



Science in the Service of Autism

## Autistica Highlights 2010

2010 was a tremendous year, not only for Autistica but for autism research.

In January, we changed our name to Autistica and became the largest UK charity raising funds for medical research, seeking early and effective diagnosis and interventions for autism. We were delighted that Jane Asher became our Vice President and helped raise awareness about the work we do with this [video](#).

We are proud that this year, Autistica funded projects have featured highly on the world stage. Thanks to you, we were able to support ground-breaking research at the Institute of Psychiatry, which achieved wide acclaim including the prestigious [NHS Innovative of the Year Award](#). The research focuses on brain scans and is hoped will support better diagnosis of autism.

We were most fortunate to be chosen by city company ICAP as a beneficiary charity for their Charity Day. Autistica supporter and Radio 2 presenter Ken Bruce, as well as Prince Charles and Prince William attended the event and the money raised for Autistica will go to an exciting study to test the benefits of early intervention for babies 'at risk' of developing autism (because they have an older sibling with autism) watch our video about the project [here](#). We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at ICAP for their most generous support.

The search for the genes responsible for autism has taken place since 2002 through the Autism Genome Project (AGP), a consortium of over 120 scientists world-wide. This year the AGP published new findings showing that individuals with autism are more likely to have differences in their DNA structure called copy number variants (CNV). The findings also identified that the genes involved were in the pathways affecting brain development, structure and function.

2011 will see Autistica as committed as ever to enabling the excellent state of UK autism research, with our continued investment in the AGP, [The British Study of Infant Siblings](#) (BASIS), our four [Pilot Projects](#) and the [Brain Bank for Autism](#). All the science we fund must share our commitment to ultimately bring benefit to those living with autism. We are also reaching out to India and intend to organise placements for young Indian researchers to work in the UK, to further the global development of autism research. Do take a look at our [Science Strategy](#) to find out more.

We would like to thank each and every one of you who made a donation, undertook a run or challenge, or organised an event for Autistica. We are most grateful to Lady Rosa Lipworth CBE who opened her home for our wonderful event, 'An Evening with Peter and Dan Snow'. Thanks also to NBC Universal, who sponsored our charity Clay Shoot and to rugby legends Will Carling, Mike Teague, David Sole, Dean Richards and Phil Blakeway who took part - it was so much fun, we are doing it all again in 2011! We greatly appreciate the support of such highly acclaimed authors, who participated in our Authors for Autistica auction and also to Ken Bruce who spoke at our Cliveden Hotel lunch; we are thrilled that Dame Stephanie Shirley, our Founder, will speak at the lunch this year. To find out more about events in 2011, contact [lynn.hart@autistica.org.uk](mailto:lynn.hart@autistica.org.uk). You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

As always, we would be very grateful if you decided to make a donation and help us continue to fund vital autism research this year. You can make a gift to Autistica online [here](#).

On behalf of everyone at Autistica, thank you once again for your support.

**Philippa Stannard** - Head of Fundraising Development  
Autistica

