

Research Subjects Sought for Genetic Study

NAMI member and friend Dr. Deborah Levy at McLean Hospital is carrying out a genetic study of psychotic disorders that focuses on de novo (non-inherited) mutations in collaboration with scientists at Columbia University and UC San Francisco. She is looking for trios (both parents and one adult offspring who has a diagnosis of a psychotic disorder) to participate in the study.

Participants, who will each be paid \$25, need only provide a small blood sample and some basic demographic information. The research team will also need to send for medical records of psychiatric hospitalizations in order to independently verify diagnosis.

All blood samples would be de-identified to protect identities. In order to participate an adult must have a diagnosis of a psychotic disorder and have two living parents who are also willing to participate. The blood draw is done by appointment at the participants' convenience in the clinical lab at McLean Hospital.

This study is focusing on de novo (non-inherited) mutations because this type of mutation tends to have very large effects and is, therefore, much more likely to be medically actionable. The reason that trios are needed (both parents and an affected child) is that the study is designed to compare the child's DNA with that of the parents: this allows all DNA that is shared to be excluded, leaving only the de novo events. The goal is to understand the biology involved in each mutation and to clarify underlying mechanisms.

Interested parties are invited to call Dr. Deborah Levy at McLean Hospital at [617-855-2854](tel:617-855-2854).