Curing Autism

Center for Autism Research and Translation Jay Gargus

Director, Center for Autism Research and Translation

CURRENT RESEARCH

Novel approaches and expansive expertise lead to paradigm shifts for autism

Autism can be overwhelming to a family, and we as a nation have begun to bear witness to its very personal costs -- parents' anxieties, chasing false hope with pseudo-science, and desperately looking for a way to connect with their children. But what if researchers found a way to develop drugs that could result in stopping the disorder? Researchers at the University of California, Irvine Center for Autism Research and Translation, or CART, are determining the mechanisms by which malfunctioning genes affect the common pathways implicated in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in order to design and carry out cellular screens to test the effects and treat the core defects. By beginning with drugs that can normalize diverse molecular bioassays of diverse ASD samples, researchers at CART are making strides towards developing new targets and drugs that can attack the novel mechanisms for the treatment of these disorders. With over 50 faculty members drawing upon a wealth of diverse expertise and technologies in addition to real-world clinical goals, CART hopes to achieve its vision of "abolishing current and future burdens of autism through discovery and implementation of novel care, so that not a single child is lost to autism."

The role of CART is particularly important today because pharmaceutical houses have abandoned drug discovery in neurobehavioral disorders since animal models have failed to predict drugs that work in patients. In contrast, CART has developed a step-by-step set of overlapping techniques anchored to the causal genetic lesions in ASD to assure that when behavioral assays are reached, they are securely anchored in the core human disease pathophysiology. The Rapid Discovery Platform (RDP) at...

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AFFILIATION

University of California, Irvine

EDUCATION

- M.A., Biology, 1973 , Case Western Reserve University
- M.D., in Medicine, 1979 , Yale University School of Medicine
- Ph.D., in Hu Genetics, 1979 , Yale University School of Medicine
- Resident, in Pediatrics, 1981 , Yale University School of Medicine
- Fellow, in Human Genetics, 1983 , Yale University School of Medicine

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Diagnostics, Genomics / Congenital, Neurological / Cognitive

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of the Center for Autism Research and Translation (CART) as researchers integrate all levels of complexity to discover novel diagnostics and targets for drug discovery. Donations will fund the necessary $4M over a two-year period to support the unified efforts of the Center. In choosing to donate, you will play a role in paving the way to paradigm shifting breakthroughs in autism and potential treatments.