**UC Davis recently established a Center for Children's Environmental Health. The centerpiece of this program is the CHARGE study!**

**We hope to learn more about what causes autism and other developmental disorders.**

**For more information call 1-866-550-5027 or email BeInCharge@ucdavis.edu**

**Conducted by:**

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- The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- *Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (M.I.N.D.) Institute

**Help contribute to a better understanding of autism and developmental disorders...**

***Be In CHARGE !***

CHARGE

CHildhood
Autism
Risks from
Genetics and the
Environment

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A STUDY TO
UNDERSTAND THE CAUSES
OF AUTISM AND OTHER
DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

CHARGE

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**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**
DAVIS
LOS ANGELES

## What is our goal?

Little is known about what causes autism or developmental delay. By studying a large number of children with different types of development, we hope to learn more.

## What kinds of causes will we study?

We now understand that the majority of diseases and developmental disorders arise from the interaction of genes and the environment.

Therefore, we plan to address environmental toxins, children's medical history, diet, and many other aspects of their lives, both before and after birth.

We will look at physiologic factors that may affect brain development including specific genes, lipids like cholesterol, and molecules involved in the working of the immune and nervous systems. We will examine how cells communicate, how chemicals are handled by the body, and how the immune system moves into action.

## How will we accomplish this?

We will enroll children with different developmental patterns in a large case control study. We will then compare their exposures and physiologic and genetic make-up.

## Who will be in the CHARGE study?

Three groups:

- children with autism,
- children with developmental delay or mental retardation but not autism, and
- children with typical or expected development.

The first two groups will be identified through the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Regional Centers, the third will come from the community at large.

## Be In CHARGE!

Help contribute to a better understanding of autism and other developmental disorders by finding out if you are eligible to be in the CHARGE study!

**For more info:**

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## Who is eligible?

Children:

- between 24 and 54 months of age,
- born in California,
- whose parents speak either English or Spanish, and
- living with at least one biologic parent.

## What will parents be asked to do?

- give permission for us to review the child's Regional Center charts (this applies only to children with autism, mental retardation, or developmental delay).
- bring their child to UC Davis or UCLA for a clinical assessment that will include an autism evaluation, a medical examination and a battery of tests of development.
- answer questions about events, activities and exposures during the pregnancy and early childhood.
- give specimens of blood, cheek swabs, and urine from their child, his or her siblings, and themselves.
- give us permission to obtain and review prenatal, labor and delivery, and pediatric medical records.
- give us permission to obtain blood spots that the State of California collected when their child was born.