

Ages 12-27, Autism Spectrum Disorders or Typical Development

The transition from adolescence to young adulthood is an especially important period of development. Now, researchers with the UC Davis MIND Institute hope to discover how to maximize that growth for adolescents and young adults with autism, to help them learn and thrive.

Few studies have focused on adolescent children and young adults, because previously, investigators have focused on how to treat the features of autism — social and communication deficits — during the pre-school years, before children enter school.

In the CoCoA Study, we hope to fill the gap in knowledge about the cognitive and behavioral changes during the transition to adulthood.



Cognitive Control in Autism (CoCoA) Study

**UC DAVIS
HEALTH**

**MIND
INSTITUTE**



Principal Investigator – Marjorie Solomon Ph.D.

Dr. Solomon is a licensed psychologist whose primary clinical work is focused on high functioning children with autism spectrum disorders. She studies and implements school and

clinical intervention programs to help such children. Her current research efforts involve studies about social skills, the development of cognitive control, and other forms of higher cognition in high functioning individuals with autism spectrum disorders, and the relationship between cognitive control and behavioral symptoms including restricted and repetitive behaviors and formal thought disorder.

**UC DAVIS
HEALTH**

**MIND
INSTITUTE**

For questions or assistance, please contact:

The CoCoA Study Coordinator
(916) 703-0339
hs-solomonlab@ucdavis.edu

Marjorie Solomon
Principal Investigator
(916) 703-0270
marsolomon@ucdavis.edu

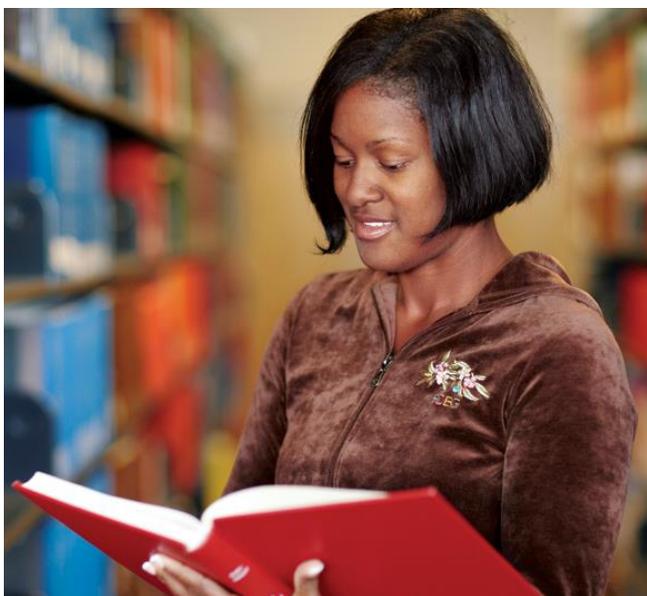


What is the Cognitive Control in Autism (CoCoA) Study?

Through the CoCoA study, we hope to gain a better understanding of cognitive functioning during a particularly important time in an individual's life – the time between adolescence and the transition to adulthood. We are interested in learning more about the brain functioning and behavior of adolescents and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) when they think and learn.

Eligibility

We are recruiting both boys and girls between the ages of 12-27 whom we can then follow over the next 5 years. Participants may or may not have a diagnosis of ASD. Further screening will be done over the phone to confirm eligibility.



What does participation involve?

You and your child will be asked to visit the UC Davis MIND Institute and the UC Davis Imaging Research Center (IRC) for multiple visits over a 5 year period of 2-3 hours each that will consist of the following:

Initial Assessment Visit

During the first visit, the research staff will walk you through your participation in the CoCoA study. During this first visit, your child will complete a psychological assessment to determine his or her eligibility for the study. You will also be asked to complete questionnaires about your child.

Behavioral Visit

During the second visit, your child will be asked to complete more assessments including a reading task and computer games.

Brain Imaging Visit

At the third visit, your child will be asked to complete a computer task while in an MRI machine. This task will assess your child's cognitive ability. During this time, you will complete questionnaires that ask questions about your child.

Future Visits

Two to three years after the first two visits are completed, you and your child will be asked to return and have another brain scan and complete computer games. Four years after the initial two visits some of the participants in the study will be randomly selected to come back.



About the MRI

The MRI scan will provide researchers with a 3D image of your child's brain activation as they complete the computer task. Your child will lie still in the scanner while completing the task. There is no radiation involved, nor does the MRI scan require any medications or injections. Your child will have the opportunity to acclimate to the MRI scanner by practicing in our Mock MRI scanner in the beginning of his or her visit.

What will you receive for participating in the study?

- An image of your child's brain
- A brief letter that includes behavioral and related assessment results, including an IQ assessment
- \$100 gift card per visit