

# UCLA Autism Study

The UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment (CART) received continued funding from the NIH to conduct a longitudinal research study of infants at very high-risk of developing autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Infants with a family history of autism have a recurrence rate of 19% to 45%, depending on the number of affected relatives. Infants at very high-risk for autism are children who have more than one sibling with ASD, or one sibling as well as another close relative (parent, aunt, uncle, first cousin) with ASD (or symptoms of an ASD). These infants are nearly 50 times more likely to develop an ASD than infants born in a family without a history of autism.

***UCLA is asking for your help in identifying families in your practice who may qualify for participation in the study.***

Specifically, informing women who are expecting a high-risk baby about this exciting new study which aims to (1) lower the age at which autism can be diagnosed by identifying early markers of autism before language and behavioral impairments are typically observed, and (2) identify genetic influences and neural mechanisms associated with atypical developmental trajectories. Infants must be under six-weeks of age at the start of the study and will undergo evaluations at 6-weeks, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months (testing will include functional and structural MRI, EEG, eye-tracking, cognitive and behavioral assessments and genetic testing). Ultimately, UCLA hopes to use the knowledge obtained from this study to identify children who may benefit from early intervention and to design treatments that target specific brain dysfunction. Importantly, participating infants who are identified as showing early signs of autism at twelve-months of age will be referred for potential participation in an intervention study led by Dr. Connie Kasari – a leader in the field – which involves a high intensity behavioral treatment specifically designed for young children at high risk for autism.

There is no cost to participate in this study and medical insurance is not required. Interested parents may contact the study coordinator directly at 310-794-2215 or [info@autism.ucla.edu](mailto:info@autism.ucla.edu) You can view a flyer for parents containing all relevant study information here.

Please contact Susan Bookheimer, PhD if you have any questions. You may reach her at [sbook@ucla.edu](mailto:sbook@ucla.edu)

## **Susan Bookheimer, PhD**

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***Continue scrolling to see flyer.***

# Are you pregnant? Worried that your baby may develop autism?

If you have a family history of autism,  
you may be eligible to participate  
in a study of infant development at UCLA

## Participating families will receive:

- ◆ \$30-50 for each visit to UCLA
- ◆ Developmental feedback
- ◆ A picture of your baby's brain
- ◆ Free intervention if eligible



Eligible infants are under six weeks old and have either:

- ◆ More than one sibling with autism, or
- ◆ One sibling with autism and an extended family history of the disorder

This study involves several visits to UCLA in your baby's first year and will include:

- ◆ EEG, MRI, and Eye-tracking
- ◆ Developmental assessments



Please contact us for more information:  
(310) 825-3478 | [siblings@autism.ucla.edu](mailto:siblings@autism.ucla.edu)