



It is estimated
that there are
over 1.5 million
cases of Autism



in our country
alone with
3 children
being diagnosed



every hour.

Stacy Sims Photography

To find out more about how you can
make a difference for those affected
by Autism, contact:

Debra Caudy, M.D.

President, BRAINS for Autism
6611 Hillcrest Ave #517
Dallas, TX 75205-1301
214.599.9753
www.brainsforautism.org

Ellen Haynes

Director of Development
UT Southwestern Medical Center
5323 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75390-9009
Ph. 214.648.3445
Fax 214.648.7867
ellen.haynes@utsouthwestern.edu

BRAINS
for Autism



getting
on the
inside of
Autism

BRAINS
for Autism

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in our country. Affected children suffer from severe deficits in language and social skills as well as repetitive behaviors, and restricted, often obsessive, interests.

- Autism affects 1 in 150 children
- 3 Children are diagnosed with Autism every hour
- Over the last 10 years, Autism diagnoses have DOUBLED

The cause of Autism remains elusive.

We know that genetics play a major role in the etiology of this disease. The vast majority of Autism cases are thought to be complex genetic disorders whereby one individual has several genes involved in the development of the disorder, much like the genetic influences with many cancers.

Almost everyone knows someone affected by Autism.

Autism represents a spectrum of disorders. Some children are minimally affected, showing strong language and academics, but are socially inept. Others are more severely affected. These children have no functional language skills, restricted interests and minimal, if any, social competence.

Autism is a lifelong disability.

Autistic children are unique and extraordinary individuals who, by the nature of their disability, need to work especially hard to make meaningful gains. While Autism is a lifelong disability, most children do improve, sometimes quite significantly, with intense behavioral programming along with special education, best started at the time of diagnosis and continuing throughout their lives.



UT Southwestern is ready to get on the inside of Autism.

With the completion of the Human Genome Project, the decoding of human DNA and the momentum of the Cure Autism Act within Congress, there is no better time to look for answers to this devastating disability. UT Southwestern is a magnet for talented researchers. It is home to 4 Nobel Laureates (more than any other Medical school in the world). Of the 50 National Academy of Science member researchers in Texas (equivalent to the Sports Hall of Fame), 16 are at UT Southwestern. In 2006 UT Southwestern opened its new Advanced Imaging Research Center, which includes the most advanced brain imaging equipment available, as well as an Autism clinic through a collaboration with Children's Medical Center. This institution has the talent and the biotechnology to conduct outstanding biomedical research with Autism. Several established, as well as new, investigators at UT Southwestern are presently researching parts of the Autism puzzle and gaining insights into neurological abnormalities that impair social and cognitive function. Now, we want to push harder and faster.

UT Southwestern's Endowed Scholars Program will focus research-driven firepower toward finding answers to the puzzle of Autism.

It takes money to recruit and equip the best talent. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of all of the supporters of Brains for Autism, a total of \$6,000,000 has been contributed to the dedicated effort of researchers at UT Southwestern to better understand, treat and, one day, prevent Autism disorders.

Additionally, the Crystal Charity Ball of Dallas, has graciously awarded UT Southwestern \$1,400,000 to help fund a Comprehensive Clinical and Research Autism

Resource Center that will serve affected children and their families in Dallas. The center will be a multi-institutional collaboration between UT Southwestern, UT Dallas Callier Center, UT Dallas Center for Brain Health and Children's Medical Center. This program will help integrate direct patient care with research findings and studies.

Brains for Autism remains committed to helping to better the lives of children and adults with Autism through continued financial support of both the clinical and research programs currently ongoing at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Help us get on the inside of Autism.

Thankfully, public awareness of Autism is exploding. This increased awareness has helped to triple the federal funding within the past decade to up to \$100 million. However, this still pales in comparison to the estimated \$500 million allocated to childhood cancers, which affects far fewer numbers of our nation's children than Autism presently devastates. We want our city, our communities, and our premiere medical center to win the day for these wonderful children. Make a donation that can make a difference for our children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors affected by Autism. Thank you for your time, consideration, and contribution to BRAINS for Autism.

AUTISM
*is more common than
Down's Syndrome
Cystic Fibrosis and even
Juvenile Diabetes.*

BRAINS
for Autism

