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SPARK Participation Criteria

The Simons Foundation Powering Autism Research for Knowledge (SPARK) aims to recruit, engage and retain a community of 50,000 individuals with ASD and their family members. SPARK families enroll online at www.SPARKforAutism.org, provide saliva samples for genetic analysis and agree to be contacted for future research opportunities.

The phenotypic data currently available include basic family and medical history information and choice standardized measures; all are detailed in the table below. Clinical lab results also are available on a subset of individuals who underwent clinical confirmation and have had their genetic results returned to them.

Inclusion Criteria

Diagnostic information
- All individuals with a professional diagnosis of ASD can participate.
- ASD includes DSM-V Autism Spectrum Disorder, and DSM-IV Asperger Disorder, Autistic disorder, Rett Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder and pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS).

Age
- Individuals of all ages are welcome to participate in SPARK (infants enrolled under 15 months of age are considered at risk of ASD and will be followed over time).

Family members
- Parents and full or half-biological siblings can participate in SPARK (multiplex families may include multiple, unaffected biological siblings).
- Adoptive parents who are legal guardians of children or adults with ASD are also able to register and answer surveys for their adoptive children - but information will not be collected on them

Exclusion Criteria

Residence
- Only residents of the United States can participate in SPARK at this time.

Language
- Participants must be able to read and understand English.
- Beginning in March 2022, a pilot was launched allowing Spanish speaking participants to join. Select surveys are available to Spanish speaking participants. This battery will continue to be enhanced in the future

Family members
- Only biological family members participate in SPARK biospecimen collection.
## SPARK Measure Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument Name and Publisher</th>
<th>Measure Format</th>
<th>Measure Description</th>
<th>Administrations available by role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADOS</strong>&lt;br&gt; ADOS (original version), modules 1-4&lt;br&gt; ADOS-2, modules T-4</td>
<td>Medical record upload by SPARK clinical site staff members</td>
<td>ASD diagnostic test</td>
<td>Available on select ASD participants from select clinical sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WPS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area Deprivation Index</strong>&lt;br&gt; Kind AJH, Buckingham W. University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, 2019</td>
<td>Systematically generated based on parent/guardian/self-report of physical address</td>
<td>Rank of socioeconomic disadvantage by neighborhood&lt;br&gt; Both version 2015 and 2020 are included in the file</td>
<td>All SPARK participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Self-Report</strong>&lt;br&gt; ASEBA 2003</td>
<td>Online, self-report</td>
<td>Adaptive functioning, problems, and substance use</td>
<td>Independent ASD adults 18-59 years&lt;br&gt; Non-ASD adults, 18-59 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Background History Questionnaire-Adult</strong>&lt;br&gt; SPARK</td>
<td>Online, self-report</td>
<td>Demographics, treatment, and social history</td>
<td>Independent ASD Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Background History Questionnaire-Child/Dependent</strong>&lt;br&gt; SPARK</td>
<td>Online, parent/guardian report</td>
<td>Demographics, treatment, and social history</td>
<td>ASD children&lt;br&gt; Dependent ASD Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Background History Questionnaire-Sibling</strong>&lt;br&gt; SPARK</td>
<td>Online, parent/guardian report</td>
<td>Demographics, treatment, and social history</td>
<td>Non-ASD siblings &lt;18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basic Medical Screening Questionnaire</strong>&lt;br&gt; SPARK</td>
<td>Online, self or parent/guardian report</td>
<td>Medical history</td>
<td>All ASD individuals&lt;br&gt; Non-ASD Parents&lt;br&gt; Non-ASD Siblings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Description</td>
<td>Format</td>
<td>Data Type</td>
<td>Population and Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Child Behavior Checklist for ages 1.5 to 5 years (CBCL/1-5)  
ASEBA 2000          | Online, parent/guardian report                                           | Problem behavior                                                          | ASD children, 1.5-5 years |
| Child Behavior Checklist for ages 6 to 18 years (CBCL/6-18)  
ASEBA 2001          | Online, parent/guardian report                                           | Problem behavior                                                          | ASD children, 6-18 years |
| Developmental Coordination Disorder Questionnaire (DCDQ)  
B.N. Wilson          | Online, parent/guardian report                                           | Motor Delays                                                               | ASD children, 5-15 years |
| Intellectual Quotient data (IQ)  
various               | Medical record upload by SPARK clinical site staff members              | IQ scores and classifications from a variety of IQ tests and batteries. Please review the data dictionary for a full list of possible test types | Available on select ASD participants from select clinical sites |
| Predictive - Experimental IQ  
SPARK                   | Machine learning and human-derived calculations                          | Machine learning and human-derived calculations of intellectual disability | ASD children and dependent adults with enough data points for the calculation to be used |
| Repetitive Behavior Scale- Revised (RBS-R)  
Bodfish               | Online, parent/guardian report                                           | Repetitive behaviors                                                      | ASD children, 3 years and older  
Dependent ASD adults |
| Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ) – Lifetime  
WPS 2003             | Online, parent/guardian report                                           | Screen of ASD markers                                                     | ASD children, 2-17 years  
11 months  
Non-ASD siblings, 2-17 years 11 months |
| Social Responsiveness Scale - 2; Self-Report (SRS-2)  
WPS 2012             | Online, self-report                                                     | Screen of ASD markers                                                     | Independent ASD adults, 19 years and older  
Non-ASD adults, 19 years and older |
Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales-3rd Edition (VABS-3)
Pearson Assessments 2016

Online, parent/guardian report
Adaptive behaviors
ASD children
Dependent ASD adults

For detailed information on measures including variables and answer choices, please refer to the SPARK Data Dictionary and SPARK Release Notes; included in the SPARK dataset zip drive.
How to access SFARI Base and request SFARI resources

1. Log into SFARI Base [here](#). If you do not have a SFARI Base account, you may create one. As part of account creation, you will need to affiliate with an institution. If your institution is not registered on SFARI Base, you will be prompted to provide institution details as part of registration. This includes the name and email address for a Signing Official who has authority to represent your institution in a legal agreement, similar to a material transfer agreement.

2. Review your institution’s executed Researcher Distribution Agreement (RDA) and agree to the joinder to the RDA. The RDA specifies the legal issues pertaining to research data and specimens, and requires approval from the PI's institution. Each PI and collaborator must agree to the joinder agreement to the RDA for their respective institution.

For institutions that do not yet have an executed RDA, it will be sent to the institutional officer for review and signature upon approval of a request in SFARI Base.

3. Create a SFARI Base project, which includes the title, abstract, and an IRB approval or exemption document. Each SFARI project led by a PI must be governed by a protocol approved or exempted by an IRB. A protocol specifies the regulatory issues pertaining to the research and may include co-investigators at multiple institutions. You will need to obtain a PDF copy of the letter from your IRB approving or exempting your protocol.

4. Create a SFARI Base request, which includes specifying the type of resource you would like to request access to (phenotype, genetic, or imaging data; biospecimens; and/or research match application). The submitted request will be reviewed by the SFARI science team or appropriate committee.

SPARK Sample Consent Form

[SPARK data consent, 2020](#)

*If you have additional questions, email [collections@sfari.org](mailto:collections@sfari.org).*