



Autism BrainNet

Advancing research through the gift of brain donation

December 21, 2021

Message from David G. Amaral, Scientific Director of Autism BrainNet



As we approach the end of 2021, I would like to first thank the donor families who have made the selfless decision to foster autism research through the donation of the brain of a family member.

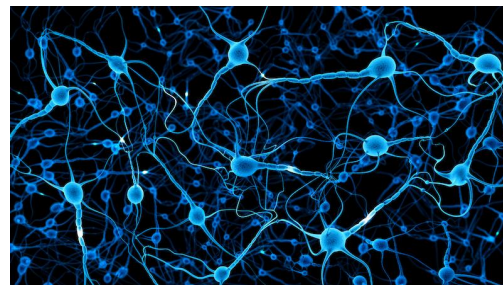
The impact of these acts is incalculable and hopefully leads to strategies that will improve the lives of the millions of autistic individuals worldwide.

I am also thankful for the dedicated Autism BrainNet team who makes brain donations as effortless as possible for donor families and then carefully preserves the tissue for future research. [Read more](#)

SCIENCE

Analysis of prefrontal cortex layers provides insights into the cellular basis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

In this study, researchers found that people with ASD had more neurons but fewer astrocytes than people without ASD, particularly within cortical layer II in all three subdivisions of the prefrontal cortex that they examined.



Further studies are needed to understand how these structural changes in the cortical architecture affect the function of brain circuits and result in behaviors associated with ASD.

[Read more about the study.](#)

Excess of subplate neurons in ASD



In this study, comparison of neuron number in the brains of people with and without autism demonstrate changes in the cortical subplate, a structure that helps establish connections between different brain regions during brain development.

If further data confirm these results, factors leading to disruption of subplate organization may prove to be important for understanding the causes of ASD.

[Read more about the study.](#)

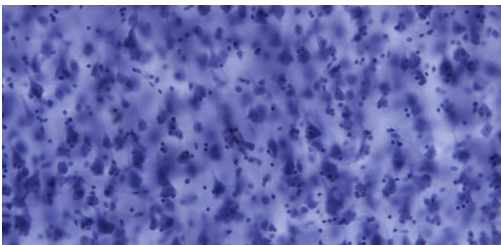
NEWS

Autism BrainNet announces the launch of its first request for applications for research

Autism BrainNet has launched its first request for applications. Grants awarded through this request for applications are intended to advance the understanding of autism spectrum disorder through analyses of human postmortem brain tissue generously donated to Autism BrainNet.

[Learn more](#)

Autism BrainNet to digitize the Autism Celloidin Library of postmortem brains



Autism BrainNet is working to digitize the Autism Celloidin Library, a unique collection of postmortem brains from individuals with and without autism spectrum disorder, which have been prepared for microscopy analysis.

The collection provides a unique resource for studies that aim to quantify and characterize changes in cell distribution, size and regional structure.

[Learn more](#)

NEW COLLABORATIONS

Autism BrainNet welcomes our newest family group partners: [FOXG1 Research Foundation](#), [KIF1A.org](#) and the [SynGAP Research Fund](#).

Our partnerships will help foster research to gain a deeper understanding of FOXG1, KIF1A and SynGAP, and their relationship to autism.

[Learn more about our partners](#)



DONOR RESOURCES



Autism BrainNet makes the donation process as simple as possible for every family. Donor families are treated with respect and compassion and provided with ongoing support.

We have developed resources to help you and your family plan and communicate your intent to become a brain donor for Autism BrainNet. We hope you find these resources helpful.

[Learn more](#)

HOTLINE

Contact us, we are here to help.

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

1-877-333-0999

If you have questions about Autism BrainNet, email us at:

info@autismbrainnet.org

STAY CONNECTED



<https://autismbrainnet.org>

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