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Icahn
School of
Medicine at
Mount
Sinai



This Initiative is guided by:

SFARI SIMONS FOUNDATION
AUTISM RESEARCH INITIATIVE

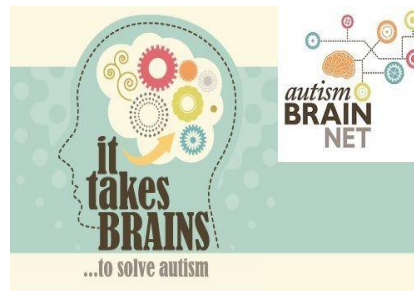


AUTISM SPEAKS®
It's time to listen.

Autism BrainNet (**ABN**) is a project supported by three of the largest private non-profit autism organizations to facilitate the collection and distribution of postmortem brain tissue. ABN will cover costs relating to donation.

What is ABN?

- ABN is a network of four university-based sites across the country that have come together to make brain donation both easier and more useful for future research.
- Since the start of this effort in 1998, ABN promotes research into the causes of autism spectrum disorders by facilitating studies of the postmortem brain.
- Brain donations to any of the four sites will facilitate research by scientists and each site employs specialists in the collection, preservation and distribution of donated tissue, as well as clinicians who work directly with the donor families.



UCDAVIS
MIND INSTITUTE



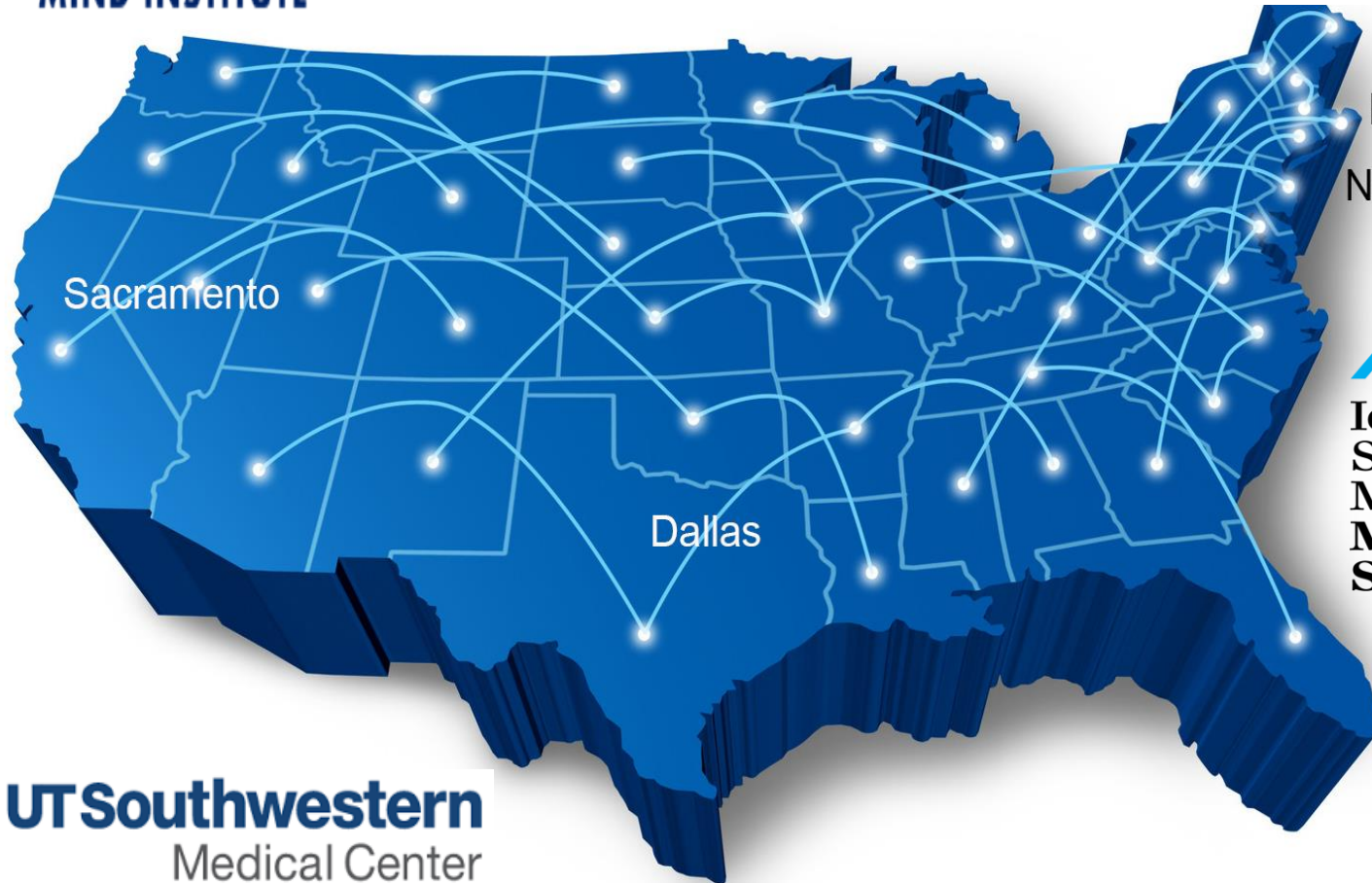
**Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center**

