



Autism BrainNet

Advancing research through the gift of brain donation

October 19, 2022

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

Science is often described as involving the research of solvable problems. Problems become solvable when the right resources and technology are brought together for the use by researchers who have prepared themselves to carry out doable experiments.

Autism BrainNet was established because, until recently, there was a lack of donated brain tissue from individuals who were autistic during life. Thus, research into the genetic or structural changes in the autistic brain was not doable because of the lack of this precious resource. This situation is now changing due, in part, to the generosity and selfless contributions of autistic individuals and their families.

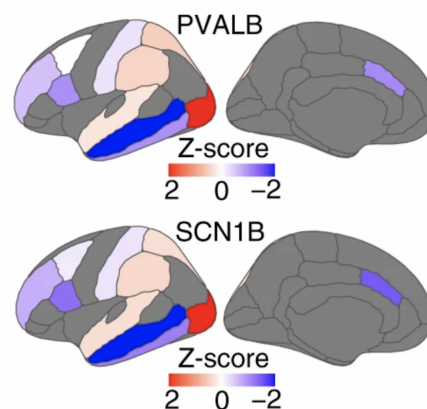
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SCIENCE

Gene expression patterns that underlie functional brain activity in healthy individuals are disrupted in autism

In this study, Genevieve Konopka and colleagues combined brain imaging and postmortem approaches to understand how the gene activity that typically regulates functional brain activity in neurotypical individuals is affected in people with autism.

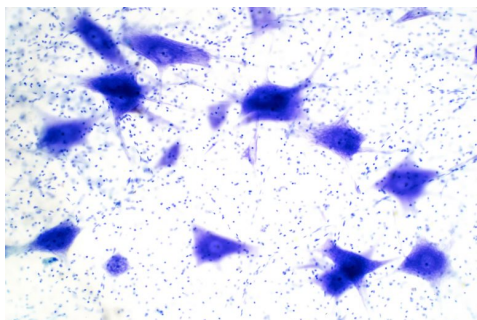
Findings show that gene expression patterns in the cortex are affected in autistic individuals.



[Read more about the study](#)

NEWS

Analysis of Autism BrainNet postmortem brain tissue RFA: Awardees announced



The Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) announced the investigators whose grants have been selected for funding in response to the Analysis of postmortem brain tissue from the AutismBrainNet collection request for applications (RFA).

Investigators awarded through this RFA will use human postmortem brain tissue donated to Autism BrainNet to conduct studies that will advance the understanding of the biological mechanisms of autism.

We are proud of this exciting opportunity to advance autism research and grateful to all of our the donor families who are making this research possible.

[Learn more](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thank you to all the families who stopped by the Autism BrainNet booth at the Autism Speaks Walk in New York City

CeCe McBride, Outreach Specialist for Autism BrainNet, and Alycia Halladay, Chief Science Officer for the Autism Science Foundation, a community partner of Autism BrainNet, joined families at the recent Autism Speaks Walk in New York City to share information about Autism BrainNet and the importance of brain tissue donation to advance autism research.



[Learn more](#)

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](#)



HELPLINE

Contact us, we are here to help.

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

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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