

Advocates of children with autism want to hear from you

New York, New York -- Lindsey Elmore and Jodie Meschuk, advocates for children with autism, are seeking parents or caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder, Asperger's syndrome or social communication problems to take part in a national survey that will assess opinions and collect data about the disease.

The data collected in this survey will be used to open the lines of communication and spark conversations among parents and caregivers of children with autism in order to foster a better understanding of autism. Specifically, this survey will focus on collecting information about the causes of autism, is autism recovery possible, what improves the symptoms of autism, what is the economic impact of autism, and how open is communicate with your medical professional.

"Conversations about autism can be very divisive with passionate opinions on many sides, said Dr. Lindsey Elmore, Pharmacist. "This IRB approved study aims open the conversation among parents and care providers of children with autism. Join the conversation!"

In addition to parents and caregivers, Elmore and Meschuk hope that organizations that work with autistic children will share the survey with their constituents. Through this survey they hope to hear from other parents about the challenges they face and are facing with raising children with autism.

"I am a mom with a son who was diagnosed with autism", said Jodie Meschuk. "I distinctly remember being in the pediatrician's office asking legitimate and intelligent questions. I wanted to be heard. I wanted to feel like my voice mattered, because this was the hardest journey of my life period. If I felt this way, then others might feel this way too."

According to the Autism Society of America, adolescents and adults with autism often have problems finding services or getting people to understand their issues because most people associate autism with kids and usually have a stereotypical view of how people with autism behave.

Families who live with children, adolescents and adults with autism can experience high levels of stress and are not prepared for the challenges they may face in giving care to a family member with autism. Because of the uniqueness in how autism affects people, one family's experience living with autism may not be the same as another's. It is the hope of Elmore and Meschuk that they can help families face their challenges and help them get a better understanding of autism and what they can do to overcome challenges.

The survey is open from March 1-31 and is available to people who care for people with autism. To complete the survey go to: <http://autismstory.org>