



University of Pittsburgh

School of Medicine

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Dear Parents:

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Pittsburgh is working with area schools districts to promote interest in university research programs. Students who are interested in community service can volunteer to take part in the following program.

The Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) is one of only six designated sites throughout the country to receive the esteemed National Institutes of Health ACE award. The ACE award is a five-year grant that continues through 2012.

The main goal of the ACE research program is to study the differences in thinking between individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and healthy individuals. The program is accepting students with ASD and healthy students, but we are primarily searching for healthy male students ages 8-17. Students who enroll in this research will be helping many families who are coping with the effects of autism.

There is no medication involved in the research study. Testing includes computer, paper and pencil and eye movement tests, physical exam and blood draw and an fMRI scan (a painless way to take pictures of your child's brain). Your child can choose to take part in any or all parts of the study. The research takes three days to complete. Tests can be completed based on availability and all participants are compensated for completing tests and parking. Evening and weekend times are available.

The research program's success depends on the involvement of the overall community. For every person with ASD in the study, the ACE research program needs at least one healthy person with whom we can compare test results. Your child's participation can make a significant contribution to the research effort. Your child's help can advance the diagnosis and treatment of autism. To enroll your child, please complete the attached consent form or to learn more, contact 866 647-3436. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,