

NEWS

Video: Postmortem studies unlocking puzzle of autism

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Counting neurons in the brains of people with autism who died young might strike some people as grisly or tedious. But **Eric Courchesne** sees it as the key to understanding why people with autism experience rapid overgrowth of certain brain regions early in life.

Courchesne is director of the MRI project on early brain development in autism at the University of California, San Diego. He points out that autism is a genetic disorder that involves how the brain develops, connects and functions — and that postmortem brains are crucial to uncovering some of this information.

Courchesne spoke to SFARI Thursday at a meeting on the Emerging Neuroscience of Autism Spectrum Disorders, which preceded the **Society of Neuroscience's annual meeting** in San Diego.

For more articles from the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting, please [click here](#).