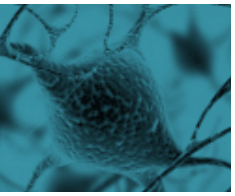

SUCCESSFUL**PROJECTS**

EUHFAUTISM \\ EUROPEAN HIGH-FUNCTIONING AUTISM NETWORK: TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN A PHENOTYPICALLY WELL CHARACTERISED SAMPLE.

Austria\ Canada \ Finland \ France \ Germany \ Italy \ Israel \ Luxemburg \ Poland \ Romania \ Spain

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are heterogeneous neurodevelopmental disorders affecting up to 1 in 100 persons. ASD have no cure or effective treatment, representing a major health problem. ASD represent a continuum of symptoms, ranging from profound intellectual impairment to above average intellectual functioning. Given the added complexity of studying a heterogeneous disorder such as ASD, the characterization of more homogeneous subgroups of patients can facilitate clinical and genetic approaches. Here, we propose to study the subgroup of high-functioning ASD (HF-ASD) patients. With the aim of understanding the causes of HF-ASD, we have assembled a multidisciplinary European team that brings together expertise in the clinical diagnosis of ASD, human genetics and neurobiology. We will define a common standardized assessment of the patients and use whole genome genotyping and gene sequencing to identify the major risk factors for HF-ASD. We expect that the studies proposed here will advance our knowledge of the mechanisms leading to ASD, and thus, in the development of precise diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.

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