

Postmortem brain tissue for distribution

Available cases by tissue preparation as of October 1, 2025*

Tissue Preparation	Autism (diagnosis confirmed)	Autism (diagnosis under review)	Other Neurodevelopmental Disorders** (no autism diagnosis)	Controls
Frozen	101	23	51	163
Fixed (long term)	103	7	22	89
Fixed (minimally***)	28	14	29	77

* The table summarizes Autism BrainNet tissue available as of October 1, 2025. Legacy tissue from the Autism Tissue Program also available for distribution, is not included.

** Other Neurodevelopmental Disorders refers to individuals without a diagnosis of autism but with a genetic diagnosis that confers a high risk of autism.

*** Minimally fixed tissue is placed in fixative for 48-72 hours, cryoprotected, then frozen.

- All donations undergo genomic characterization (WGS). A portion of the cases also receive WES and GDA Array.
- All genomic data are made available to approved investigators via SFARI Base.

Additional characterization available:

- Gross anatomical observation report (on all cases beginning Q4 2023)
- Research neuropathology report on all cases (as of Q4 2023)
- Full neuropathology for selected cases (usually upon the request of a Coroner, Medical Examiner or Physician)

Additional resources:

- Fibroblasts (derived from skin biopsies; started Q4 2023; selected cases)
- Whole blood DNA from donors (all donors)
- Saliva DNA from parents (selected donors)

For more information:

- Autism BrainNet Tissue Catalogue at abn.sfari.org/catalogue
- SFARI Base at base.sfari.org

Who can apply?

Researchers from all over the world who are interested in studying autism and related neurodevelopmental conditions are eligible to apply. All applicants must hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or the equivalent at a college, university, medical school or other research facility. Applicants must provide evidence of sufficient funding to carry out the proposed research at the time of application.

Review process

All requests to use brain and tissue biospecimens and related data must be submitted through SFARI Base (**base.sfari.org**), SFARI's clearinghouse for data and biospecimens from the Simons Collections.

Instructions on how to log into SFARI Base and request access to resources can be found at **sfari.org/resources/sfari-base**.

For questions on access to SFARI Base: **sdbr@simonsfoundation.org**

For questions on Autism BrainNet resources: **requests@autismbrainnet.org**

Tissue applications are peer reviewed by the Autism BrainNet Scientific Review Committee. Approved requests will be fulfilled in the order that they are approved. The time between application approval and receipt of tissue may vary depending on the number of samples and processing requested.

More Information

Visit: autismbrainnet.org

Email: requests@autismbrainnet.org

Call: 877-333-0999

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