Hello Registry member!

The Registry is in our 13th year of operation. Whether it is your 1st or 13th year to participate, we appreciate your involvement. Please take a moment to confirm your contact information by completing the enclosed update form even if nothing has changed, and mail it back to us in the postage paid envelope provided.

If you prefer, you may complete an update form online at http://www.cidd.unc.edu/Annualupdate. Help us stay in touch so we can inform you about research opportunities and the latest research findings.

We welcome your comments about your participation in our studies. Be sure to include them on your form.

A reminder—participation in the Registry is voluntary and confidential. You are not obligated to participate in any study. Your name will not be released to a study unless you have given permission. When we send information about studies, we will enclose a reply form with the option to accept or decline participation in that study. If you decide you would like to withdraw from the Registry, simply contact our office, and we will remove you from our database.

The UNC Research Registry
For Autism and Developmental Disorders

Contact The Registry

Corrie Walston
Family Recruitment Coordinator

Renée Clark
Associate Director

Email
Research_Registry@unc.edu

Update form on-line
cidd.unc.edu/annualupdate

Toll-free Phone
1-866-744-7879

2014 Annual Update

2013 Top Headlines
The Year in Review

UNC Researchers
Discover A Potential Cause of Autism

In August, the labs of Mark Zylka and Ben Philpot both published findings in the journal Nature, showing how dozens of autism-related genes are impaired when an enzyme called topoisomerase is inhibited. The enzyme is fundamental to brain development. Therefore, disrupting the enzyme’s natural expression may be a cause of autism.

UNC Infant Sibling Research Informs Understanding of Early Visual Processing

Results published in the American Journal of Psychiatry by Dr. Jason Wolff offer evidence that 7-month-olds who are later classified with an ASD take more time to shift their gaze and attention from one object to another when compared with similarly aged infants who do not develop ASD. Gaze shifting is critical to the development of important subsequent social cognitive skills such as joint attention. These findings add support to the importance of early detection and intervention.

READ SUMMARIES of these and other findings here:
cidd.unc.edu/registry/news

Corrie Walston
Family Recruitment Coordinator

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OUR GOAL is to improve the quality of life of individuals and families affected by autism and other developmental disabilities.

Areas of expertise and inquiry include:
- Aging in autism
- Brain development and functioning
- Early identification and screening measures
- Classroom and home-based curriculum for toddlers and preschoolers
- Infant siblings of children with autism
- Genetics
- Group interventions for anxiety and social skills
- Language acquisition
- Medication intervention
- Prevalence rates and risk factors for autism and developmental delay
- Repetitive behavior and restricted interests
- Sensory features associated with autism
- Employment skills training for adolescents

STUDY INFORMATION available here:
cidd.unc.edu/registry/news