A teaching hospital of
Harvard Medical School

Boston
New York



**Icahn
School of
Medicine at
Mount
Sinai**



UT Southwestern
Medical Center

Autism BrainNet Medical Directors

Matt Anderson, M.D., Ph.D.



Patrick Hof, M.D.



Cyndi Schumann, Ph.D.



Carol Tamminga, M.D.



Autism BrainNet International



Oxford University



Olaf Ansorge, M.D

Patrick Hof, MD
Medical Director



Jill Krata, PhD
Clinical Coordinator



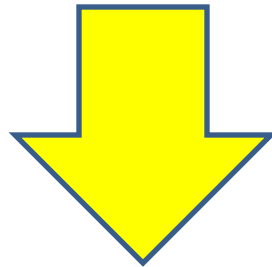
Tahia Warda
Tissue Coordinator



The Mount Sinai Node of Autism BrainNet

Need for Community Involvement

This effort will **only** be successful if the community is fully engaged and supportive. This will require a nationwide outreach effort to communicate the message that:

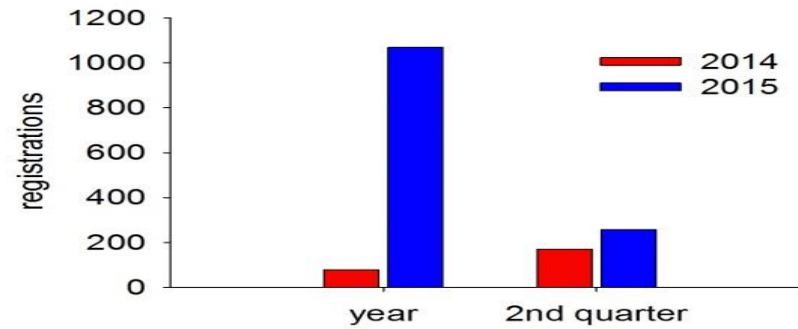


It Takes Brains to solve autism

(www.autismbrainnet.com)

