

April 1st, MaRS is lighting it up blue for Autism. Did you know Autism affects 1 in 110 children. 1 in 70 boys. Children with autism grow up to be adults with autism. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined. Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the world. There is no single cause of autism and no cure.

Light it Up Blue!

Join Us! April 1st, 2010

World Autism Awareness Day shines a bright light on autism as a growing global health crisis. WAAD activities help to increase and develop world knowledge about the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention.



As part of the Autism Genome Project, Dr. Steve Scherer (SickKids) and his team, located at MaRS, are probing the DNA of 6,000 individuals across 1,600 families impacted by autism to identify genetic markers linked to the disorder.



Dr. Scherer and developmental paediatrician Dr. Wendy Roberts (SickKids, Bloorview Kids Rehab), found genes linked to different components of autism, including variations on Chromosomes 2, 16, and X associated with language delay, repetitive behaviour and non-verbal communication, respectively.