Researchers and families working together can find the genetic causes of autism.

What is our research goal?
The goal of these research efforts is to discover the genetic factors that contribute to the cause of autism and related disorders.

What is autism?
A complex lifelong disorder of the brain that may cause:
• Speech delays or no speech at all
• Difficulty making or keeping a conversation
• Poor eye contact
• Limited pretend play skills
• Problems with daily living skills (e.g., making bed, dressing skills)
• Social problems (e.g., difficulty making friends, safety awareness)
• An insistence on sameness or keeping the same routines (e.g., same route to school)
• Unusual interests or repetitive behaviors (e.g., hand flapping, spinning objects)
• Challenging behaviors (e.g., tantrums, hitting, self-injury)

Autism occurs in about 1 in 150 children and is more likely to strike boys than girls. Children with autism display a variety of abilities and difficulties impacting every aspect of their development.

What causes autism?
The causes of autism are unknown; however, it is believed that autism is likely caused by a combination of many environmental and genetic factors (such as genes that affect our language and social skills).

Researchers are trying to narrow the possible factors that may be causing autism, with the hopes of improving early identification and treatment.

Why is it important to research autism in blacks and african americans?
We know very little about the development of autism in children who are Black or African American. The more we know about the way autism develops in all cultures, the more we can ensure that all children will have access to the best treatment for the disorder as early in development as possible.

Who can join the study?
Families who have a child under the age of 21 already diagnosed with autism (autism, Asperger Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder).

What do participants do?
• Read and sign a consent form
• Give family history information in a phone interview
• Complete several parent interviews (on the phone or in person) including the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised and the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales.
• The individual with autism will complete developmental interviews such as the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) with our trained staff
• Give permission to review medical records related to the diagnosis of autism
• Provide a blood sample (individual with autism, their parents, and siblings)

Call our toll-free number 1-877-686-6444 or visit our website www.hihg.org
THE RESEARCH TEAM
We need people with different areas of expertise to make this project a success. Families, physicians, psychologists, and human geneticists are working together to find the genes that cause autism.

Margaret A. Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., is director of the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics and is principal investigator of this study. Michael L. Cuccaro, Ph.D., is lead clinical investigator.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL YOUR FAMILY IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY
Call our toll-free number: 1-877-686-6444
Email: HIHGAutism@med.miami.edu
Visit: www.hihg.org
Or write to us at:
Hussman Institute for Human Genomics
PO Box 019132 | Miami, FL 33101

This study is conducted with the support from the National Institutes of Health, Autism Speaks, and gifts from private donors.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
HUSSMAN INSTITUTE for HUMAN GENOMICS

This University of Miami IRB-approved (20070193) research study is conducted in accordance with Federal guidelines and current US laws.

STUDY PARTICIPATION FACTS
• Participation is voluntary
• There is no cost to you
• All information is kept strictly confidential
• Participation with not affect your health care
• Travel to the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine is preferred, but not required.

It affects ALL of us...

Let’s Change the Course.