Conquering Diseases Program

UMass Memorial Health Care

Conquering Diseases
June 2015 Newsletter

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Studies of interest

Conquering Diseases Open House Volunteer Appreciation Month
Research Leads to Cures... Be Part of the Cure (Docket # H-12647, H-12562)

June is volunteer appreciation month. Please stop by to say hello. Have a cup of coffee and get a t-shirt! We are located at the UMass Medical School, 55 Lake Ave. North, Ambulatory Care Center, 1st floor, Room 36 – just past the café. We can be reached at 508-856-2557 or ConqueringDiseases@umassmed.edu.

Signs of Safety Open Pilot Study (Docket # H-00007144)

The Deaf community experiences trauma, PTSD, and substance abuse at rates double to the general population. However, there are no therapy approaches to treat PTSD and substance abuse that have been developed for or tested with Deaf clients. We are conducting the current study to test Signs of Safety, a toolkit we developed to improve the Deaf-accessibility of Seeking Safety. Seeking Safety is a therapy approach that teaches clients coping skills to better manage symptoms of PTSD and substance abuse. It includes 25 session topics, each representing a safe coping skill (for example, “Asking for Help,” “Coping with Triggers,” “Setting Boundaries in Relationships”). For more information, please contact: Melissa L. Anderson, Ph.D. (774) 670-4486 (VP) or melissa.anderson@umassmed.edu.

Get In Touch Phase 2 (Docket # H-00005902)

This is a study of a blood glucose meter (the EosHealth, Inc. InTouch™ Blood Glucose Monitoring System) that automatically sends blood sugar results to the health care team to see how this may improve overall diabetes care. Please contact: Michael Thompson, MD Michael.Thompson@umassmemorial.org

Parents-looking for a way for your teen/young adult with an intellectual disability to lose weight and be healthy? (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. 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 774-455-6540 or email healthu@umassmed.edu to find out more information. Qualified participants may be eligible for compensation.
A multicenter clinical trial to prevent early renal loss in Type 1 Diabetes (Docket # H-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 Karen Gallagher-Dorval at 508-856-2857 or ClinicalTrialsUnit@umassmed.edu.

Nutrition research study looking for children with Down syndrome, Fragile X, and/or other intellectual disabilities ages 3-8 (Docket # H-00001420)
The E.K. Shriver Center/UMass Medical School is recruiting children with intellectual/developmental delays ages 3-8 to participate in a research study. The study will examine the eating patterns, mealtime behaviors, and parent feeding practices of children with intellectual/developmental delays and typically developing children. Additional information including a downloadable study brochure can be found at: http://tinyurl.com/ChildrensMealtimeStudy. Contact Rosalie at 774-455-6521 or Mealtimes@umassmed.edu with any questions.

MRI with children and adolescents diagnosed with Fragile X or Down Syndrome (Docket # H-00002894)
The purpose of the study is to determine if we can find ways to help children undergo MRI without needing to be sedated. We are especially interested in learning ways to help children with developmental disabilities, such as Fragile X syndrome and Down syndrome with having an MRI. We also hope to learn more about the features of the brains of children and adolescents aged 7-17 with Fragile X or Down syndrome. Participation in this study will last up to approximately 1 ½ months and requires 2 visits to the University of Massachusetts Medical School. There will also be some activities that for you to use at home with your child to prepare him or her for MRI. These activities take about 10 to 15 minutes and can be repeated as often as you feel necessary. For each visit to the office, a small payment will be offered to offset travel expenses. All study-related evaluations are provided at no cost. Eligibility: Males or females between 7 and 17 years of age; Diagnosis of Fragile X syndrome or Down syndrome. Parent willing to assist with desensitization activities at home. If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact: Child and Adolescent Neurodevelopment Initiative (CANDI) (508) 856-5896 or ChildResearch@umassmed.edu

Investigational Drug Study for adolescents and adults with Fragile X Syndrome (Docket # H-00003719)
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 for males between 14 and 40 diagnosed with Fragile X Syndrome. Participants need to exhibit behaviors such as repetitive or stereotyped behaviors, anxiety, social withdrawal, sensory over-sensitivity, or cognitive difficulties. A small payment will be offered to offset travel expenses. For more information, contact CANDI at (774) 455-4100 or email us at ChildResearch@umassmed.edu.

Do you exercise regularly and use mobile fitness apps? Please complete a survey! (Docket # H-00005027)
https://arcsapps.umassmed.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=b4iaDyG4rj

Interested in getting healthy? Participate in a UMass research study to test out a 1-month weight loss intervention (Docket # H-00002340)
We are developing a mobile app designed to help people lose weight. Your participation will include a screening visit, an orientation visit, four weekly group visits, and a focus group. During the visits, you will receive a lifestyle intervention including nutrition and exercise counseling, use our weight loss mobile app, and share your experience to help us make the app better. You may be eligible if you: have an interest in losing weight; are over the age of 18; use an Android smartphone. Study participation will last for 2 months. Compensation will be provided. Please call Effie at (508)856-1534 or e-mail Study@umassmed.edu.