



The IAN Project

Resources for Autism Researchers Worldwide

What is IAN?

IAN, the Interactive Autism Network, is a project of the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland and is sponsored by Autism Speaks. IAN's goal is to accelerate autism spectrum disorder (ASD) research. To accomplish this goal, we've created three online projects designed to support and enhance the work of the ASD research community internationally:

IAN Research (www.IANresearch.org) is an online database and research registry. Families and affected individuals who live in the U.S. consent to participate in this longitudinal study, agree to share the information that they contribute with qualified researchers, and are notified about other studies for which they qualify. IAN Research administers a series of online questionnaires to the participants based on their characteristics and gathers a variety of data about individuals with ASD, siblings, and parents. By the end of February 2008, IAN Research had over 21,000 participants including over 7,800 individuals with ASD.

IAN Exchange (www.IANexchange.org) is an online professional community for autism researchers and associates. It provides a platform for collaborative activities, knowledge management, professional networking, and lifelong learning. Using IAN Exchange, researchers can connect with autism researchers from around the world from disparate specialties and perspectives to accelerate autism research, to develop best practices and guidelines, and to promote research competencies.

IAN Community (www.IANcommunity.org) is a website where the public learns about autism research and influences its direction. It provides articles by leaders in the field, discussion forums focused on the research process, and preliminary findings from IAN Research so that participants can see the value of their contributions.

What Does IAN Offer Researchers?

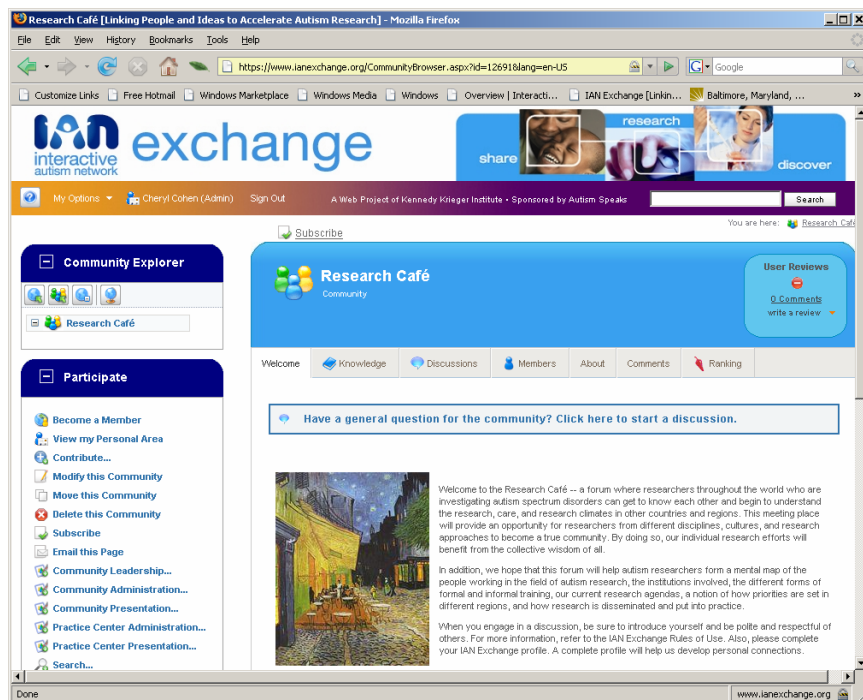
Are you a researcher or an associated professional involved in ASD research? IAN provides a variety of tools and services that are designed to accelerate research. These include online networking and collaboration tools, subject recruitment assistance, an extensive longitudinal and cross-sectional data set, an information resource for your clients and research participants, and a place to share your research with the public. IAN provides these services and tools free of charge.

Online Networking and Collaboration

Where can you make connections with other researchers and engage in conversations about your research and your profession? Where can you discuss ideas and share knowledge? Where can you collaborate on research, scientific abstracts and articles, guidelines, and best practices? Where can you tap into the expertise of researchers around the world? Where can you discuss an important journal article with the article's author? And where can you do this anytime?

IAN Exchange is an online community for professionals involved in ASD research. Its goal is to connect researchers from around the world. Aside from providing you with endless opportunities to learn and collaborate, IAN Exchange will make it easy for you to become part of a true community focused on a shared challenge—to understand the causes of ASDs, to find effective treatments, and to translate this knowledge into tangible solutions.

Find out more at www.IANexchange.org.



Visit the Research Café on IAN Exchange

Subject Recruitment Assistance

Most participants in IAN Research agree to be notified about outside research studies. Based on the information that they provide when they complete the IAN questionnaires, IAN matches these participants with qualified research studies throughout the U.S.

To obtain subject recruitment assistance from IAN, you complete an online application. If your research study qualifies, IAN staff will query the IAN Research database based on your study's recruitment criteria, identify the IAN participants who qualify for your study, and send the qualified participants your IRB-approved recruitment letter via email. Those interested in participating will contact you for further information. In addition to this matching service, IAN will list your study on IAN Community.

For more information, visit www.iancommunity.org/cs/for_researchers/application.

Longitudinal and Cross-sectional Data Set

Participants in IAN Research agree to share the information they contribute with qualified researchers. IAN Research provides this data in de-identified format to qualified research studies throughout the world. In addition, IAN provides a code book, an IAN Exchange user community, and phone and email user support. The data are collected via closed-ended questionnaires. Some of the questionnaires are standardized (SCQ and SRS), while others such as pregnancy, treatments, and parental depression are developed in partnership with subject matter experts. Based on the priorities expressed by researchers and families, IAN periodically adds new questionnaires to the protocol.

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Information Resource for the Public

If you are like many autism researchers, you work with individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. IAN Community provides a rich information resource and online community for the public. It has basic information on ASDs, current treatments, the latest scientific discoveries, articles that promote research literacy, and articles by leading researchers in the field. We hope you will share this resource.

Visit IAN Community at www.IANcommunity.org.

A Place to Share Your Research with the Public

Journals provide a place to share research with clinicians and other researchers. But how can you share your findings and insights with the people most affected by your work? Send us an email and we'll help you prepare an article for IAN Community.

Spread the Word!

Please tell your colleagues and the families you work with about IAN. Just send us an email and we will send you the appropriate materials.

Contact IAN

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