State newborn screening programs are among the most remarkable public health advances in recent history, in part because their origins lie in advances in laboratory science. We are on the verge of a new era in which the tools of lab science, such as whole genome sequencing, seem to be advancing faster than our ability to understand how to deploy them. This poses ethical issues for clinicians at the bedside, as well as for policymakers eager to maintain the public health features of newborn screening programs. These issues are addressed from a historical perspective using autism as a salient example.

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In special collaboration with the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Training Program at the Mailman Center for Child Development.

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