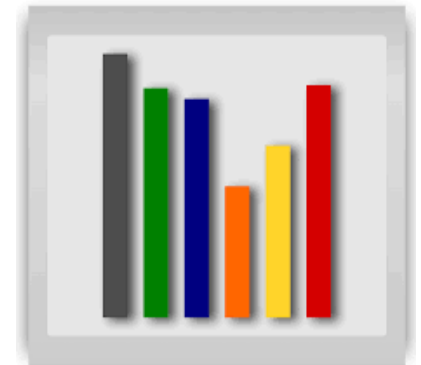


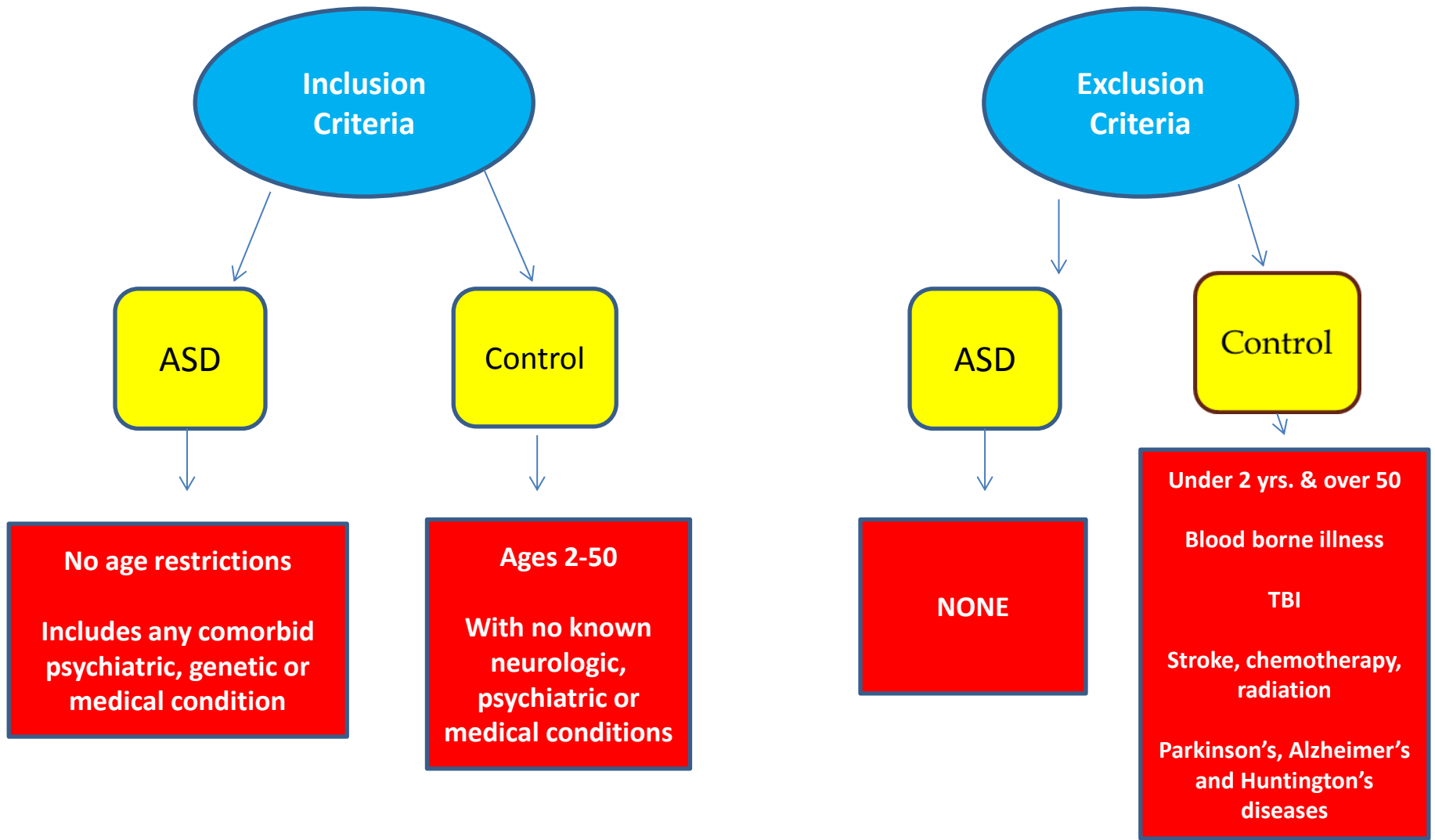
ABN Registration from 2014-2015



Current ABN Statistics

- Approximately 160 postmortem brain tissue donations in ABN since 1998
- Less than half of those have an Autism Spectrum Disorder
- The other donated tissue are from relatives of those affected by autism
- ABN currently has **VERY FEW** control brain tissue
- Approximately 5,000 families are registered for ABN





