Is it safe to participate?

The studies conducted at UConn Health – like those conducted at other research facilities – are approved according to federal, state and UConn Health's guidelines. In fact, no study can even begin before it has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB), which carefully considers the potential risks and benefits of the study before authorizing it. The safety and protection of volunteers participating in studies are of paramount concern.

Whenever anyone applies to become a volunteer participant, they are given an informed consent form that spells out the nature of the study, notates any risks that are involved, and clarifies their rights as a participant. If any kind of intervention will be involved – such as obtaining blood samples or documenting the participant’s health history – a careful consent process is conducted before the individual becomes involved in the study. This ensures that the volunteer participant knows what is expected and any possible risks. Completing and returning the consent form means the person agrees to be a volunteer. But, if the volunteer has second thoughts, they can simply withdraw from the study. There is no penalty for withdrawing.

How can UConn STARR help me as an investigator?

Researchers with active IRB-approved studies can search the registry for potential volunteers and obtain their contact information. Once an investigator has contacted their prospective participants, they can begin screening them accordingly. Investigators with non-active studies, such as those seeking general population data for a grant, may run queries and obtain aggregate data broken down by age, gender, race, and ethnicity.

Volunteer Today for Better Health Tomorrow

UConn STARR
UConn Study and Recruitment Registry

Study is being conducted by:
Dr. Abu-Hasaballah

Research IT Services
Office of the Vice President for Research
UConn Health
Farmington, CT 06030

Telephone: 860-679-8141

Website: http://clinicaltrials.uchc.edu

REGISTER TODAY!

For questions or to request access to UConn STARR, contact clinicaltrials@uchc.edu.

IRB #: 09-178S-1
What is UConn STARR?
To respond to the growing number of clinical trials and the need for research volunteers, the Research Information Technology & Informatics department at UConn Health has developed the UConn Study and Recruitment Registry (UConn STARR). UConn STARR is a “matchmaker” tool designed to link research volunteers to current clinical trials being conducted by UConn researchers and provides critical information about study participants.

How does UConn STARR work?
UConn STARR consists of both a study module and a volunteer module.

The study module hosts a comprehensive list of active human subjects research studies at UConn Health and includes all relevant details, including description; recruitment policies; enrollment criteria; and a full staff listing with contact information. It also includes links to www.ClinicalTrials.gov and other study-related resources.

The volunteer module hosts a verified list of self-registered, research volunteers who have provided online consent forms and important information about themselves. This information is retained for potential participation in future studies.

How do I know the information is current?
Our staff updates the study module periodically based on data obtained from the online IRB system, iRIS. All studies have an expiration date, which when reached, will cause the study listing to be removed from the system automatically.

What are clinical trials?
Clinical trials are research studies of medicines or treatments that generate critical information for drug development and health interventions. Through clinical trials, participants gain access to new research treatments before they are widely available. They also contribute to medical research, often improving the quality of life.

Unfortunately, many clinical trials fail because of inadequate number of participants, thus delaying or even preventing scientific discovery and the creation of new medicines and treatments. By participating in clinical trials, you are helping researchers find a cure for yourself, a family member, a friend, or even a stranger.

How do I volunteer for a clinical trial?
You can become a volunteer for clinical trials in one of two ways:

1. By visiting the Registry at http://clinicaltrials.uchc.edu and searching the list of current trials. You can search for a trial by disease or medical condition, name of the Principal Investigator, or the assigned study number. Once you’ve identified a trial of interest, you can read about it and/or contact the study staff directly for more information. The study staff can tell you the current enrollment status, eligibility criteria, and whether you qualify to participate. If the study staff believes you might qualify, they will instruct you on the next steps. Before you participate in any study, you will be asked to provide consent through various forms that are specific to that study. These are legal documents that you must read carefully to ensure that you understand the facts of the study and any corresponding risks and/or benefits.

2. By becoming a volunteer in the Registry. Here, you will complete an online form to provide information about yourself, such as your name, age, address, contact information, and clinical studies of interest. Once you submit your information, it will be stored in the UConn STARR database. This database is housed in a secure location behind our firewall and can be later accessed by UConn researchers who are seeking volunteers. Before you participate in the registry, you will be asked to provide consent through various forms and HIPAA authorization to allow us to store your personal health information and make it available to UConn researchers. If you are contacted later by one of our researchers for a study, you will be required to sign separate consent forms for that specific study.

We invite you to visit UConn STARR and sign up to become a research volunteer today!