



THE HOSPITAL FOR  
SICK CHILDREN

Dear Friends,

We are excited to be conducting the second phase of the SANDI project, an international research study with children, adolescents, and adults with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. We are writing to you because you may be eligible to participate.

The project is looking at skills and abilities, academic and vocational achievement, and behavioural and social adjustment in children and adults with spina bifida. This information will be related to genetic patterns, medical history and brain development. The knowledge gained from this research will be useful to health care professionals and may eventually result in improved care for individuals with spina bifida.

You will be asked to complete an assessment that will measure your basic abilities, memory, information processing, language comprehension skills, and social adjustment. The assessment will take approximately 5 to 7 hours to complete and will include a break for lunch and smaller breaks if needed. You will be reimbursed for any travel, meal, and parking expenses in the amount of \$1 00. This assessment can be completed at Sick Kids or in your home or another suitable location, and can be conducted on the weekend to accommodate your schedule.

If you are interested, we will also ask you to complete an MRI of your brain, which would be scheduled at a date and time that are convenient for you. The MRI takes about one hour to complete and does not require sedation. You will be reimbursed \$50 for expenses related to completion of the MRI study.

**If you would like to be part of this important research study or obtain further details about participation, please call our Research Coordinator, Sabine Doebel, at (416) 813-7440.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Dennis".

Maureen Dennis, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Principal Investigator, SANDI Project  
Hospital for Sick Children

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Drake".

Dr. James Drake  
Chief Neurosurgeon  
Department of Neurosurgery  
Hospital for Sick Children