



Postmortem brain tissue for distribution

Available cases by tissue preparation as of March 5, 2024*

Tissue Preparation	Autism (diagnosis confirmed)	Autism (diagnosis under review)	Other Neurodevelopmental Conditions** (no autism diagnosis)	Controls
Frozen	70	43	35	119
Fixed (long term)	84	16	20	90
Fixed (minimally***)	12	33	13	39

* The table summarizes Autism BrainNet Tissue Available as of March 5, 2024; legacy tissue from the Autism Tissue Program is also available for distribution.

** Other neurodevelopmental conditions refers to individuals without a diagnosis of autism but with a genetic diagnosis included in the SPARK Gene list that confers a high risk of autism.

*** Minimally fixed tissue is placed in fixative for 48-72 hours, cryoprotected, then frozen.

- All donations undergo genomic characterization (WGS, WES, and GDA Array).
- All genomic data are made available to approved investigators via SFARI Base.

Additional characterization available:

- Gross anatomical observation report (on all cases beginning Q4 2023)
- Research neuropathology report on all cases (as of Q4 2023)
- Full neuropathology for selected cases (usually upon a Coroner’s, Medical Examiner’s or Physician’s request)

Additional resources:

- Fibroblasts (derived from skin biopsies; started Q4 2023)
- Whole blood DNA from donors (all donors)
- Saliva DNA from parents (selected donors)

For more information:

- Autism BrainNet Tissue Catalogue at abn.sfari.org/catalogue
- SFARI Base for approved investigators at base.sfari.org



Who can apply?

Researchers from all over the world who are interested in studying autism and related neurodevelopmental conditions are eligible to apply. All applicants must hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or the equivalent at a college, university, medical school or other research facility. Applicants must provide evidence for sufficient funding to carry out the proposed research at the time of application.

Review process

All requests to use brain and tissue biospecimens and related data must be submitted through SFARI Base (base.sfari.org), SFARI's clearinghouse for data and biospecimens from the Simons Collections.

Instructions on how to log into SFARI Base and request access to resources can be found at sfari.org/resources/sfari-base.

For questions on access to SFARI Base: collections@sfari.org

For questions on Autism BrainNet resources: requests@autismbrainnet.org

Tissue applications are peer reviewed by the Autism BrainNet Scientific Review Committee. Approved requests will be fulfilled as they are approved. The time between application approval and receipt of tissue may vary depending on the number of samples and processing requested.

More Information

Visit: autismbrainnet.org

Email: requests@autismbrainnet.org

Call: 877-333-0999

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