Research and Trials

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 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 uclahealth.org/calendar.

Alzheimer’s Prevention Project
This study seeks to determine if memory-enhancement training, stress management and reducing cardiovascular risk factors lead to improvements in cognitive abilities. Eligible participants will be asked to join a twice-weekly program over the course of three months. The 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. Usual lifestyle activity will be monitored remotely via Fitbit for three additional months prior to or following this program. Total involvement in the study will last six months and all visits will take place at UCLA or St. Monica Catholic Church in Santa Monica.

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

Anti-amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer’s Disease (A4) Study
The A4 study is a three-year clinical trial 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 study is designed to evaluate the effectiveness, safety and tolerability of treating AD with an investigational anti-amyloid antibody drug. The overall goal of the A4 study is to test whether decreasing amyloid build-up — a protein associated with memory loss in some people — with the study’s investigational treatment can help slow memory loss. Participants will be randomly assigned to receive either the investigational drug or a placebo (inactive substance).

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

CREAD Study: A Study of Crenenzumab in Participants with Prodromal to Mild Alzheimer’s Disease (AD)
This Phase III clinical trial aims to test whether monthly infusions of investigational drug crenezumab — an anti-amyloid antibody — can slow AD disease 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, include 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

Curcumin and Yoga Therapy for Those at Risk for Alzheimer’s Disease (AD)
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

Depression in Older Adults
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 normal activities, UCLA is conducting a 12-month research study comparing levomilnacipran (FETZIMA) to placebo (inactive substance) for treatment of geriatric depression. Individuals 60 years of age or older may qualify. A complete psychiatric evaluation, physical exam and one MRI scan are provided. Participants will be compensated up to $200 and parking will be reimbursed.

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

Effects of E-cigarettes on Blood-Vessel Function
UCLA is seeking healthy men and women between 21 and 45 years old for a research study examining the effects of electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, on blood-vessel function. The study will involve four, two-hour visits. Participants must be an electronic cigarette user or a non-smoker. Monetary compensation will be provided.

Info: (310) 825-3510 or kpeters@mednet.ucla.edu

ENGAGE Study
The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of monthly doses of aducanumab — in comparison to placebo intervention — in slowing cognitive and functional impairment in participants 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

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FIGARO-Diabetes and Kidney Disease (DKD) Research Study

The FIGARO-DKD study is a Phase III clinical trial seeking to prove that the oral medication finerenone can slow the progression of kidney disease in patients with diabetes. To qualify for the study, participants must be between 18 and 85 years old with type 2 diabetes and kidney disease. If a participant meets additional criteria requirements, and is chosen to be part of the study, he or she will be randomly assigned to either receive the active medication or a placebo (inactive substance). Research participants will receive free lab and urine assessments, electrocardiograms and more. Visits usually occur once every four months, and participants will be reimbursed $40 per visit for travel expenses.

Info: (310) 954-2692 or drrastogioffice@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 normal 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

Menstrual Irregularities and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Study

UCLA researchers are seeking women with and without 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 medical testing for free, including blood-hormone, diabetes, 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. Free medical testing will be repeated at the end of the study. Women without PCOS may be compensated up to $300 and women with PCOS may be compensated up to $840.

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

UCLA Aftercare Research Program

The UCLA 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 better understand 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) 206-3142 or aftercare@mednet.ucla.edu or luana@ucla.edu or semel.ucla.edu/aftercare

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 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. Participants can be compensated up to $210.

Info: (310) 825-5255 or uclaobgynresearch@mednet.ucla.edu

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) 983-3375

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.