

Thanks Melissa + James -  
Best wishes

9 June 16  
21854 E Berry Lane  
Centennial, CO 80015

Dear Friends,

The 2016 Walk for Autism Speaks at Denver's Coors Field was just starting. The excitement was heightened when hundreds of passing motorcyclists revved their motors while we entered the baseball stadium (home of the Colorado Rockies).

We had already been in the Coors Parking lot for an hour, mingling with the other teams and sponsors. The leaders of the event had finished their speeches. Daniel and several others had been mentioned as members of the Grand Club for raising more than \$1000. Then we went on the 1K walk, a couple of times round Coors Field. It felt good to make the walk again this year, and to raise money for autism research.

This year has been very busy for our family. I had hip replacement surgery a month before the walk. Two weeks after the walk, Ian graduated from high school. So, even though this thank you is quite late, we are very grateful for all of you who contributed money to autism speaks (and helped us to raise over \$2500).

Of all of the autism research reported in the past year, four studies funded by Autism Speaks seem especially exciting to me. For example, researchers have found that at least half of all autism cases can be traced to one of a few mutations that disable genes for early brain development; these are new in the child and found in neither parent. This list of mutations may help doctors to guide diagnosis and treatment based on the specific mutation. In another study of families in which two or more siblings were diagnosed with autism, it was found that sibs with autism often have different mutations, and less than a third shared the same autism-associated genes. One goal of that project is to make available 10,000 sequenced autism genomes for researchers in the field. Another study found that many fathers of kids with autism have high levels of epigenetic changes (changes that effect regulation of genes) of 'autism associated sites' in their sperm, which may reflect exposure to environmental hazards. Interestingly for our family, a new brain-immune system link has been discovered which may advance understanding of inflammation's role in autism. This lymphatic brain network may allow for more interplay between the immune systems of the brain and the body than previously thought, and be involved in conditions such as autism, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, etc..

Thank you very much to all of you who supported our team and autism research this year. We wish you all of the best!

Warmly,

Cynthia

Mark

Daniel Scherer

Sean

Rebecca Carr

Cynthia, Mark, Daniel, Rebecca and Ian Scherer Carr