



Title: Olfactory Differences in Autism
Protocol #: HSC-MS-06-0461

Date: August 2006

Dear Participant,

You are being invited to take part in a research project of great importance to the study of autism. Autism is a developmental disorder that affects the social behavior, language, and thinking of children, adolescents and adults. Autism is often accompanied by sensory abnormalities. We would like to invite you to complete the attached questionnaire. Your decision to take part is voluntary, and you may refuse to take part. A decision not to take part in the research project will not change the services that are available to you from The University of Texas Health Science Center- Houston (UTHSC-H). This research project is entitled "Olfactory Differences in Autism" under the direction of Dr. Katherine Loveland of UTHSC-H.

About 400 adult participants will participate and complete the questionnaire for either themselves or their children (0 – 17 years of age). Adults with or without autism-related disorders or adults with children who do or do not have autism-related disorders are all welcome to complete the survey.

If you choose to take part, you will complete the attached questionnaire. **Completion of the questionnaire will imply your informed consent to take part.** Your valuable input will help us understand more about the sensory differences in autism. **The questionnaire will take about 15 minutes to complete.** If you'd like, you are welcome to complete one for both yourself and your child.

You may receive no direct benefit from being in this study. However, persons with autism may benefit from any new information that may possibly be gained about autism. The only alternative is not to take part in this study. If you begin to answer the questionnaire and decide you would not like to continue, that is your option.

There are no risks associated with taking part in this study. To protect your confidentiality, a special number will be used to identify you in the study. No names will be used on the questionnaire. You will not be personally identified in any reports or publications that may result from this study. Any personal information that is gathered during this study will remain confidential to every extent of the law.

There are no costs to you for taking part in this research project. Nor will you receive any payments of money or any other form of financial compensation or reimbursement.

Dr. Katherine Loveland will be glad to answer your questions about this study at any time. You may contact her at 713-500-2580 (office) or 713-500-9696, ex. 2587 (voicemail, after hours). You may also contact Lynne A. Cleveland, Research Coordinator of the Center for Human Development Research, at the same office phone number. You may also contact the UT Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects at 713-500-3985, or Dr. Denise Chen at Rice University at 713-348-4789.

Thank you for agreeing to be a part of this study.

Sincerely,
Katherine A. Loveland, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences
Director, Center for Human Development Research

This study (#HSC-MS-06-0461) has been reviewed by the Committee for the Protection of Subjects (CPHS) of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. For any questions about research subject's rights, or to report a research- related injury, call the CPHS at 713-500-3985.