



**Project name:** Autism BrainNet

**Project description:** Autism BrainNet is a network of university brain banks in the United States and internationally for the acquisition and distribution of postmortem brain tissue for research. Our vision is to enable the highest quality and most rigorous research into the causes and treatment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other related neurodevelopmental disorders.

It is our hope that postmortem brain tissue research will lead to more targeted and effective treatments that will contribute to improving the quality of life of individuals with ASD and their families.

**Primary investigator:** David G. Amaral, Ph.D., Director of Autism BrainNet

**Study contact person**

- General information: Lilliam Acosta-Sanchez at [lilliam.acosta@autismbrainnet.org](mailto:lilliam.acosta@autismbrainnet.org)
- Imminent brain donations: Carolyn Hare at [carolyn.hare@autismbrainnet.org](mailto:carolyn.hare@autismbrainnet.org)

**Inclusion criteria:** Potential donors include:

Autism donors	Control donors (non-ASD cases)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suspected of having a diagnosis of autism</li><li>• Any age</li><li>• Can have any co-occurring disorders</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Between the ages of 2 and 50</li><li>• No diagnosis of a neurologic disorder or psychiatric conditions</li><li>• No traumatic brain injury</li></ul>

**What is needed from the autopsy:** We are seeking 2 yellow-top tubes of blood plus whole, fresh brain tissue, including dura and brainstem, of deceased individuals who meet the inclusion criteria. For whole fresh brain and brainstem, double bag and place in specimen container with water and ice. Contact Autism BrainNet at **877.333.0999** for courier pick-up within 24 hours. Our staff is available 24/7. Recovery protocol, shipping materials and courier services are provided and coordinated by Autism BrainNet.

Forms required: Pathology Intake Record

**How consent is obtained, and how consent is coordinated-enrollment details**

Autism BrainNet's Clinical Director, Carolyn Hare, will obtain next of kin contact information from the medical examiner and conduct informed consent for brain tissue donation. A completed consent form will be provided to the medical examiner.

**IRB approval** or oversight is provided by Western Institutional Review Board.

**What resources does your organization provide to families, if any?**

Autism BrainNet provides families with access to the Donor Aftercare Program for ongoing support.

**What reports/resources are provided to forensic pathologists, timeframe.**

A free gross examination or a full neuropathology report can be provided by a board certified, practicing Clinical Neuropathologist upon request. The turnaround time is 60-90 days unless an expedited report is requested.

**Autism BrainNet toll-free, 24/7 Hotline:** 877-333-0999

**Website:** [www.autismbrainnet.org](http://www.autismbrainnet.org)

*Autism BrainNet is supported by the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI), a scientific initiative of the Simons Foundation. To learn more about SFARI, visit [sfari.org](http://sfari.org).*