

New genetic identification techniques shed light on causes of developmental delay and autism

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(Medical Xpress)—In an international study published in *Nature Genetics* researchers have used a new gene discovery approach to identify genes causing developmental delay and autism, which could lead to finding new targeted therapies for these conditions.

Co-author of the study researcher Professor Ingrid Scheffer based at the University of Melbourne, The Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health and Austin Hospital said the findings would contribute significantly to developing new targeted therapies for autism spectrum

disorders, intellectual disability and [developmental delay](#).

"Using integration of different gene discovery techniques, we are getting closer to identifying the fundamental cause of these conditions," she said. "This is the first study to use such a large data set of almost 30,000 affected children, with this integrative approach to [gene discovery](#) to produce a more effective way to find genes," she said.

"It is the best way to understand the cause of these [conditions](#) and is the building block to finding new targeted therapies," Professor Scheffer said.

Provided by University of Melbourne

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