

## LARGEST-EVER SEARCH FOR AUTISM GENES REVEALS NEW CLUES

The largest search for autism genes to date, funded in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has implicated components of the brain's glutamate chemical messenger system and a previously overlooked site on chromosome 11. Based on 1,168 families with at least two affected members, the genome scan also adds to evidence that tiny, rare variations in genes may heighten risk for autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

The study is the first to emerge from the Autism Genome Project (AGP) Consortium, a public-private collaboration involving more than 120 scientists and 50 institutions in 19 countries. Their report is published online in the February 18, 2007 issue of *Nature Genetics*.

Read complete press release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/largest-ever-search-for-autism-genes-reveals-new-clues.cfm>