OPTIMIZING THE IDENTIFICATION AND CARE PATHWAY OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER IN FEMALES

We want to understand how the autism spectrum is experienced by girls and women, and the health-care needs of girls and women on the autism spectrum.

We are looking for participants who are either:

(1) Older than 12 years, with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis or who are self-diagnosed, and who are female assigned at birth;
(2) Parents/caregivers of girls or women on the autism spectrum; or
(3) Health and/or education professionals working with girls or women with ASD.

*Please note that at this stage, we are looking specifically for girls/women with ASD between ages 12 to 18, and parents/caregivers of girls/women with ASD.*

This research will help us improve the identification, health care and support of girls and women on the autism spectrum.

What will you have to do?

- You will be asked to participate in an interview. You can choose an interview on your own (for about 1.5 hours), or in a focus group (for about 2 hours).
- You will be asked questions about your health, health care and experiences of being a girl or women on the autism spectrum.
- Girls on the autism spectrum, women on the autism spectrum, parents/caregivers, and health/education professionals will be interviewed separately, or participate in separate focus groups.

Who can participate in this study?

To participate in this study, you must be capable of providing informed consent or assent. Additionally, you must:

- Be verbal and fluent in the English language
- Have not been identified as having an intellectual disability
- Not be experiencing extreme mood and/or psychosis symptoms

You will be compensated for your time.

To find out more or to refer someone, please contact:

Caroline Kassee at caroline.kassee@camh.ca (preferred)

or at (416) 535-8501 x 39385