



Dandy-Walker Malformation Research Project

The Brain Malformation Research Project located at The University of Chicago has recently begun molecular genetic studies of Dandy-Walker malformation (DWM) and related birth defects of the brainstem and cerebellum (the lower portion of the brain), directed by Drs. William B. Dobyns and Kathleen J. Millen. From these studies, we hope to (1) delineate several different subtypes of DWM and related birth defects based initially on differences in associated abnormalities, (2) identify the key factors associated with different outcome, and (3) identify the genes that contribute to these anomalies. We have already begun testing of several genes.

We are interested in studying individuals (and their families) with all forms of DWM and related birth defects of the brainstem and cerebellum including typical DWM, the “Dandy-Walker variant”, DWM associated with other birth defects, hypoplasia of the cerebellum without other anomalies, the molar tooth malformation or “sign” associated with Joubert syndrome, and others.

If you (and your family) are interested in participating, please contact us by phone in the Project Office, or by email to our Project Coordinator (details below). We can then explain the project in more detail, and send you our project Information Form and Consent Form to participate.

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