AUTISM is a complex neurobiological disorder that impairs a person’s ability to communicate and relate to others and typically lasts throughout a person’s lifetime. Today, 1 in 110 individuals is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls.

The University of Miami John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics (HIHG) is performing research studies to identify the genetic factors that cause autism. We hope to gain valuable insights into how autism develops in order to develop better diagnostic and treatment approaches.

This study is conducted with support from the National Institutes of Health (7P01NS026630 and 9R01MH080647), Autism Speaks, and gifts from private donors.

This University of Miami IRB-approved (20070193) research study is conducted in accordance with Federal guidelines and current US laws.
WHAT IS OUR RESEARCH GOAL?
The goal of these research efforts is to discover the genetic factors that contribute to the causes of autism and related disorders.

HOW CAN YOUR FAMILY HELP?
Since it is likely that many genes contribute to autism, many families are needed to participate in our study. If your family has one or more members with autism, Asperger Disorder or PDD-NOS (age 21 or younger) you can help by participating in the study.

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?
In order to participate in the study, families contribute in the following ways:

• A family history interview conducted over the telephone.
• Medical information through review of medical records relating to the diagnosis of autism.
• Completion of several developmental interviews, including the Autism Diagnostic Interview Revised (ADI-R) and the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales. These interviews may be conducted over the phone or in person.
• A blood sample from the individuals with autism, from their parents, and from siblings.

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

RESEARCH TEAM
To make this research project a success, we need many people with different areas of expertise. Families, physicians, psychologists, and human geneticists are all working together to find the genes that cause autism.

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

HIHG faculty have led the field in identifying the genetic variants that underlie common human disease. They have identified genes for more than 60 human illnesses, including neurological disorders, cardiovascular diseases, and eye diseases.

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER (1-877-686-6444)