



PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Contact: Stefanie Santo 215.448.1152

**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE TEAMS UP WITH
TOP MEDICAL RESEARCHERS IN PHILADELPHIA TO DISCUSS THE
LATEST IN AUTISM AND CONGENITAL BLINDNESS**

Philadelphia, PA, February 16, 2010 — The Philadelphia region is home to some of the top medical research in the country, and two recent studies in the fields of **Autism** and **Congenital Blindness** have captured the world's attention. On Wednesday, February 24, The Franklin Institute will host a public discussion entitled, ***"Game-Changing Advances in Medicine: Unlocking the Genetic Secrets of Autism and Congenital Blindness"***.

Meet with cutting-edge researchers as they discuss their extraordinary investigations-and explain the far-reaching ramifications of their studies. This program will consist of presentations from a panel of top medical experts from both PENN and CHOP, and will be followed by a discussion based on questions from the audience.

The panel features:

- **Dr. Katherine High**, Director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Therapeutics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.
- **Dr. Jean Bennett**, Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.
- **Dr. Hakon Hakonarson**, Director of the Center for Applied Genomics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, associate professor of Pediatrics at Penn School of Medicine.
- **Dr. Gerard Schellenberg**, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

The event is free and open to the public, however seating is limited. Advance registration is required; please call at (215) 448-1254.

About The Franklin Institute

Founded in honor of America's first scientist, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. It is dedicated to creating a passion for science by offering new and exciting access to science and technology in ways that would dazzle and delight its namesake. For more information, please visit www.fi.edu.

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