Our research team at Trinity College Dublin are excited to share our Synaptic Gene Study progress with you!

Many families have given saliva samples and completed video call interviews with Áine, Linda or Ciara from our research team. Next, we will collect eye-tracking, EEG and MRI data.

We hope to recruit up to 50 people with a NRXN1 deletion as this many participants will help make our results as meaningful as possible. We are very grateful to the families that have given their time and support so far, it is invaluable for improving our understanding of NRXN1 deletions.

What do we use the measures in our study for?

**Why are the interviews and questionnaires important?**

We use them to measure how many people do or do not have a neurodevelopmental condition, and to better understand behaviours in people with NRXN1 deletions. This may help to improve genetic counselling and supports for people with NRXN1 deletions.

**What are the saliva and blood samples used for?**

They help to understand genetics. We study whether different deletions within the NRXN1 gene and other genetic changes outside of the gene explain why some people with a NRXN1 deletion have a neurodevelopmental condition, while others do not.

**What can eye-tracking, EEG and MRI tell us?**

We know the NRXN1 gene has an important role in communication between cells in the brain. We use these to measure how the brain works in people with NRXN1 deletions and to understand links between genetics, behaviours and brain development.

If you are interested in participating please contact us for more information!

New Research Articles

Prof. Louise Gallagher at Trinity College, and Dr. Sahar Avazzadeh, Dr. Jamie Reilly, and Prof. Sanbing Shen at NUI Galway published an article about their research project using skin samples to create brain cells and measure how they work. They found that brain cells of autistic people with NRXN1 deletions were hyper-excitabile, meaning they work differently. This result could help future development of treatments. To read the article CLICK HERE.

Prof Louise Gallagher, Dr. Ciara Molloy and Thomas Dinneen at Trinity College and colleagues at King’s College London wrote an article describing the goals of the The Synaptic Gene Study, and how of each of the measures being used will help to better understand rare genetic conditions such as NRXN1 deletion and Phelan-McDermid Syndrome. To read the article CLICK HERE.

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