Conquering Diseases Programs

June 2014

Coming in June! Alzheimer’s Lunch and Learn

Know the 10 Signs - Early Detection Matters
A workshop presented by the Alzheimer’s Association

If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it’s time to learn the facts. Early detection of Alzheimer’s disease gives you a chance to begin drug therapy, enroll in clinical studies and plan for the future. This interactive workshop features video clips of people with Alzheimer’s disease. [www.alz.org/10Signs](http://www.alz.org/10Signs)

Hosted by: Julie McMurray – Alzheimer’s Association
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Date: Friday, June 13, 2014
Location: UMass Medical School, 55 Lake Av North
Conquering Diseases Program, Ambulatory Care Center, Room AC1-36 Worcester
To Register Please Call: 1-800-272-3900

Preventing Lyme Disease

Summertime is a good time to remember to protect yourself from Lyme disease. Lyme disease is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Lyme disease is diagnosed based on symptoms, physical findings (e.g., rash), and the possibility of exposure to infected ticks; laboratory testing is helpful if used correctly and performed with validated methods. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellant, removing ticks promptly, applying pesticides, and reducing tick habitat. The ticks that transmit Lyme disease can occasionally transmit other tickborne diseases as well. For more information: [www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/epidemiology/ticks](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/epidemiology/ticks)

Studies of interest

Child Research Participants Needed (Docket #00001011)
The Child and Adolescent NeuroDevelopment Initiative (CANDI) Program in the Department of Psychiatry is conducting a brain imaging research study, and is looking for participants who are either typically developing children, or children with a Mood Disorder (with or without a history of trauma). Subjects need to be between the ages of 8 and 12. The study will consist of two visits at the Medical School, and will include a brief computer task, a diagnostic assessment, an interview with a clinician, and an MRI. Time and travel compensation provided. To learn more call Martha Castro at 774-455-4100, or email [ChildResearch@umassmed.edu](mailto:ChildResearch@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

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**College Students and Mental Health (Docket # H00002042)**

There is growing concern that since the 1990’s there has been a sharp increase in the number of college students who experience a serious mental health problem. Our study aims to gather information about college students referred to a psychiatrist for psychopharmacologic evaluation and treatment. We will examine the associations between demographics, past psychiatric history, psychiatric diagnoses, current psychiatric symptoms, and psychotropic prescribing patterns among the referred students. For more information please contact Daniel Kirsch at 508-334-7702 or email at Daniel.Kirsch@umassmemorial.org.

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**Do you have Parkinson’s disease, Multiple System Atrophy or Pure Autonomic Failure and feel light headed when you stand up? (Docket # H00003305)**

PHOENIX is a clinical study for Patients with symptomatic neurogenic orthostatic Hypotension to assess sustained effects of droxidopa therapy. The purpose of this research study is to determine whether a study medication called Droxidopa can relieve the symptoms of neurogenic orthostatic hypotension and whether it causes any side effects. Principal Investigator: Peter Novak MD, PhD Study Coordinator: Bernadette Shaw (508) 856-2908 or email bernadette.shaw@umassmed.edu

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**Do you have Type 2 diabetes? (Docket # H00003138)**

If you have Type 2 diabetes, DEVOTE is a cardiovascular outcomes study for insulin degludec in type 2 diabetics. The purpose of this trial is to compare the cardiovascular safety of the investigational product, insulin degludec, to that of the approved product, insulin glargine, in type 2 diabetic patients who are at least 50 years old and at risk for cardiovascular disease. The Principal Investigator of the study is John-Paul Lock, MD. For more information on the study, please contact Carol Ciccarelli at (508) 856-2828 or carol.ciccarelli@umassmed.edu

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**Investigational Drug Study for Adolescents and Adults with Fragile X Syndrome (Docket # H00003719)**

The purpose of the study is to evaluate whether an investigational drug is safe and effective for the treatment of symptoms of Fragile X Syndrome. Males between 14 and 40 years of age who have a diagnosis of Fragile X Syndrome. Participants need to exhibit behaviors such as repetitive or stereotyped behaviors, anxiety, social withdrawal, sensory over-sensitivity, or cognitive difficulties. For more information about the study please visit our website at www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry/candi or call us at 774-455-4100, or email us at ChildResearch@umassmed.edu

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**SPARC! Formerly known as the Center for Mental Health Services Research**

As of April 1, 2014, CMHSR will be known as the Systems and Psychosocial Advances Research Center, or SPARC. Acknowledging the diversification of our work since our inception in 1993 as a Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Research Center of Excellence, the name SPARC better represents our complete portfolio of recovery-informed research, training, and systemic interventions. The acronym SPARC also captures the innovation we constantly seek in our work, to further our mission to improve mental and behavioral health services for better lives and stronger communities. As of June 18, 2014 we will be located in the Chang Building on the Shrewsbury campus.