

CLINICAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY SLE and ESRD – Search for ESRD Genes

Subjects Needed

Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can affect any part of the body, and it is estimated that as many as 40% of people with lupus will develop kidney complications (lupus nephritis - LN), frequently within five years of being diagnosed with lupus. Many LN patients progress to end-stage renal disease (ESRD), one of the most serious and costly complications of lupus. Progression to ESRD is determined in part by the lupus patient's genetic background, but the genes that contribute to ESRD susceptibility in lupus are currently unknown.

The National Institutes of Health has funded a new \$3.35 million research study to identify genes responsible for ESRD in lupus. Investigators from multiple universities nationwide are recruiting LN/ESRD patients for this study, including the Ohio State University, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Florida, Wake Forest University, Emory University, Johns Hopkins University, Medical University of South Carolina, Northwestern University, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and others. Both adult and pediatric LN/ESRD patients are eligible for the study. Pediatric patients may be particularly informative, as the genetic contribution may be stronger than in the adult LN/ESRD patients.

Participation involves providing a blood sample, and having the patient/parent answer a few questions about the disease and treatment. To participate, please contact the study center toll-free at 1-877-96LUPUS (877-965-8787) or by email at lupusresearch@uab.edu. More information about this study can be found at www.uab.edu/lnesrd.