here.

Image from Avino T.A. et al.

# Panel on postmortem brain studies highlights new findings on the autism brain



The 2019 International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) meeting hosted a panel on 'Postmortem studies: Functional genomic profiling studies of ASD brain'. The panel discussed new research findings on the molecular mechanisms disrupted in the autism brain and highlighted the importance of studying human postmortem brain tissues.

Read more here.

### **NEW COLLABORATION**



Autism BrainNet and Douglas-Bell Canada Brain Bank (DBCBB) have established a collaboration that will allow Canadian individuals and families the opportunity to consider postmortem brain donation to help advance research on the causes and treatments of autism.

Learn more here.

#### **WEBINAR**



The DUP15q Alliance and Autism BrainNet co-hosted a live Q&A w ith Daniel Geschwind, M.D., Ph.D. on July 9th, where he shared w ith families the latest findings in brain research related to DUP15q and autism.

View the recording here.

#### **HOTLINE**

# Contact us, we are here to help.



If you have questions about Autism BrainNet and the donation process, email us at:

## info@autismbrainnet.org

If you have questions about making a donation, call our 24 hour hotline:

1-877-333-0999

#### COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Thanks for visiting

Thanks to all the individuals and families that came out to support

the autism community and Autism BrainNet.



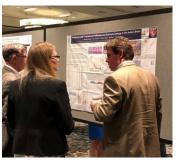
The Autism BrainNet team, represented by Lilliam Acosta-Sanchez, Outreach Manager, Carolyn Hare, Clinical Director, and Nicole Coman, Clinical Coordinator, attended the annual meeting of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) held this past May in Montreal, Canada.



Many families and individuals signed up to learn more about autism brain research at the Autism Speaks walks in the Bay Area, California, Northern New Jersey, and Westchester County, New York



Alycia Halladay, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer of the Autism Science Foundation, an outreach partner of Autism BrainNet, presented on brain research at the New Jersey Autism Center for Excellence.



Matthew P. Anderson, M.D., Ph.D., Director of Autism BrainNet Boston node did a poster presentation at the American Association of Neuropathologists annual meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia.

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https://autismbrainnet.org | https://takesbrains.org