



# AutismBrainNet

Advancing research through the gift of brain donation

Autism BrainNet is a collaborative network for the acquisition and distribution of postmortem brain tissue and other biologic samples for research on autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related neurodevelopmental conditions.

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## Primary Investigator

David G. Amaral, Ph.D., Scientific Director, Autism BrainNet

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## Contact Information

Call Autism BrainNet at **877.333.0999** to screen and refer potential donors.

Our clinical staff is available **24/7** to answer any questions you may have.

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## What is Needed from the Autopsy

Autism BrainNet is seeking whole, fresh brain, including dura and brainstem, dermal biopsy/skin punch from the inner thigh and 2 purple-top EDTA tubes of blood from deceased individuals who meet the donor inclusion criteria.

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.

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## Forms Required

Donation Intake Record (provided by Autism BrainNet)

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## Inclusion Criteria

### Autism Donors:

- ▶ Suspected of having a diagnosis of ASD
- ▶ No age exclusions
- ▶ Genetic and idiopathic forms of ASD
- ▶ Can have any co-occurring condition, such as epilepsy

### Control Donors (non-ASD):

- ▶ Up to 50 years of age
- ▶ No known serious neurologic or psychiatric conditions
- ▶ Sudden unexplained death in epilepsy (SUDEP)
- ▶ Sudden unexplained death in adolescents

Please keep in mind that autism is rarely listed as the cause of death. Many individuals with autism die from causes such as drowning, accidental death due to wandering or 'eloping,' sudden unexplained or epilepsy-related death or death by suicide.

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## How Authorization is Obtained or Coordinated

Autism BrainNet's clinical staff will obtain next of kin contact information from the Medical Examiner or Coroner and conduct informed authorization for postmortem brain tissue donation. A completed authorization form will be provided to the Medical Examiner or Coroner.

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## Reports Provided by Autism BrainNet

A free gross examination or a full neuropathology report can be provided by our board certified, practicing Neuropathologist upon request. The turnaround time is 15 days for the gross examination and 60 days for the full neuropathology report.

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## Resources for Donor Families

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

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## IRB Approval

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

## For more information

**Call:** 877-333-0999

**Visit:** [autismbrainnet.org](https://autismbrainnet.org)

**Sign up for our newsletter:**

[AutismBrainNet.org/newsletter](https://AutismBrainNet.org/newsletter)

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