

Eric Hollander, M.D.

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Biographical Information

Eric Hollander, M.D., is an internationally recognized psychiatrist and former Esther and Joseph Klingenstein Professor and Chair of Psychiatry at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Director of the Seaver and Greater New York Autism Center of Excellence.

Dr. Hollander is the principal investigator for a number of current federal grants, including the NIH Greater New York Autism Center of Excellence, the NIMH Research Training Grant in Psychopharmacology and Outcomes Research, and an FDA funded multicenter treatment trial of pediatric body dysmorphic disorder. He is the principal investigator of the autism Clinical Trials Network, and Chair of the eight center NIH STAART Autism Steering Committee. He is involved in research on the neuropharmacology, neuropsychiatry, functional imaging, and treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder, impulsive/aggressive personality disorders, obsessive-compulsive-related disorders such as body dysmorphic disorder, pathological gambling, and autism. Dr. Hollander has spearheaded affiliation agreements between Mount Sinai School of Medicine and service providers such as the YAI/NIPD Network. He serves as Chair of the DSM-V Research Planning Agenda for Obsessive Compulsive Behavior Spectrum Disorders.

In 2006, Hollander led a small trial to test the effects of a naturally occurring peptide called oxytocin on adults with autism spectrum disorders. He found that, compared with those who had received a placebo, patients who received the peptide showed a reduction in repetitive behaviors typical of autism and an enhanced ability to recognize emotions such as anger or happiness in the tone of a speaker's voice. Because impairment of these and other social behaviors is one of the defining characteristics of autism, Hollander and others have been exploring not only the potential uses of oxytocin in treating symptoms of autism, but also how this peptide may exert its effects in the brain in autism spectrum disorders.

During his career, Dr. Hollander has published more than 450 scientific reports in the psychiatric field. He has edited 19 books, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (2003), the American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Anxiety Disorders (2002), and The Clinical Manual of Impulse Control Disorders (2006). Dr. Hollander also serves as a reviewer for 8 medical journals.

Dr. Hollander is listed in NY Magazine's "Best Doctors", and "Best Doctors in America". He has made frequent media appearances on the Today Show and Dateline NBC and has had interviews in People Magazine and the New York Times.

Presentation Abstracts

Neuropsychopharmacology of social deficit and repetitive behavior domains in autism spectrum disorder (4 pm)

Animal studies point to the role of oxytocin in regulating affiliative behaviors. Moreover, studies suggest that oxytocin facilitates social cognitive abilities crucial to social success. Recent research suggests that oxytocin is involved in prosocial behavior in healthy humans. Dr. Hollander's lab is interested in applying these findings to the treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Given that social interaction deficits are a core feature of autism, and that oxytocin is involved in regulating affiliative behaviors, oxytocin may play a role in autism. In previous research we have found that intravenous administration of oxytocin reduces repetitive behaviors in autism and improved social memory, core symptoms of this disorder. The present investigations extend this research with the use of intranasal oxytocin vs placebo in adults with autism, and preliminary imaging studies with oxytocin challenges.

New developments in autism disorders (6 pm)

Autism is a complex, heterogeneous disorder characterized by three core symptoms domains: social deficits, language delay, and repetitive behaviors. This presentation will discuss the underlying neurobiology and brain circuitry of the repetitive behavior and social deficits domains. Dr. Hollander will discuss new treatment developments for repetitive behaviors, social deficits, neurocognition and disruptive behaviors will be highlighted as well.