ABN Web Site: AutismBrainNet.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the AutismBrainNet.org website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, DONORS & FAMILY, RESEARCHERS, M.E./PATHOLOGIST, ABOUT US, NEWS, and contact us. A red '24/7 HOT LINE' badge with the phone number 1-877-333-0999 is located in the top right corner. The main content area features the AutismBrainNet logo on the left, which consists of a brain icon connected to several gears. To the right of the logo is the text: 'Promoting Research into the Causes of Autism Spectrum Disorder'. Below this is a paragraph: 'Although there is substantial evidence from neuroimaging studies that the brain of a child with autism is undergoing abnormal development, little is known about the underlying cellular, molecular and genetic mechanisms that lead to the onset of autistic symptoms.' A 'READ MORE +' link is provided. Below the main text is a 'latest news' section with a white box containing the text: 'The Simons Foundation and Autism Speaks® forge a new alliance to foster postmortem brain research.' and a 'READ MORE ->' link. To the right of this text is an image of a document with the Autism Speaks ATP logo and the AutismBrainNet logo. At the bottom of the page, it states 'This initiative is supported by:' followed by the logos for AUTISM SPEAKS (with the tagline 'It's time to listen.'), SFARI (SIMONS FOUNDATION AUTISM RESEARCH INITIATIVE), and the AutismBrainNet logo.



THE MATTHEWS
FROM BEACON, NY
CHRISTIE, MARK
AND THORSONS
MARK JR., TAMIKA
AND GABBY
CASEY AGE 14
VERS AUTISM

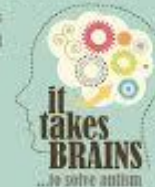
IT TAKES BRAINS TO SOLVE AUTISM

The Matthews never saw themselves as a "super" family, yet when they bonded together to support their autistic son Casey, they were indeed super. And now the Matthews and families like them around the world are being looked upon as super heroes. Why?

They have all been united by one brave and heroic act...pledging to donate the brain tissue of their sons and daughters for when they are sadly no longer with us. It's difficult to think about, but the reality is that brain tissue is urgently needed for the scientific research that will help thousands of people with autism.

Join forces with the Matthews and other super hero families to help ensure a brighter future for all. Because it takes brains to solve autism.


Visit TakesBrains.org to learn more and see how your entire family can help build a better tomorrow.



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ALEX PLANK IS A
TECHNICAL
COMMUNICATOR
AND A SUPERHERO
HE HAS SHARED
WITH OTHERS
A MESSAGE OF HOPE

IT TAKES BRAINS TO SOLVE AUTISM

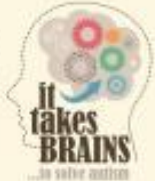
Alex Plank never saw himself as super. More like "awesome" really. He feels that being on the autism spectrum is a gift, and he wants to share that gift with scientists so they can understand what makes his brain unique.

Many think Alex and others just like him are super heroes. Why?


They've all been united by one brave and heroic act... pledging to donate their brain tissue to science when they are, sadly, no longer with us. It's difficult to think about, but the reality is that brain tissue is urgently needed for the scientific research that will help thousands of people with autism.

So join Alex to help ensure a brighter future for all. Because it takes brains to solve autism.

Visit TakesBrains.org to learn more.



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IT TAKES BRAINS TO SOLVE AUTISM

Complete the form to sign up and receive the latest news!

