## Help solve the puzzle



Meet Mike Ronemus, a research professor at CSHL. Mike is also a father—to a young boy with autism.

"For me," he says, "this is not just a job; it's personal."

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory has one of the world's largest and most successful research programs in autism genetics. Ronemus and his colleagues, led by Professor Michael Wigler, are using Next-Gen sequencing to comprehensively search for DNA mutations in autistic children. The team has discovered that autistic children have a higher rate of spontaneous DNA mutations—"new" mutations that don't occur in either parent. This information is already changing how we think about autism spectrum disorders.

Ronemus filmed a Public Service Announcement with Cablevision to raise awareness and support for autism research at CSHL. "All this is possible because of contributions from private foundations and individuals. We are making a difference for children and families including my own," he says. Check out the PSA online at cshl.edu/mike/

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