



## Conquering Diseases Programs



### Conquering Diseases January 2015 Newsletter

## January 2015

### Studies of interest

#### GeneSight Clinical Study Docket # H-00004690

The study is trying to see if a genetic test is helpful in guiding clinicians' selection of medications for depression. You might be eligible to participate in this study if:

- You are trying or have recently tried a psychiatric medication, and
- Your symptoms of depression are not improving despite at least 6 weeks on the treatment you are receiving, and/or
- You are unable to tolerate the medication and have discontinued it.

If you would like more information, please call Jessica 774-455-4045.

#### Looking for healthy volunteers for an Alcohol Research Study (Docket # H-14865)

We are looking at how occasional alcohol consumption affects the immune system. Volunteers may be eligible if they are between the ages of 21–60 and are in good health. The study requires two short study visits, one long study visit (about 5 hours), alcohol consumption, and blood draws. Subjects are compensated for their time. Contact the UMass Clinical Research Center at (508)856-2800.

#### Do you have symptoms of the flu? Put your Flu to good use! (Docket # H0000007)

Most of the time, nothing good comes from having the flu. Except now. If you get the flu OR have the flu already, you can help evaluate an investigational medicine that may help end flu symptoms more quickly. To pre-qualify, you must: be between 18 and 80 years of age; have a fever of at least 100.4 F (if over 65 years of age, at least 100.0F); have 2 or more of the following symptoms – cough, sore throat, headache, nasal congestion, body aches and pains, or fatigue. All study related care is provided at no cost and payment for your time and travel will be provided. To learn more contact: the Clinical Research Center at 508-856-2800.

#### Study looking to enroll people who recently lost weight! (Docket # H00001808)

Even highly motivated individuals find it difficult to keep weight off after they have lost it. The purpose of the study is to understand brain changes that accompany participation in wellness programs for keeping weight off. We will use MRI scans to study brain function in men and women 25-55 years old who have lost weight in the last year without surgery. Participants will be assigned to one of two programs to help them maintain weight loss and will be compensated for their time. Our goal is to gain a better understanding of the brain changes that lead to long-term success in keeping weight off, in the hope that this knowledge will assist in the development of improved treatments. To find out if you may be eligible, complete a brief screen at [www.umassmed.edu/keepingweightoff](http://www.umassmed.edu/keepingweightoff) or call us at 508-856-2702 or email [keepitoff@umassmed.edu](mailto:keepitoff@umassmed.edu) to find out more information.)

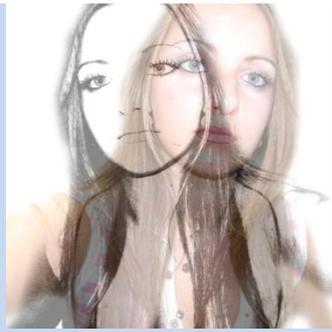
#### A multicenter clinical trial to prevent GFR loss in Type 1 Diabetes (Docket #00004468)

The purpose of this study is to find out whether a medication called allopurinol can prevent kidney problems, in particular the loss of kidney function, in people with type 1 diabetes. For more information, please contact the Clinical Research Center at 508-856-2800 or [ClinicalTrialsUnit@umassmed.edu](mailto:ClinicalTrialsUnit@umassmed.edu)



Conquering Diseases  
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### Exenatide Weekly Injection as an Adjunctive Treatment in Patients with Schizophrenia (Docket# H0004119)

The goal of this study is to determine if weekly injections of exenatide can improve symptoms of schizophrenia. Some recent studies suggest that exenatide can reduce inflammation, which may protect the brain and improve memory and thinking. Some studies have shown that drugs that reduce inflammation can help improve symptoms of schizophrenia when taken alongside other antipsychotic medications. Eligibility: people ages 18-65 who have schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder and currently take medications for schizophrenia. Contact Info: Radhika Natarajan (508) 856 8323 or [Radhika.Natarajan@umassmed.edu](mailto:Radhika.Natarajan@umassmed.edu)

For more information, stop by the Conquering Diseases office.

We are open

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Toll-free 855-937-2067

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

[ConqueringDiseases@umassmed.edu](mailto:ConqueringDiseases@umassmed.edu)



### Clozapine for Cannabis Use Disorder in Schizophrenia (CLOCS) (Docket# H0001171)

Researchers at the Psychotic Disorders Research Program in the Department of Psychiatry at UMass are looking for volunteers for an NIH-funded research study involving schizophrenia and marijuana use. We are studying whether an FDA-approved drug, clozapine, can reduce marijuana use in individuals who suffer from schizophrenia and ongoing marijuana use. Eligibility: people age 18-55 who suffer from schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder; and meet the criteria for marijuana abuse or dependence. Exclusion criteria include: people who suffer from any substance abuse disorder other than caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol abuse disorder or who currently receive treatment with clozapine or risperidone or suffer from a medical condition in which treatment with clozapine or risperidone would be impractical or unsafe. People in the study will be compensated for their time. All information is kept private. Contact Info: Radhika Natarajan (508) 856-8323 [Radhika.Natarajan@umassmed.edu](mailto:Radhika.Natarajan@umassmed.edu)

### Hepatic Dysfunction, Vitamin D status & Glycemic Control in Diabetes (Docket #H-0002866)

This study is open to enrollment for those 10 to 50 years of age who have type 2 diabetes, low vitamin D levels, and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. The aim of this study is to determine whether vitamin D supplementation will promote liver health as well as blood sugar control in patients with type 2 diabetes who also have nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. The study will include a MRI scan to determine the amount of fat in the liver. Compensation for study participation is provided. Study Contact: Carol Ciccarelli, RN - (508) 856-2828 - [carol.cicarelli@umassmed.edu](mailto:carol.cicarelli@umassmed.edu).

### Study of Personality, Brain and Substance Use (Docket # H-13454)

We are currently inviting male adolescents to participate in a study of their personality and how the brain relates to substance use. **Who is eligible?** ♦ Male adolescents who speak English ages 14-24 years; ♦ Currently receiving treatment or counseling for substance use OR have never abused any substances (control subjects); ♦ Be able to provide parental consent for those under age 18 years old; ♦ If deemed eligible, agree to go to the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) for a non-invasive MRI of the brain. **What does it mean to participate?** ♦ You will be screened for personality, substance use issues, and eligibility to receive a MRI (for example, no metal can be in the body); ♦ You will participate in an interview lasting 60 to 90 minutes; ♦ At a later date, you will go to UMMS to complete some tasks while getting a MRI. The MRI lasts 45 minutes. The whole trip could take up to 90 minutes. **How do we compensate participants?** ♦ Participants will receive a \$15 gift card at the interview and a \$50 gift card at the MRI scan. For more information please contact: *Gina M. Vincent, PhD*, 508-856-8727, [Gina.vincent@umassmed.edu](mailto:Gina.vincent@umassmed.edu)

#### Clinical Research Volunteer Registry

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

#### Biorepository

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