

CoMED INC.

14 REDGATE COURT,
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905-5726

NEW STUDY IDENTIFIES MERCURY-AUTISM BIOMARKERS

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 15, 2008

CONTACTS:

CoMeD President [Rev. Lisa K. Sykes (Richmond, VA) 804-364-8426]
CoMeD Sci. Advisor [Dr. King (Lake Hiawatha, NJ) 973-263-4843]

WASHINGTON, DC – A new peer-reviewed study, "A Prospective Study of Transsulfuration Biomarkers in Autistic Disorders", published in *Neurochemical Research* (in press, July 2008), identifies probable mercury poisoning and/or mercury susceptibility markers in patients diagnosed with an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).

The present study evaluated a cohort of children diagnosed with an ASD using routine, clinically available lab testing to examine transsulfuration metabolites. The metabolites evaluated included: plasma reduced glutathione (GSH), plasma oxidized glutathione (GSSG), plasma cysteine, plasma taurine, plasma sulfate, and plasma free sulfate. The results obtained were compared to those obtained for age-matched neurotypical controls. Vitamin Diagnostics, Inc. (CLIA-approved) conducted the testing of all the samples.

Participants diagnosed with an ASD were found to have significantly decreased plasma levels of: GSH, cysteine, taurine, sulfate, and free sulfate relative to controls. By contrast, participants diagnosed with ASDs had significantly increased plasma levels of GSSG relative to controls.

The investigators concluded that their observations matched those previously seen with increased oxidative stress and a decreased detoxification capacity, particularly for mercury, in patients diagnosed with an ASD.

Because the lab testing used here is clinically available, relatively inexpensive, and relatively noninvasive, the study investigators recommend that patients diagnosed with an ASD should be routinely tested for these biomarkers as a part of the diagnostic protocol used to evaluate, and appropriately monitor, the health of such patients.

In its execution, this study was a multi-center collaborative effort involving: Mr. David A. Geier of the Institute of Chronic Illnesses, Inc.; Dr. Janet Kern of the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center; Dr. Carolyn Garver of the Autism Treatment Center, Dallas TX; Dr. James Adams of Arizona State University; Dr. Tapan Audhya of Vitamin Diagnostics; and Dr. Mark R. Geier of the Genetic Centers of America.

Finally, this study was jointly funded by the Autism Research Institute, the non-profit 501(C)(3) Institute of Chronic Illnesses, Inc., and the non-profit 501(C)(3) CoMeD, Inc.

Your generous tax-free donations will help us fund research to examine mercury's links to autism and other illnesses, define the causal roles of mercury in the linked childhood and adult illnesses, and find appropriate curative therapies.

To support the ongoing efforts of CoMeD, Inc. with your tax-deductible contributions, please use the PayPal link on CoMeD's Internet website, <http://www.mercury-freedrugs.org>. CoMeD, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that is actively engaged in legal, educational and scientific efforts to stop all use of mercury in medicine, and to ban the use of all mercury-containing medicines.