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____
(OPTIONAL)

GENDER: MALE FEMALE

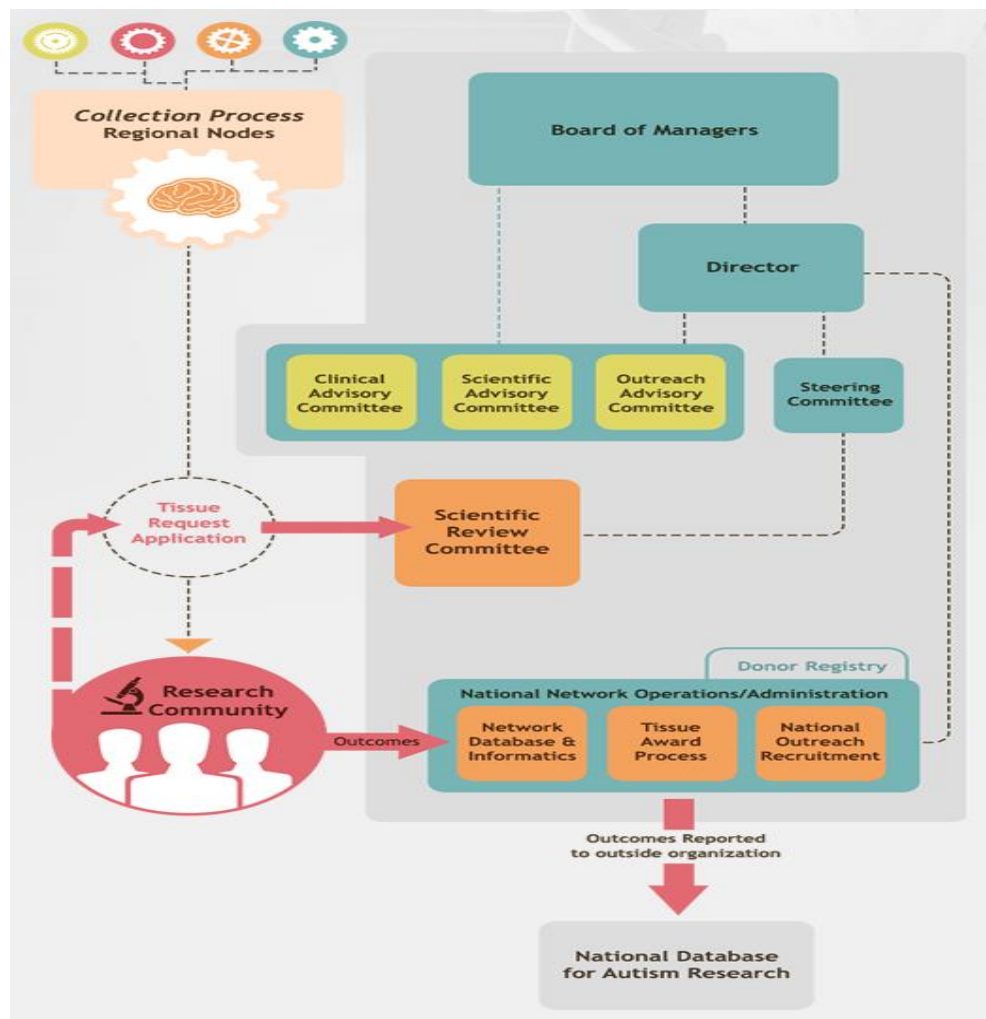
WHERE DID YOU LEARN ABOUT AUTISM BRAINNET?

AUTISM SPEAKS WALK CLINICIAN OR PHYSICIAN
 AUTISM EDUCATION OR ADVOCACY EVENT OTHER _____

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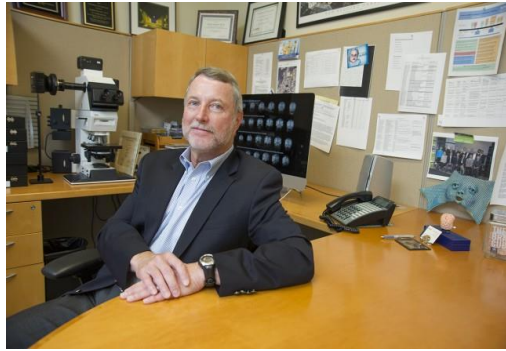
AutismBrainNet Organization



To register, go to...



**Thank you to our
colleagues for
providing some
slides**



David Amaral, PhD



Alycia Halladay, PhD



Alison Singer
Autism Science
Foundation

Media Coverage

<http://bit.ly/1Hlvcq5>



QUESTIONS...



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