Preclinical Autism Consortium for Therapeutics (PACT)

Abstract

The Preclinical Autism Consortium for Therapeutics (PACT) is a consortium of basic researchers with expertise in rodent models of autism spectrum disorders who seek to discover effective treatments for the core symptoms of autism. Pharmacological interventions will be assessed for their ability to restore normal sociability and communication skills, reduce repetitive behaviors, lessen seizures and anxiety-like behaviors, correct hypo- and hyper-responsivity to sensory stimuli, and improve cognitive disabilities. The choice of pharmacological compounds will be based on knowledge about the genetic mutations associated with autism, which act to impair synaptic connections between neurons in the brain. Compounds that reproducibly reduce symptoms in both mouse and rat models of autism will point the way to clinical trials for medications to improve the diagnostic and associated symptoms of autism.

Mission

The goals of PACT are to increase success of autism medications development, attract more investment to the field, and increase the quality of new medications advancing toward the marketplace.

The PACT team is developing a platform of preclinical tests to evaluate and compare new medications.
for the core symptoms of autism. PACT will build and validate an expansive group of tests including assessments of social, repetitive and sensory behaviors, anxiety, hyperactivity, and cognitive and brain activity patterns in cutting-edge rat and mouse models of genetic risk for autism.

**Consortium History**

October 2013: Consortium announced

**Links/Social Media Feed**

Other website  

**Sponsors & Partners**

Autism Speaks  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Boston Children’s Hospital  
University of California Davis MIND Institute

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