



AutismBrainNet

Advancing research through the gift of brain donation

May 3, 2022

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

The immediate goal of Autism BrainNet is to promote research that will lead to a better understanding of the challenges that are more common in autistic individuals. The longer-term goal is to contribute to treatments that are effective in treating these challenges.

The entire Autism BrainNet team pursues this effort fully mindful of the value of every donation that is received and of the family members who make that selfless decision to contribute to autism research.

[Read more](#)

SCIENCE

Combined study of postmortem brain tissue and a mouse model gives insight into how changes in ASH1L cause epilepsy

In this study, researchers combined postmortem brain analyses and studies in mice to better understand how changes in the autism risk gene ASH1L affect brain function and behaviors including seizures and explore new potential treatments.

Future research that combines postmortem brain studies with detailed clinical data from the donors (e.g., epilepsy diagnoses) could help better translate some of these findings to humans.



[Read more about the study.](#)

Autism BrainNet Appreciation Award



Autism BrainNet announces the recipients of the 2022 Autism BrainNet Appreciation Award, a new initiative that recognizes outstanding partners and collaborators for their dedication to advancing brain tissue research in autism and related neurodevelopmental conditions.

On behalf of the entire team at Autism BrainNet: Thank you and congratulations to this year's recipients!

[Learn more](#)

Autism BrainNet to perform genetic analysis of brain donations

Starting this year, Autism BrainNet will be performing genetic analysis of the brain tissue donated by people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related neurodevelopmental conditions.

These data will be made available to approved researchers worldwide to conduct studies that can help better understand the biological basis of ASD.

[Read more about this initiative](#)



MEET OUR TEAM

A conversation with Naguib Mechawar, Director of the Douglas-Bell Canada Brain Bank



We recently spoke with Naguib Mechawar, director of the Douglas – Bell Canada Brain Bank and professor of Psychiatry at McGill University to learn more about his work with Autism BrainNet and his research using postmortem brain tissue to better understand the biological changes underlying psychiatric disorders.

In his research, Mechawar focuses on brain changes associated with depression and suicide—two conditions that may also affect individuals with autism.

[Read the interview](#)

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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