

Attn.: Pablo V. Gejman, M.D.
NorthShore University HealthSystem
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Evanston, Illinois 60201

Partner with GHI to make a difference
in the future of medicine



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northshore.org/ghi



Genomic Health Initiative

*Transforming Medicine Through
Genomic Research*



GHI Director and Principal Investigator
Pablo V. Gejman, M.D.
Director, Genomic Health Initiative



NorthShore University HealthSystem invites adult patients to join the Genomic Health Initiative (GHI), a new research project. This study investigates how an individual's genetic makeup impacts health, wellness, and the effectiveness of treatment options.

We are asking you:

- To make a donation of a tablespoon of blood from which we will extract your DNA
- To allow us to access your Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)

Your participation will enable the study of genetic disorders. You, your family, or other patients may benefit from the study's findings, and the insights gained may lead to improved personalized care for future generations.

What are the goals of the GHI?

We are studying how DNA sequence variation influences health, disease, and the effectiveness of treatments. We will conduct research aiming to:

- Identify genetic risk factors for common medical disorders
- Enable early diagnosis and preventive measures
- Tailor treatment options based on patient's specific genetic makeup
- Return genetic data that is highly significant for your health

Examples of disorders we are studying include cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, obesity, abnormal heart rhythms, glaucoma, psoriasis, and many others.

Benefits to participants

There are two basic ways you can benefit from the study.

- You will be participating in a high-caliber research study that will examine associations between specific DNA sequences and disease. The overall study results may lead to improved methods for prevention of disease, and potentially, to new and improved treatment options.
- Our study may uncover data directly relevant to your health, for example, high risk for some cancers, cardiovascular disorders that are associated with sudden death, or genetic susceptibilities that may predispose to toxic reactions to some drugs.

- **For such 'clinically actionable' findings, if you have any and you have expressed your interest to be recontacted, we will make reasonable and practicable efforts to reach you to share the information with you and your doctor. This will allow you to get confirmatory genetic tests and consider pursuing medical interventions.**

We will protect your confidentiality

To ensure confidentiality, we will replace your name with a random research number that will be assigned to your study-related information, your DNA, and all biosamples. Only qualified researchers will access your study-related information. Please know that NorthShore has an outstanding record of maintaining confidentiality with more than a decade of experience with our EMR system. We will not share any personal identifiers with external collaborators and will not deposit them in external databases.

How will you collect my DNA?

We will take less than one tablespoon of your blood for this research. Research staff will then extract your DNA from the cells in your blood. The blood draw can occur when you have your next clinically scheduled blood draw at any of NorthShore's hospital outpatient labs or patient service centers—see northshore.org/lab-services/locations for a full listing. Or if you prefer, you can come in just for this research blood draw. There is no cost to you.

What happens to my sample and clinical data?

After extraction, your DNA will be stored in highly secured facilities within NorthShore. Our researchers will also access your NorthShore EMR for research purposes, including your medical history, diagnoses, procedures, imaging records, medications, and demographic information. We will identify relationships between variation in DNA and many different health conditions.

Will I be recontacted?

The choice to be recontacted is yours. If you allow, we will make reasonable and practicable efforts to contact you if we find significant results affecting your personal health (see above). Researchers may also contact you to ask you to consider volunteering for future studies, although you have no obligation to do so.

How many people will be participating?

Our goal is to enroll tens of thousands of individuals in this ongoing study. This large sample size will allow us to study the widest range of genetic variants in DNA to best inform about many different genetic and medical disorders.

Enroll today to make a difference tomorrow

If you are enrolled in NorthShoreConnect, logon and click on the GHI enrollment link to read and electronically sign the consent form.

Alternatively, the next time you come to the Hospital Outpatient Laboratory at Evanston or other GHI-staffed locations (see northshore.org/ghi for a list) for a blood draw, inform the staff there that you would like to participate in the Genomic Health Initiative.

Questions?

Phone: (224) 364-7470

Email: GHI@northshore.org

For more information, go to **northshore.org/ghi**

Or you can complete and mail the form below and researchers will contact you at your convenience.

Send to: Pablo V. Gejman, M.D., Director
Genomic Health Initiative
NorthShore University HealthSystem
1001 University Place
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Please contact me about the Genomic Health Initiative.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Best time to call: _____

Email: _____

Preferred method: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Any

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