Research and Trials

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2016

UCLA conducts research for a wide range of medical disorders and offers patients opportunities to participate in research and clinical trials. Scan the QR code on the left with your smartphone or go to uclahealth.org/calendar for more information.

UCLA Aftercare Research Program

The Aftercare Research Program at the Jane and Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA provides free assessment and treatment for participants in clinical research studies designed to improve understanding of psychotic disorders and develop more effective treatments. An initial diagnostic interview will determine a patient’s eligibility. The study will include cognitive training, individual case management, group therapy and antipsychotic medication. Patients' family members will be invited to join family psychoeducational meetings.

Info: (310) 206-1319 or aftercare@mednet.ucla.edu
or luana@ucla.edu
or www.semel.ucla.edu/aftercare

Alzheimer’s Prevention Project

This research study seeks candidates to participate in a research study to determine if cognitive training and physical exercise intervention can improve mental performance and reduce cardiovascular risk factors for memory problems. This study will last six months. All visits will take place at UCLA or at the YWCA in Santa Monica. Participants will be asked to join a twice-weekly program over the course of three months. This program involves fitness and clinical assessments to measure physical health, physical training, cognitive assessment and training, nutritional counseling and coaching, and five activity-monitoring sessions.

Info: (310) 206-1319
or jacquelinemartinez@mednet.ucla.edu

FYN (CONNECT) Study

The CONNECT study will test whether an oral, experimental drug, AZD0530 (saracatinib), slows progression in mild-stage Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Researchers will use position emission tomography (PET) imaging to evaluate whether the drug is effective in slowing decline in brain metabolism and whether it is safe and well tolerated in patients with AD. Screening will occur over six weeks followed by a 52-week treatment period. The study requires a minimum of four visits during the screening and 13 to 14 visits during the course of the treatment.

Info: (310) 794-6191
or cossinalde@mednet.ucla.edu

Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer’s Disease (A4) Study

The “Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer’s Disease” (A4) study is a clinical study for individuals 65 to 85 years old who have normal thinking and memory function but who may be at risk for developing Alzheimer’s disease (AD) in the future. The A4 study is for people without any outward signs of AD, and is designed to evaluate the effectiveness, safety and tolerability of an investigational drug for AD. The purpose of the study is to test whether a new investigational treatment can slow the memory loss caused by AD. The overall goal of the A4 study is to test whether decreasing amyloid with antibody investigational treatment can help slow the memory loss associated with amyloid buildup in some people. Participants will be assigned randomly to receive either the investigational drug or a placebo (inactive substance). The A4 study lasts for three years.

Info: (310) 794-6191
or cossinalde@mednet.ucla.edu

Study of A Beta Secretase Inhibitor in Prodromal Alzheimer’s Disease

The Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer’s Disease Research at UCLA is currently participating in a Phase III clinical trial sponsored by Merck & Co. of the investigational drug MK-8931. MK-8931 reduces levels of the beta amyloid protein by inhibiting the activity of an enzyme called beta secretase. MK-8931 is an oral medication taken daily. The study will last approximately two years, with roughly 12 study visits. Participants will be randomly assigned to the active study medication (MK-8931) or placebo (inactive substance). Participants will have a 66 percent chance of receiving the active study medication. Individuals ages 50 to 85 who have a memory problem are potentially eligible for this study.

Info: (310) 794-6191
or cossinalde@mednet.ucla.edu

Late-life Depression

For those who are suffering from feelings of depression, sadness, hopelessness, memory loss, concentration difficulties, lack of energy, or loss of interest and pleasure in activities, UCLA is conducting a 12-month research study using an experimental combination of two drugs and a placebo (inactive substance). The study seeks participants 60 years of age and older who are not currently receiving any psychiatric treatment with medications. Medical and psychiatric evaluations and limited physical exams are provided as a part of the study. Participants will undergo PET and MRI scans. Evaluations and study medications are provided at no charge.

Info: (310) 794-9523

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CLINICAL TRIALS OFFERED TO CANCER PATIENTS, VISIT: cancer.ucla.edu/clinical-trials
or call the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinical Trials Hotline at (888) 798-0719.
Curcumin and Yoga Therapy for Those at Risk for Alzheimer’s Disease

Physical exercise has been shown to improve memory, including in the elderly. Drugs developed to stop the underlying disease processes that cause Alzheimer’s disease (AD) may not improve memory without efforts to stimulate brain function. The study will test the clinical benefits of curcumin, a safe and effective compound isolated from the turmeric root, which has been found to inhibit several potential disease pathways in AD. The study also will determine how the addition of a physical exercise program in individuals with early memory problems may affect memory function or brain imaging and blood-based markers associated with AD.

Info: (310) 478-3711 ext 48625
or (310) 478-3711 ext 42171
or VAMemoryResearch@gmail.com

Tai-Chi or Health Education and Wellness for Older Adults

UCLA is seeking participants 60 years of age or older who are on stable medications for depression and are suffering from depressive symptoms and lack of energy to participate in a six-month research study. The trial involves 12 weekly 60-minute sessions of either a health and education wellness class or a Tai-Chi class. Participants will undergo two functional MRI scans and a complete psychiatric evaluation. Participants will be compensated.

Info: (310) 983-3375

Menstrual Irregularities and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Study

UCLA researchers are seeking women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) who are Caucasian and non-Hispanic, between the ages of 18 and 35, have a body-mass index between 18.5 and 25 and have not used hormones (i.e., birth control pills or a Mirena IUD) for the past three months. Participants will receive extensive free medical testing, including blood-hormone measurements, diabetes screening and ovarian and fat assessments. A small amount of fat will be removed from the abdomen and blood will be drawn for research purposes. Only women with PCOS will take an oral pill that contains either the drug Flutamide or a placebo (inactive substance) for six complete 28-day cycles. The free medical testing will be repeated at the end of the study. Women without PCOS may earn up to $300 and women with PCOS may earn up to $840.

Info: (310) 825-7301
or Health4Women@mednet.ucla.edu

Pomegranate Juice Study

The UCLA Longevity Center is studying the effects of pomegranate juice on memory. Volunteers between the ages of 50 and 75 are needed. The study will last one year and includes five visits to UCLA and $300 compensation for participation.

Info: (310) 825-0545

Vulvodynia Research

UCLA researchers are seeking women ages 18 to 55 to help understand brain activity changes associated with a chronic-pain condition called vulvodynia. Women who have been diagnosed with vulvodynia or vestibulodynia, or those with chronic pain around the opening of the vagina with or without intercourse, may be eligible to participate. Participation includes a pelvic exam, sensitivity testing, one small blood sample and one MRI scan. Volunteers can earn up to $210 for participating.

Info: (310) 794-9523 or (310) 794-4619

Aspirin Dosing: A Patient-centric Trial Assessing Benefits and Long-term Effectiveness (ADAPTABLE)

Aspirin is a mainstay therapy for patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD). To identify the optimal dose of aspirin for secondary prevention in patients with ASCVD, UCLA will participate in a pragmatic clinical trial in which 20,000 patients who are at high risk for ischemic events will be recruited and randomly assigned to receive an aspirin dose of 81 mg/day or 325 mg/day. The goals of the ADAPTABLE study include: 1) comparing the effectiveness of two different doses of aspirin, and 2) comparing the effects of aspirin in selected subgroups of patients (e.g., women vs. men, older vs. younger patients, racial minority patients vs. white patients, patients with vs. without diabetes, and patients with vs. without chronic kidney disease).

Info: 310-794-8502
or adaptable@ctsi.ucla.edu

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