



If you would like more information about this study, please contact us at:

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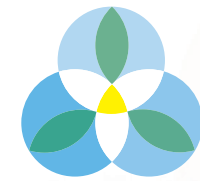
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POND NETWORK

Province of Ontario Neurodevelopmental Disorders



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The **POND Network** brings together a multidisciplinary team of scientists, clinicians, and community stakeholders who share the goal of improving the long-term outcomes for children with neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, intellectual disability, rett syndrome, tourette syndrome, down syndrome, and fragile X syndrome.

While the field has made significant gains in the treatment of these disorders, our ability to change long-term outcomes remains limited. There is a clear and urgent need for new and better targeted therapies including pharmacological, behavioural and psycho-social interventions.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The risks vary depending on which part of the study you decide to participate in. All study components are continuously and carefully monitored by the research team and their governing bodies.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The information from your child's testing may be useful for your child's school planning or other personal use. Your involvement may benefit society by telling us more about how genes and biology interact with the human brain and behaviour. It may also help us develop more effective interventions and create better resources for families of people with neurodevelopmental disorders.

WILL IT AFFECT MY CHILD'S CARE?

All participation in this study is voluntary. Participants can withdraw from the study (or parts of the study) at any time. Withdrawal from the study will not affect the health care that you and your family receive in any way. You can have the option of either removing your data or allowing the information already collected to remain in the studies.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

We are looking for families with one or more children/youth (21 years or younger) diagnosed with ASD (including autism, asperger syndrome, or PDD-NOS).

WHAT DOES MY PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

You and your child have the option to participate in all or any part(s) of the study. There are 6 different study components:

- 01 QUESTIONNAIRES AND GENETICS:**
We will ask questions about your child's abilities and collect a small DNA sample to study your child's genes.
- 02 CLINICAL ASSESSMENT:**
These assessments will measure your child's relative strengths and relative weaknesses, such as language abilities, cognitive abilities and social skills.
- 03 UNDERSTANDING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM:**
Your family will have the option to learn more about how the brain and the immune system communicate through a small sample of blood and some questionnaires.
- 04 BRAIN SCAN:**
Your family will have the option to learn more about a visit to the Hospital for Sick Children to take pictures of your child's brain, using a MRI machine.
- 05 NEW MEDICATION TRIALS:**
Your family will have the option to learn more about a clinical drug trial. The trial medications that are being studied are thought to improve symptoms of ASD in children and youth.
- 06 CELLULAR REPROGRAMMING:**
Your family will have the option to learn more about how a blood sample can be used to model neural (brain) cells through cellular reprogramming.