



Conquering Diseases Programs



Conquering Diseases February 2014 Newsletter

February 2014

Studies of interest

Do you smoke, would you like to participate in a study? (Docket # H-14781)

We are looking for adults between the ages of 18-40 who smoke non-menthol brands cigarettes. If you qualify, you will undergo an MRI brain scan at UMass Medical School, which will take about one hour.

- You will not be given any drugs.
- You will be compensated financially for your time.

If you are interested or would like more information, email Matt Thompson at Matthew.Thompson@umassmed.edu.

Do you want to participate in a weight loss research study? (Docket # H-3413)

If you are feeling depressed and want to lose weight, you may be eligible to join a weight loss program at UMass Medical School! UMass is researching a program that includes nutrition and exercise counseling. The program is recruiting women between the ages of 18 – 65. Please contact our office for more information (508)856-1534 or study@umassmed.edu Compensation will be provided.

Vitamin D supplementation for bipolar depression (Docket # H-800)

A new research study at UMass Medical Center is evaluating Vitamin D supplementation for bipolar depression. The goal of this research is to see if Vitamin D supplementation in people with bipolar disorder is associated with improved mood, in particular less depression. The study includes questions about mood, Vitamin D level monitoring, and Vitamin D supplementation or placebo. Participants stay on their current medication regimen. This study involves seven assessments over the course of 12 weeks, and participants are compensated for their time. In order to be eligible, patients must be: 25 years old or older; diagnosed with bipolar disorder; currently feeling down, sad, or depressed; and have low Vitamin D levels (evaluated at first study visit). For more information please contact: Jessica Penny (508-334-7352) or Dr. Wendy Marsh (508-856-5071).

Study on Alcohol Abuse and Schizophrenia (Docket # H-14857)

We are studying whether two FDA-approved drugs, risperidone and desipramine, can reduce alcohol consumption in individuals who are diagnosed with schizophrenia and abuse alcohol. Individuals between the ages of 18-65 who have a diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder and abuse alcohol are eligible for the study. People in the study will be compensated for their time. All information is kept private. For more information, contact Matthew Goodnow at 508-856-2494 (email: matthew.goodnow@umassmed.edu).

Have you taken a moment to explore our new

Conquering Diseases Website?



**Conquering Diseases
Program**
UMass Medical School
Ambulatory Care Center
55 Lake Ave North
Worcester, MA 01655
508-856-2557

[www.umassmed.edu/
conqueringdiseases](http://www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases)

ConqueringDiseases
[@umassmed.edu](https://twitter.com/umassmed.edu)



Biorepository

Volunteer to donate a small amount of blood that will be stored in our Biorepository and used by UMass researchers. (Docket # H-12647)

Clinical Research Volunteer Database

Participate in the Clinical Research Volunteer Database. The database is used for UMass researchers who are conducting IRB approved studies. (Docket # H-12562)

For more information, stop by the Conquering Diseases office. We are open 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Monday through Friday - and we welcome visitors!



<https://www.umassmedresearchvolunteer.org/index.html>

Join the Health U. research study! (Docket # H-14575)

Health U. is a weight loss research study for overweight teens and young adults ages 15-22 who have an intellectual disability. Eligible participants will take part in a program that includes weekly to biweekly group and individual sessions focusing on losing weight through healthy eating and increasing physical activity in ways that are fun and achievable. Parents receive training on supportive behavioral techniques to encourage their son/daughter to meet nutrition and physical activity goals. Sessions are 90 minutes, highly interactive, and led by nutritionists and lifestyle coaches. Eligibility criteria include, but are not limited to:

- Being a healthy person ages 15-22 with an intellectual disability.
- Meeting criteria for overweight or obesity.
- Medical clearance from a primary health care provider.
- Having at least one parent/guardian who is willing to participate in the study.

****Classes begin April 2014 and are held on either Tuesday or Thursday 7:00-8:30pm****

Health U. is a free and voluntary research study funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) through the Shriver Center at UMass Medical School. Do you think Health U. is right for you? Please call Judith Ellen, Research Coordinator at 774-455-6540 or email healthu@umassmed.edu to find out more information. Qualified participants may be eligible for compensation.

Study on Salsalate as an Adjunctive Treatment in Schizophrenia (Docket # H-14814)

This is an open-label, 12-week pilot research study examining how salsalate, an anti-inflammatory drug, affects positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia, Hemoglobin A1c, fasting glucose, and other metabolic issues and cognitive functioning when added to an antipsychotic medication. Individuals between the ages of 18-65 who have a diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder are eligible. People in the study will be compensated for their time. All information is kept private. For more information, contact Radhika Natarajan at 508-856-2494 (email: radhika.natarajan@umassmed.edu).

Treatment of Marijuana Use and Schizophrenia (Docket # H-1171)

We are studying whether an FDA-approved drug, clozapine, can reduce marijuana use in individuals who suffer from schizophrenia. Individuals between the ages of 18-55 who have a diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder and use marijuana are eligible for the study. People in the study will be compensated for their time. All information is kept private. For more information, contact Matthew Goodnow at 508-856-2494 (email: matthew.goodnow@umassmed.edu).

Sustaining Remission of Psychotic Depression Study (Docket # H-14207)

Patients who are currently suffering from depression with irrational worries are invited to participate in a research study to determine how long people need to stay on an antipsychotic medication after they recover from their symptoms. Study participation will last up to 20 weeks and patients will receive a combination of an antipsychotic medication and an antidepressant medication. Patients must be: 18 to 85 years of age; experiencing symptoms of depression with irrational worries; and not be pregnant. Patients will receive study medication and study-related care at no cost. Qualifying patients will be eligible to participate in 9-month follow-up study. Compensation will be provided. Contact **Chelsea Kosma** @ 508-334-2812

Do you use tanning booths? (Docket # H-14513)

Females ages 16-65 are invited to participate in a research study about tanning at UMass Medical School. Compensation will be provided. Please call Effie at 508-856-1534 or email study@umassmed.edu.