



Conquering Diseases Programs



Conquering Diseases July 2017 Newsletter



Biorepository

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



Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

Nearly 300,000 children in America have been diagnosed with juvenile arthritis, an autoimmune disease in which the child's immune system mistakenly targets and attacks healthy tissue.



July 2017

Time for transitions at Conquering Diseases

Our Conquering Diseases Biorepository and Research Volunteer projects have undergone significant growth since their inception in September 2006. Our Biorepository has enrolled 11,290 community members who have provided data and a blood sample and 7,176 samples have been used in at least one research study. Qualified researchers have conducted 10,950 searches of our de-identified database that have contributed to more than 300 projects. Conquering Diseases has engaged 35,461 community members at 129 formal events and enrolled 1,420 individuals into our volunteer databases. Volunteers have been provided 13,508 research opportunities and 40% of Conquering Diseases research volunteers have participated in at least 1 study. Jan Weaver, who served as a coordinating focal point for these studies and has created and delivered more than 32,000 newsletters to our research volunteers to date, is moving on from Conquering Diseases to support the Accelerated Cure Project as their Operations Manager. Thomas Mayer, Ph.D. is available at ConqueringDiseases@umassmed.edu to make samples available, assist with special collections, and to assist researchers obtain data that can accelerate their research. Meg Johnson is available at Meg.Johnson@umassmed.edu to assist researchers who are in search of subjects for their research studies.

Studies of interest

Mindfulness Heart Study (Docket # H0000803)

This study is to look at the effects of a stress reduction program in patients with impaired heart function from a heart attack, that have an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD). For more information, please contact Carol Ciccarelli at 508-856-2828 or Carol.Ciccarelli@umassmed.edu.

Healthy Children and Adolescents Wanted for a Research Study (Docket # H0001602)

The CANDI Program in conjunction with Assumption College is conducting a research study comparing how typically developing teens and teens with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis complete certain tasks. Subjects need to be between the ages of 12 and 17 and should be generally healthy. The study will consist of two visits, one at the CANDI program and one at Assumption College, and will include a brief neurocognitive evaluation, diagnostic assessment and an interview with a clinician. Time and travel compensation provided. To learn more call Lauren Venuti at 774-455-4100 or email ChildResearch@umassmed.edu.

Healthy Living Course

During this FREE eight-week course for adults, you will receive tips, guidance and support for improving your physical and psychological health. Class topics include how to eat healthy, get active, sleep better, manage stress and more! Choose from two sessions: Tuesdays beginning June 27, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, or Wednesdays beginning June 28, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Classes will be held on the second floor of the Shaw Building at 419 Belmont Street, Worcester. For more information and to register, please call 508-856-8384 or email Dante.Simone@umassmed.edu.

UMass Clinical Research Volunteer Database (Docket # H-12562)

Would you like to volunteer for clinical studies currently being conducted at UMass? Join our Clinical Research Volunteer Database! Tell us what areas of research interest you. Your contact information will be kept in a secure database. If you qualify for any studies that need volunteers you will be contacted by the investigator directly, you can decide whether or not you would like to participate at that time. **Now enrolling online** at <http://www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases/> Please contact Meg Johnson to learn more: (508) 856-5152 or Meg.Johnson@umassmed.edu.



SIMPONI® to Arrest β -cell Loss in Type 1 Diabetes (Docket # H00011321)

This is a study to see if Golimumab (sold as Simponi) can delay progression of new onset Type 1 diabetes. Golimumab is an immune system modulator, which has been approved to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ulcerative colitis, and ankylosing spondylitis. This study will see if it has benefit in Type 1 diabetes. For more information, please contact Carol Ciccarelli at 508-856-2828 or Carol.Ciccarelli@umassmed.edu.

Mindfulness Meditation & Real-time Brain Activity in Schizophrenia (Docket # H00011977)

Do you have a diagnosis of schizophrenia and are you interested in meditation? If so and you are between 18 – 55 years old, you may be eligible to participate in a research study. The goal of our research is to see if brain activity corresponds to your experience of mindfulness meditation. You will receive a brief training in mindfulness meditation and you will be in the study for two days. You will receive compensation for your travel and time to complete the assessments. For more information, please contact Alexandra Roy at 508-202-1079 or email Alexandra.Roy@umassmed.edu

The VISTA Study (Docket # H00011759)

This study is to see how well Somavaratan, a long acting human growth hormone, works to help children with growth hormone deficiency grow better and how safe and tolerable it is when given to children over a long period of time. The standard treatment for growth hormone deficiency is daily injections of human growth hormone. Somavaratan is made of human growth hormone but it has been modified to make its effects last longer and is given by injection twice a month. For more information, please contact Carol Ciccarelli at 508-856-2828 or Carol.Ciccarelli@umassmed.edu.

Identifying Nicotine Craving in Chronic Pancreatitis Patients Using Wearable Biosensors (Docket # H00012900)

This study looks at biometric activity (heart rate, skin temperature, blood pressure, etc.) activated by nicotine craving in chronic pancreatitis patients who smoke. We believe this information can help guide future interventions to help people who are interested in quitting smoking, which in turn has been shown to improve quality of life and overall health in chronic pancreatitis. For more information, please contact Boskey Patel at Boskey.Patel@umassmemorial.org.

The Memory Study (Docket # H00004119)

This study seeks to see if Exenatide, an investigational drug when used in people with schizophrenia, can improve memory and thinking in people with schizophrenia. Participation in the study will last 24 weeks. We seek men and women ages 18-65 with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. Participants will be compensated for their time and travel, and all information will be kept private. For more information about the study, please call us at 508-856-MIND(6463) or email MIND@umassmed.edu.

The Early Treatment Study (Docket # H00010209)

The goal of this study is to help understand if the experimental drug paliperidone palmitate or oral antipsychotic medication is better at preventing a worsening of symptoms of schizophrenia or schizophreniform disorder. We seek men and women ages 18-35 that have a clinical diagnosis of psychosis within the last 2 years. Those who qualify will receive study-related medical exams, and lab tests at no charge. Compensation for your time and travel is available. For more information about the study, please call us at 508-856-MIND(6463) or email MIND@umassmed.edu.

Research Leads to Cures...Be part of the Cure!

UMass Conquering Diseases Biorepository (Docket # H-12647)

Would you like to help find better treatments and cures for health conditions and diseases? If you have ever been seen at UMass Memorial, you can donate a blood specimen to our Biorepository! Please contact us to learn more: ConqueringDiseases@umassmed.edu.

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)



Conquering Diseases Program

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Ambulatory Care Center
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For more information please visit our website:
www.umassmed.edu/conqueringdiseases/