Message from David Amaral, Scientific Director of Autism BrainNet

We hope that you, your family, and your friends have been spared by the coronavirus. Of course, many thoughts go through one’s head when you experience something as frightening as this pandemic. It reminds me of how much science still needs to be done in order for us to understand our world and to overcome the many threats that still remain. Read more.

SCIENCE

The serotonin system in autism

Serotonin helps to control social behaviors and body functions such as mood, sleep, and appetite. It also plays an important role during brain development. Results from a new study show that changes in serotonin function in autism may be specific to receptor type and brain region.

Read more about this research.

Study highlights changes in the use of gene copies in autism

Did you know that more than 150 genes have been identified to be implicated in autism? However, very little is known about how these genes contribute to an increased risk for the condition. A new study sheds light on one mechanism that controls gene activity, called ‘allele-specific gene expression’ so far understudied in autism.

Learn more about this research.
WEBINAR

Our friends at the Autism Science Foundation are hosting a virtual research fair for families to learn more about various studies that help advance autism research and how to participate.

**Date:** Tuesday, May 5 at 2 pm Eastern Time

**Register here:** [bit.ly/3aBnofC](bit.ly/3aBnofC)

MEET OUR TEAM

We recently spoke with Monica Nadler, Ph.D., tissue coordinator for Autism BrainNet at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA, to learn more about her role with Autism BrainNet and the importance of advancing autism research.

[Read the interview here.](#)

COVID-19 RESOURCES

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has impacted everyone's lives. We hope that you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy. We compiled a list of a few organizations that offer information and resources on prevention and coping tips that we hope you find helpful as you navigate this situation. [Learn more.](#)

HOTLINE

Contact us, we are here to help.

If you have questions about Autism BrainNet and the donation process, email us at:

[info@autismbrainnet.org](mailto:info@autismbrainnet.org)

If you have questions about making a
If you are interested in making a donation, call our 24 hour hotline: 1-877-333-0999

STAY CONNECTED

https://autismbrainnet.org | https://takesbrains.org