

# MRI Research Study Seeks Participants with Autism

West Virginia University (WVU) is conducting a study investigating sensory processing in individuals on the autism spectrum and is seeking participants with a diagnosis of autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-nos).

**Sensory processing dysfunction** can cause individuals with autism to have uncommon reactions to everyday sights, sounds, smells, etc. This can overwhelm them or may hinder their ability to participate in daily activities such as going to the grocery store or eating in the lunch room at school. Having a better understanding of how individuals with autism perceive the world around them can help in designing interventions to ease sensory issues.

## **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Research Task:**

Participants lie in an MRI and watch a video while the MRI takes images of their brain to show us how the brain is processing auditory and visual information. This takes about 45-60 minutes, during which time participants will hear the video through ear-buds and must hold their head very still. Participants who have never had an MRI can practice in our pretend MRI scanner (photo at right). Participants are NOT sedated, there are no blood draws, and no exposure to radiation. More than one visit to WVU may be needed for the MRI and behavioral testing. Participants receive \$20/hour for their time participating in the study. WVU IRB approval on file.



WVU Mock MRI Scanner for practicing

## **Currently Recruiting Participants:**

- Age **18-28 years old**
- Participants with a diagnosis of Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or PDD-nos.

## **Contact:**

Paula Webster, WVU Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy

PO Box 9128, Morgantown, WV 26506-9128

304.293.8227 or [pjwebster@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:pjwebster@hsc.wvu.edu)