TCD Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research Group

The group is led by Professor Louise Gallagher and based at the Trinity Centre for Health Sciences, St James's Hospital, Dublin.

We are a multidisciplinary research group of psychiatrists, psychologists, statisticians, neuroscientists and geneticists. We are working together to improve our understanding of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders such has AD/HD, depression, anxiety and rare genetic syndromes. We hope our research will help improve the lives of individuals with these disorders and help them to reach their full potential

A Genetic Discovery in Autism

Summary: We're looking to understand the biology behind autism. The foundation of our bodies lies in our DNA and this is where we are going to look. How are we going to do it? We will measure your DNA, then have a look to see which parts of the DNA are related to autism. Like any genetic study, families are the best way to do this. The first step is to get in touch and we will talk the research process through with you and your family.

Recruitment: We are recruiting families with a two or more affected family members with an autism diagnosis.

Contact Information
Email: autism@tcd.ie
Phone: 01 8962219

Prader-Willi Syndrome Research

Summary: Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) is a complex genetic syndrome. Social cognition, or the ability to understand the thoughts and feelings of others, is impaired in PWS. In this project, we will carefully evaluate social cognition and social reward alterations in PWS using clinical assessment and neurocognitive methods (EEG, eye tracking). We will look at how social cognition and reward processing might contribute to autism symptoms and behaviours of concern in PWS.

Recruitment: We are looking for any person with a confirmed genetic diagnosis of PWS to take part in this study

Contact Information
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Antipsychotics and inflammation – the InflamAP Study

Summary: We are hoping to increase our knowledge about the reasons why second generation antipsychotic medications are causing significant weight gain and metabolic side effects in children. To do this we propose to recruit children and adolescents who are commencing treatment with second generation antipsychotic medications. We will do a general physical examination including your height and weight and take blood samples to measure levels of inflammatory markers. We will then meet with you after 3 months, 6 months and one year to see if you are getting any side effects and to repeat our measurements and take more blood samples to see if there are any changes.

Recruitment: Children and adolescents (5-18 years old) who are commencing treatment with second generation antipsychotic (SGA) medications.

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AIMS-2-TRIALS

Summary: We are delighted to be joining the AIMS-2-TRIALS consortium consisting of research groups from over 40 institutions across Europe working together. To find out more about AIMS-2-TRIALS, you can visit the website at www.aims-2-trials.eu. As part of AIMS-2-TRIALS, we will be expanding our research on rare genetic variants associated with autism, in the Synaptic Gene Study. This study will involve interviews and questionnaires, pen-and-paper tasks, eye-tracking and a brain scan (EEG and MRI) and a blood draw.

AIMS•2•TRIALS
AUTISM RESEARCH FOR EUROPE

Recruitment: We would like to invite individuals who have autism but no genetic diagnosis to take part in this study, as well as their families. We would also like to invite families who are not affected by autism to participate as well.

Contact Information
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Research Volunteers Needed

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