Research Study on the Cause of Autism Spectrum Disorders

If you or your child have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) you may be eligible to participate in Stanford University research study focused on producing disease-specific stem cell lines to assist in medical research. Healthy children may also be eligible to participate.

Recently methods have become available that allow researchers to turn blood and skin cells into pluripotent stem cells and from these into neurons. By carefully examining these neurons from individuals with autism with or without a known cause we hope to obtain information that may help explain the cause of autism where none has yet been identified.

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) recently established a repository that will make these cells, store them and make them available to researchers at different locations. This will enable research on a scale and depth that is unmatched anywhere else in the world.

Our group at Stanford wants to collect tissue for our own research and for the repository.

Goals of Stem Cell Research

- Address fundamental questions regarding human development, genetics and the fundamental causes of diseases.
- Create genetic tests and other useful clinical applications through the exploration of normal vs. abnormal development
- Improve the quality of life through novel cell-based therapies
- Optimize the use of precious resources for an increased knowledge of basic science and the future treatment of human diseases

What is involved in Participating?

Subject’s ages 4 or older are being recruited. Participation in this study requires travel to Stanford University Medical Center in Palo Alto, California. Subjects will undergo cognitive and clinical testing, as well as a brief physical exam. In addition, a blood draw and/or a very small skin sample will be collected. The enrollment process may be completed in one day or spread out over the course of two shorter days.

Study related medical and lab procedures will be performed at no cost and financial assistance for travel to the study site can be provided.

If you are interested in participating

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