

June 4, 2021

Simon Baron-Cohen, PhD, University of Cambridge, UK
Joseph Buxbaum, PhD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA
Editors-in-Chief, *Molecular Autism*

Dear Drs. Baron-Cohen and Buxbaum,

We request that our manuscript, "Childhood Academic Performance: A Potential Marker of Genetic Liability to Autism" be considered for publication in *Molecular Autism*. This research investigates developmental academic performance patterns among clinically unimpaired siblings of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Findings highlight differences from controls, specifically lower performance and slower development, in language-related academic skills that are consistent with patterns previously reported among parents of individuals with ASD. Several associations emerged linking such patterns of performance to broader ASD-related subclinical and clinical phenotypes in themselves, their parents, and their clinically affected sibling with ASD, suggesting this pattern may constitute a potential developmental marker of genetic liability to ASD. Additionally, parent-child associations revealed differential patterns of intergenerational transmission of traits between mothers and fathers that demonstrate a pattern of lineality consistent with stronger heritability for ASD-related language traits from mothers, and restricted and repetitive behaviors or rigid phenotypes from fathers.

There are no papers currently submitted, in press, or published based on these data.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to let us know if you require any additional information (m-losh@northwestern.edu; 847-491-2431).

Sincerely,



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