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# Autism Researchers without Borders

Autism Speaks and the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) enlist the support of autism researchers who wish to change the lives of millions affected by autism worldwide while advancing our understanding of autism risk factors, diagnosis and treatments.

## Why?

It has been estimated that at least 1% of the global population has an autism spectrum disorder – more than 70 million individuals around the world. Even in places fortunate enough to have well-trained providers delivering evidence-based services, not all individuals will have adequate access to those services. In fact most will not. And many more will experience additional challenges related to stigma, economic hardship, or worse - human rights violations.

## Why Else?

Keys to understanding the causes of autism and to developing new, broader-reaching autism services may lie in international research. Conducting research in different populations around the world creates unique opportunities to study autism, its risk factors, and its treatment in various socio-cultural and geographic conditions. Some nations have special resources and systems to generate rich datasets for autism research.

## How?

In 2007, the United Nations named April 2nd World Autism Awareness Day. Since that time, as autism awareness around the world has grown, so has the demand for support - from parents, professionals, and governments. In response, Autism Speaks launched the **Global Autism Public Health Initiative (GAPH)** - a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to increase autism awareness, collect data for public health planning, and build capacity for services and research by facilitating collaboration, building on local efforts.



**INSAR** International Society for Autism Research

## Who?

Anyone can volunteer as long as you are willing to travel! Second (or third) language skills and international connections are especially welcome but not necessary. The success of **GAPH** relies on guidance and training from international experts willing to share the latest evidence-based science and practice, while considering innovative approaches to disseminating and delivering that information.

## What?

Volunteer researchers are rewarded with opportunities that can make an immediate difference in the lives of individuals and their families from autism communities around the world. **GAPH** is custom-made to meet the specific needs of local communities with full consideration for cultural sensitivity and significance.

## Where?

Autism Speaks is actively working or exploring opportunities in more than 50 countries around the world!

Regions include Central and South America, the Caribbean, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia-Pacific.

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## When?

**Today!** If you are interested in learning more about this exciting new program please visit: **[AutismSpeaks.org/global](https://www.autismspeaks.org/global)**