

The 2026 Grand Matron and Grand Patron's Combined Special Project is Support for the



With special focus on Autism Disorder Research



More than 100 genes have been statistically associated with autism thus far (TACA). Autism, also referred to as **autism spectrum disorder** (ASD), is a developmental disorder that affects communication, behavior and social interactions. It is called a "spectrum" because it encompasses a wide range of symptoms and severity levels. Individuals with autism may experience varying degrees of difficulty with social communication and may have repetitive behaviors or restricted interests. ASD can be diagnosed at any age, but symptoms typically appear in the first two years of life. There is no known cure for ASD, as of yet, but early intervention, behavioral and educational therapies, medical treatments and services can all help improve symptoms and daily functioning.

Our 2026 District Officers will be given 20 pins, like those shown above to sell in support of this worthy research project. The pins will be sold for \$10.00 each. Every one of us has been touched by this disorder in one form or another and it is our hope that in some way we can help advance the work that the MMRI is doing. Carol Ann Mountfort has agreed to chair this effort. All donations and proceeds of pin sales should be sent to her at 3906 Berger Ave, Bethpage NY 11714. Make checks payable to OES Grand Chapter and note in the memo 2026 MMRI- Autism. We look forward to your support

MW Betty Pietrangelo
Grand Matron

MW Michael Kessler
Grand Patron