



Autism BrainNet

Advancing research through the gift of brain donation.

December 9, 2020

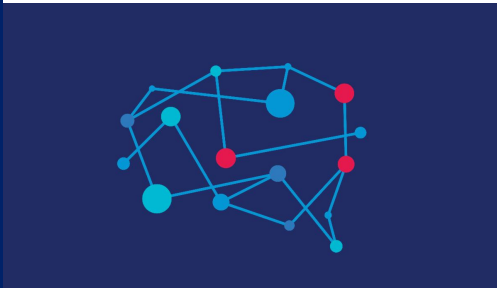
Message from David Amaral, Scientific Director of Autism BrainNet



What a year! Most people would agree that it has been a particularly difficult year with all of the turmoil in our daily lives, in our politics, and the many injustices in our society. I'm writing this over the Thanksgiving weekend and I'm sure many are wondering whether there is anything in 2020 to be thankful for. My answer is a resounding Yes. [Read more](#)

SCIENCE

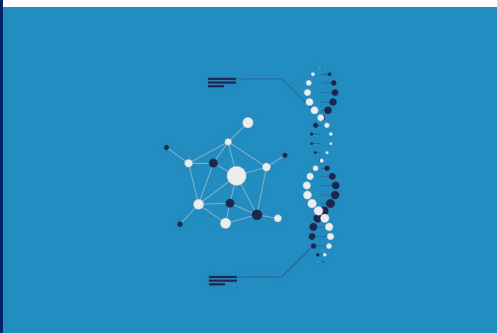
New technique provides deeper view of brain development



Knowing how and when different brain cell types emerge during brain development may help us understand how the brain develops and identify changes that contribute to neurodevelopmental conditions. A new study applied a novel technique to postmortem human brain tissue to provide insights into brain development.

[Read more about the study](#)

Researchers uncover a new way that genes are regulated in the autism brain



Hundreds of genes have been linked to autism, but these genes explain only a small portion of cases. A recent study explored the function of circular RNAs, and their effect on gene activity, in the brain of people who have autism.

[Read more about the study](#)

MEET OUR TEAM

A conversation with Alicja Omanska, tissue coordinator of Autism BrainNet Sacramento node



We recently spoke with Alicja Omanska, tissue coordinator for Autism BrainNet at the UC Davis MIND Institute in Sacramento, CA, to learn more about her research, her role with Autism BrainNet and the importance of advancing autism research.

[Read the interview](#)

NEW COLLABORATIONS



Autism BrainNet welcomes the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association and the Families SCN2a Foundation, our newest family group partners. These partnerships will help foster research to gain a deeper understanding of Prader-Willi syndrome, SCN2A related disorders, and their relationship to autism. Visit pwsausa.org and scn2a.org to learn more.

NEWS

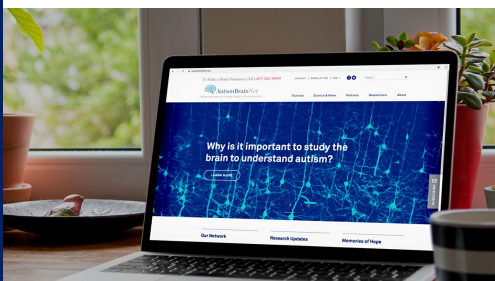
A collaboration between medical examiners, pathologists, researchers and families can help accelerate autism brain tissue research



Since its launch in 2014, Autism BrainNet has been working together with many family and professional organizations to promote a greater knowledge of autism, the need for brain donations, and the research that this precious gift to science enables. In a recent article, Autism BrainNet staff and colleagues agreed that this collaboration is key to accelerating autism research.

[Read more](#)

New Autism BrainNet website has launched



Our newly redesigned website has launched! AutismBrainNet.org has an improved look and feel. New navigation features make it easier for visitors to find information about the program and its mission, the donation process, our partners, and the research that this resource enables.

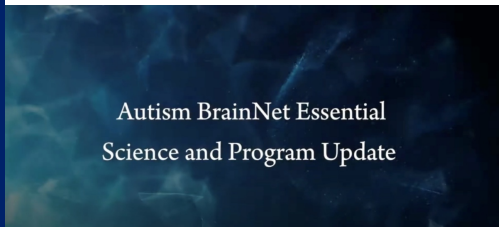
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thanks to all the individuals, families, researchers and organizations that joined us virtually to support and learn more about Autism BrainNet, and help advance autism research.



Autism BrainNet partnered with the Autism Society of America, ASA, to share information on the importance of studying the brain to advance our knowledge of the causes of autism. Last month, we joined the ASA for a Facebook Live episode, where viewers were able to get more information about Autism BrainNet. We are grateful to all who participated in this event and subscribed to the Autism BrainNet's newsletter.

[View the Facebook Live presentation](#)



This fall, David Amaral, scientific director of Autism BrainNet, and Carolyn Hare, clinical director of Autism BrainNet, joined families and researchers at the Families SCN2a Foundation's RX: Hope Virtual Series to share the scientific advances in understanding autism and related neurodevelopmental conditions and the importance of brain tissue donation to advance this essential research.

[View the presentation](#)

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

STAY CONNECTED



<https://autismbrainnet.org>