



21 December 2018

An update from our Director.

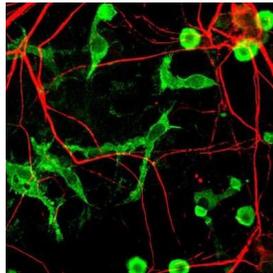
Another year is nearly over. Autism BrainNet continues to expand its activities of collecting critical brain tissue to fuel essential research about autism spectrum disorder. I want to thank the 31 families that made donations to Autism BrainNet in 2018. They have made a precious gift to individuals and families all over the world who are affected by autism. [Read the rest of the message and find out what we will be working on in 2019.](#)

SCIENCE

The immune system in autism: What does microglia have to do with it?



Donna Werling, PhD



Microglia

credit: Gerry Shaw, from Wikimedia Commons

A certain type of cell in the brain, called microglia, was thought to just provide structural support to those that communicated with each other. New technologies and approaches are now showing those cells do much more, and may be one of the reasons why more boys are diagnosed with autism compared to girls.

Donna Werling, PhD, from UCSF, focuses on the role of these cells in autism. [Learn more about her research.](#)

MEET OUR TEAM

Meet our clinical staff: A conversation with Carolyn Hare and Nicole Coman

by Lilliam Acosta-Sanchez

I recently had a conversation with Carolyn Hare, Clinical Director for Autism BrainNet, and Nicole Coman, Clinician for Autism BrainNet, to learn about their role with Autism BrainNet and how they support our donor families.

[Read the conversation and learn more about the caring staff at Autism BrainNet.](#)



Carolyn Hare



Nicole Corran

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thanks for visiting.

Thanks to all the individuals and families that came out to support the autism community and Autism BrainNet.



Many folks signed up to learn more about autism brain research in the nation's capital at the Autism Speaks DC Walk.



The Bolens gave ASF Chief Science Officer Dr. Alycia Halladay some helping hands at the Autism Speaks Philadelphia Walk.



The cold didn't stop New Jersey families from visiting our booth at the Autism Speaks Union and Morris County Walk in Cranford, NJ.

The amazing ladies of Alpha Xi Delta brought the spirit for science at the Autism Speaks San Francisco Walk.



STAY CONNECTED



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