



## MAP Newsletter

Making Advances Possible (MAP)

**AUTISM & DEVELOPMENTAL MEDICINE INSTITUTE**

*A Whole New Perspective on the Evaluation and Treatment of Children with Special Developmental Needs*

Spring 2015

**Welcome** to the first family newsletter for Geisinger ADMI's *Making Advances Possible (MAP)* project. As a reminder, the MAP project is focused on collecting detailed information about health and development to better understand developmental disorders.



## Get Involved from Home!

After a family has visited ADMI and agreed to be a part of MAP, they will receive an email inviting them to fill out online surveys. These surveys are a way that we can collect information that is useful in our research. For this part of the study, we ask questions about patients, parents, and other family members. By gathering information from all family members, we hope to better understand and personalize treatments for our patients.

After the first round of surveys is completed, another will be sent.

Each round should take no longer than an hour to complete. There are four rounds of surveys. For each round where information is provided on at least the patient and one parent, **a \$10 online Amazon gift card is sent.**

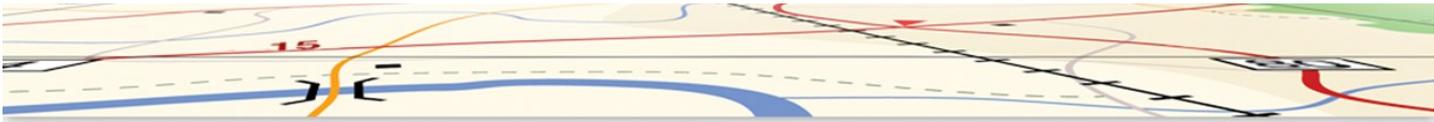
Since ADMI families started filling out these online surveys in November, we have had more than 80 participate. This is a great start, but we need more families to complete these surveys to help move this project forward.

If you'd like to participate and need more information, contact Missy Slane by phone: 570.522.6282 or email her at [mmslane@geisinger.edu](mailto:mmslane@geisinger.edu).

## About ADMI

ADMI is focused on clinical care and cutting edge research to help children with special developmental needs. The vision of ADMI is to expand and seamlessly integrate clinical services, research, and education through a multidisciplinary team of providers and researchers, including specialists in neurodevelopmental pediatrics, genomic medicine, psychology, speech-language pathology, radiology, and education.

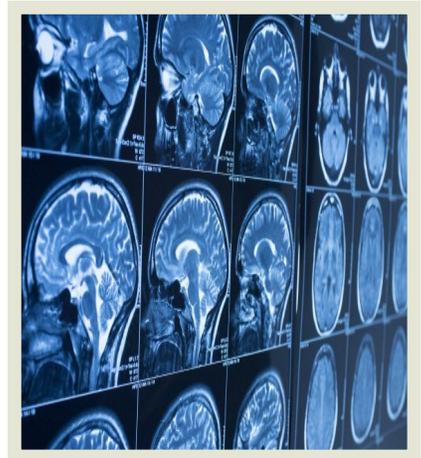




## Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

Our researchers use MRIs to examine how our brains work. An MRI is really just a big camera that takes pictures of your brain. Just like a regular camera, the picture can be blurry if you move when snapping the image. Therefore, it's important to stay as still as possible during an MRI, and we know that can be difficult.

To help our patients and their families prepare for and feel comfortable with an MRI scan, we have a "mock" scanner. The mock scanner makes the same noises as the real scanner, but it doesn't take any pictures. The mock scanner allows you or your child to experience an MRI and it lets our researchers know if you can stay still long enough to have a real scan.



## MAP Study

To date, **96% of families asked have agreed to partner with us.**

**THANK YOU** for your commitment to helping us with our project!



## Star Researcher: Vanessa Troiani, PhD

ADMI: How does the MAP project benefit your research?

Dr. Troiani: My background is in neuroimaging and I love studying the brain. Every MAP participant who completes an MRI scan helps me research how individual brains are similar and different. This will help me figure out how the brains of people with neurodevelopmental disorders are different from those without these conditions. The MAP project lets me use this knowledge to work on improving treatment and diagnosis of neurodevelopmental disorders.

## ADMI's Upcoming Events

### April

#### Autism Awareness Month

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Randy Lewis, pioneer of the disability hiring movement, 7 pm at the Bucknell Gallery Theater

**April 12<sup>th</sup>** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Autism Awareness 5K Run/Walk & Family Activities

### May

**May 17<sup>th</sup>** 22q at the Zoo at Reptiland



Remember to regularly check [GeisingerADMI.org/events](http://GeisingerADMI.org/events) for updates and details about our Spring celebrations and future ADMI events. In addition, **like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter** to stay up to date!