Research and Trials

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2017

UCLA conducts research for a wide range of medical disorders and offers patients opportunities to participate in research and clinical trials. For more information, visit connect.uclahealth.org/calendar.

Early-onset Alzheimer’s Disease Phenotypes: Neuropsychology and Neural Networks

The UCLA Behavioral Neurology program is conducting a study to better understand why some individuals develop Alzheimer’s disease at a young age. Participants will be asked to complete specific neurological tasks and undergo neuropsychological assessments and a special MRI of structural and functional brain networks. The study will last about one year, including three visits within the first month and two visits at the one-year follow up. The study is open to all patients with Alzheimer’s disease but is targeting those diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease before age 65.

Info: (310) 478-3711 ext 43621 or rdesarzant@mednet.ucla.edu or behavioral.neurology.ucla.edu/research

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 one-year 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

Wellness for Older Adults: Health Education or Tai Chi

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 education class or a tai chi class, an exercise technique that focuses on mind-body wellness. Participants will undergo two functional MRI scans and a complete psychiatric evaluation. Participants will be compensated.

Info: (310) 794-9523

Depression in Older Adults

UCLA is conducting a 12-week research study called “Comparison of Levomilnacipran to Placebo in Geriatric Depression” for adults 60 years of age or older who are suffering from feelings of depression, sadness, hopelessness, memory loss, concentration difficulties, lack of energy, or loss of interest and pleasure in activities. The study is designed to determine the efficacy, safety and tolerability of levomilnacipran (FETZIMA) in treating geriatric depression. A complete psychiatric evaluation, physical exam and two MRI scans are provided. Eligible participants will be compensated up to $350 and parking will be reimbursed.

Info: (310) 267-5264

Optimizing Depression Treatment in Older Adults (OPTIMUM)

The OPTIMUM research study is a research study designed to test medications for participants ages 60 and older who are depressed and taking an antidepressant but not improving. Eligible participants are randomly assigned to one of three medication options. The study team will assess your side effects and mood for up to one year. Study psychiatrists will provide medication recommendations to your primary-care physician. Ask your doctor if you qualify.

Info: (310) 206-5240 or optimumstudy.org

Preventing Epilepsy Using Vigabatrin in Infants with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (PREVeNT Trial)

UCLA is seeking infants up to 6 months old with a diagnosis of tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) and no history of seizures or infantile spasms for a research study on epilepsy. The goal of this study is to use electroencephalogram (EEG), behavioral testing and early use of vigabatrin to help determine the developmental impact of epilepsy from birth to 36 months of age. The study involves up to 13 visits over a three-year period and will include behavioral testing, EEGs, eye exams, physical exams and optional blood draws. Summary scores of your child’s behavioral testing and EEG results will be provided to you. If new results from the testing are concerning, we will notify you and assist you in obtaining referrals or interventions. After study data has been analyzed, we will inform families of the overall results.

Info: (310) 206-4037 or uclatsc@mednet.ucla.edu

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.
Study of Aducanumab in Early Alzheimer’s Disease (ENGAGE)
The primary objective of the ENGAGE study is to evaluate the efficacy of monthly doses of aducanumab — in comparison to placebo (inactive substance) — in slowing cognitive and functional impairment in patients who are between the ages of 50 and 85 with early Alzheimer’s disease (AD). The study also will compare the efficacy of monthly doses of aducanumab, compared with placebo, across several measures that track clinical progression of AD.

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

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 AD may not improve memory without efforts to stimulate brain function. This 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 AD pathways. The study will also examine how engaging individuals with early memory problems in an exercise program may affect their memory function or the 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

A Study of Crenezumab Versus Placebo to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety in Participants with Prodromal to Mild Alzheimer’s Disease (CREAD)
This Phase III clinical trial aims to test whether monthly infusions of the investigational drug crenezumab — an anti-amyloid antibody — can slow AD progression and memory loss. Participants will have a 50 percent chance of receiving the active study drug versus a placebo (inactive substance). The study lasts approximately two years, with 26 infusion visits and the possibility of an open-label extension (allowing all participants, including those on placebos, to take the active study drug) upon completion. Individuals between the ages of 50 and 85 with a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment (prodromal AD) and mild dementia due to AD may be eligible to participate.

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

SUVN-502 Study with Donepezil and Memantine for the Treatment of Moderate Alzheimer’s Disease
This phase II-a clinical trial will investigate whether the oral investigational drug SUVN-502 can enhance the cognitive effect of two FDA medications (donepezil and memantine) approved for use in patients with dementia. Individuals ages 50 to 85 with a diagnosis of moderate dementia who are taking the maximum dosages of donepezil and memantine may be eligible to participate. Patients will have a 60 percent chance of receiving the active study drug versus placebo (inactive substance). The study will last 26 weeks.

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

Nicotinamide as an Early Alzheimer’s Disease Treatment (NEAT)
The NEAT study is a phase II-b clinical trial focusing on nicotinamide, a soluble form of vitamin B3. This one-year study will investigate the safety and tolerability of daily high-dose oral nicotinamide, and assess whether nicotinamide is able to reduce levels of phosphorylated tau found in spinal fluid. It will also assess whether nicotinamide is effective in reducing the rate of cognitive and functional decline. This study seeks individuals ages 50 to 85 with a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease. Participants will have a 50 percent chance of receiving the study drug versus a placebo (inactive substance).

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

A5/EARLY Study
The A5/EARLY study seeks participants between 60 and 85 years old who have normal memory and thinking function but who may be at risk for developing Alzheimer’s disease in the future. The oral investigational drug in this study, JNJ-54861911, is a BACE inhibitor designed to prevent the build up of amyloid, a protein found in the brain associated with memory loss in Alzheimer’s disease. The study will evaluate whether daily dosage of JNJ-54861911 can reduce the rate of cognitive and functional decline. This Phase IIb/III study will last 58 months, with a 54-month treatment phase in which participants will have a 60 percent chance to receive the active drug versus the placebo (inactive substance).

Info: (310) 794-6191 or cossinalde@mednet.ucla.edu
Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative 3 (ADNI3)

ADNI3 is the fourth wave of a North American multicenter observational study launched in 2004. The primary goal of this study is to discover, optimize, standardize and validate clinical biomarkers used in Alzheimer’s disease research and clinical trials. This study seeks participants between 55 and 90 years old who are willing and able to undergo yearly test procedures, including cognitive tests, questionnaires, brain imaging, blood draws and spinal taps. Eligible individuals may have normal cognition with no memory concerns, or have memory concerns and diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment or dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease. Participants will be evaluated on a yearly basis, for two to four years.

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