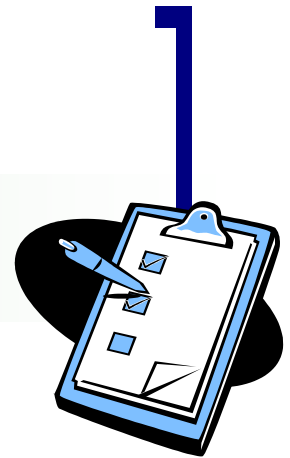


CAP NEWS

SUMMER 2005

WHAT PROJECT DID I SIGN UP FOR ANYWAY?



CURRENT  
PHONE  
INTERVIEWS

Type	Age	Time
NNSD Phone Interview	18-	30 min to
	35	1 hour
ACE Phone Interview	18-	1 hour
	21	
CADD Phone Interview	26-	1-3 hours
	27	
NNSD Spouse/ Partner Interview	18- 35	45 min

One of the questions we are asked, either from curiosity or as a protest, is how some of our new interviews relate to the project people thought they signed up for 20-30 years ago. It's a hard question to answer. Our first newsletter in the summer of 1977 explained, "The study...is an attempt to discover more about the contributions of environment and heredity to the behavioral development of children."

However, as part of our agreement with the adoption agencies, we conducted research on their behalf for internal use on the adoption process, so some families in the adopting half of our sample may have thought we would report more on adoption outcomes, which we have studied but not as a primary focus.

Over the past 29 years, we have both hewed to our origi-

nal aims *and* evolved as a research project. For example, we are still very much interested in genetic and environmental influences on cognition, which as you probably recall was a major theme at all visits up to age 16. We have many papers on this topic (please visit our website for specific examples) and are likely to produce more. However, we are in a hiatus from testing cognition because it is fairly stable even by age 16 and certainly once you've reached about age 21. Eventually you may begin to experience age-related declines, and if we're still around, we may pick up on cognitive testing again at that time!

But religion? Politics? Are these questions meaningful or just nosy? Most people think these are personal viewpoints which may be influenced by

family and social environment but are surprised that there are also genetic influences in these areas. Perhaps less surprisingly, the social behaviors that follow from one's religious or political perspective may be relevant to other life choices, such as substance use. So, these questions do have a purpose that through a circuitous route ties back to the original aim of understanding psychological development.

Nonetheless, if there are any questions that bother you, we can routinely skip them. Further, we do listen to your concerns and modify our questionnaires and interviews when we can because your long range participation in the world renown, one-of-a-kind study is extremely important to us!

CAP HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2004-05 755 telephone interviews were conducted with 593 participants.
- To date, over 3850 NNSD interviews have been completed.
- 160 books, articles and abstracts have been published using CAP data.

NEW PHONE INTERVIEW FOR PARTNERS AND SPOUSES

This year our annual telephone interview has a new twist: We will be asking some participants for permission to contact spouses or romantic partners.

Currently, we ask many questions about romantic relationships in our interviews, including questions about how partners met, relationship satisfaction, and problems in romantic relationships.

Your answers to these questions give us a wealth of information about your romantic relationship style and how you approach relationships.

We will be asking your partner or spouse the same questions in order to see how similar or different you are in romantic relationship style, as well as in other areas such as

religious beliefs and long term goals. The results of these interviews may help us to understand what factors underlie attraction and success or failure in romantic relationships.

As always, your participation, and the participation of your partner or spouse should you both agree to participate, is completely voluntary and confidential.

<http://ibgwww.colorado.edu/cap>

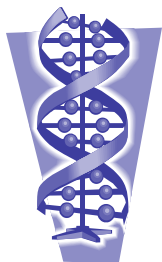
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## **DNA FROM ADOPTEES? YES, IN THE SEARCH FOR CANDIDATE GENES**

Some of the participants in the adoption half of the CAP have asked why we collect DNA from them since they are not related. On the surface it does seem a bit odd. The answer is to explore candidate genes for which *everyone's* data is extremely valuable. A "candidate gene" is a gene (or group of genes) which is hypothesized to have an influence on the way we behave and interact with the world.

Researchers start with information from the interviews and questionnaires. From these data, they can group individuals into certain categories depending on the trait they are looking

at. For example, in one recent study\*, researchers looked at nicotine, alcohol, and other substance use in CAP and other IBG study participants. They looked at individuals who did not use substances, those who used them sporadically, and those who used them regularly and experienced some problems from substance use. They then took the DNA from sibling pairs and placed mapping markers along the DNA. These markers allow researchers to target specific areas (genes) that differ from one group to another.

They found that the DNA of siblings with similar

Thank you for another year of participation and support for the Colorado Adoption Project! The CAP is a very unique study and one that will most likely never be duplicated. For this reason, as well as the matchless body of research that has come from your participation, we continue to receive federal research grant monies.

We realize that 29 years of participation for our oldest families, not to mention 23 years for our youngest, is quite a long time! All of you have grown up with the CAP and the thousands of questions we ask about the details of your lives. These details are helping us to learn about the nature of human existence, about why we make the choices we do, and how we cope with the consequences of those choices. As we follow participants from childhood to adulthood and for some into parenthood, we continue to learn more about the genetic and environmental factors that shape our experiences.

All of you are extremely important to this research, and we would like to keep in contact with as many participants as possible. If you are planning a move or a change in phone number or email, please let us know. We have added a contact form to our website where you can update your information and also share with us any questions or comments about the project and your participation. One of our goals is to make your participation as convenient as possible. We also appreciate any feedback so that we can better serve the people who make our research possible. **You can update your contact information (or other participating family member's contact information) with us at :**

**<http://ibgwww.colorado.edu/cap>**

substance use histories was more similar than for sibling pairs with very different substance use patterns. Regions on chromosome 3 (3q24-25) and chromosome 9 (9q34) were of particular interest, suggesting that genes in these areas may influence whether or not an individual uses substances regularly and experiences problems from using them.

More research needs to be conducted in this area, to verify these results and clarify the function of the genes in these chromosomal regions. Once specific genes can be identified, methods for

more effective diagnosis and treatment can be developed.

Understanding substance use is only one of the many applications for this type of research. CAP investigators have also studied the genetic influences on depression, intelligence, and even television viewing. Previous analyses indicates that genes are involved with all of these behaviors. The next task for researchers is to select candidates and demonstrate or disprove the connections between these genes and our behaviors.

*For a complete list of articles, or to request an article, please visit our website.*

\*Stallings, M.C., Corley, R.P., Dennehey, B., Hewitt, J.K., Krauter, K.S., Lessem, J.M., Mikulich, S.K., Rhee, S.H., Smolen, A., Young, S.E., & Crowley, T.J. A genome-wide search for quantitative trait loci influencing antisocial substance dependence in adolescence. This paper is currently in press in the Archives of General Psychiatry and will be published in the September 2005 issue.