Dear MURDOCK Study participants:

It’s hard to believe that we are already rounding the corner to the summer season. Our team has been busy with study activities, thanks to the MURDOCK Study participants who contributed to our web enrollment usability testing. We are very excited to roll out this important feature, which will allow prospective participants to complete their enrollment forms online. Also, we hope to expand this tool within the coming year to allow current participants to complete follow-up surveys via the web.

Our team has also been busy evaluating the results from the pilot study of our household representative sample to determine how best to proceed with a full random sampling of 15,000 households in the region. Also, we are now recruiting individuals with PPMS.

Read on to learn more about our progress and growth. Have a happy summer, stay cool, and don’t forget to tell your family and friends about the study. We welcome your input on what you would like to learn about in future editions.

Best regards,

L. Kristin Newby, MD, MHS
Co-Principal Investigator, MURDOCK Study
Community Registry and Biorepository; Principal Investigator, MURDOCK Horizon 1 Cardiovascular Study; Professor, Duke Medicine

Has your address changed?
Please help us keep our records current by contacting our office at (704) 250-5861 or murdock-study@duke.edu.

A Word of Thanks to Amanda Edwards

Amanda Edwards, communications associate with the Duke Translational Medicine Institute, has supported MURDOCK Study marketing and outreach efforts behind the scenes for more than two years. She is leaving us to pursue a master’s degree in business administration at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill’s Kenan-Flagler Business School. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors, and we thank her for her creativity and support.

Find us on Facebook and Twitter

“Like” us on Facebook! On Twitter, mention us (@murdocktweet) and share your MURDOCK Study experiences with your followers.
The MURDOCK Study Team Recruits 1,500 Participants into the Memory Health Cohort

The MURDOCK Study team is proud to announce the recruitment of 1,500 participants into the Memory Health Cohort initiated by Principal Investigator Kathleen A. Welsh-Bohmer, PhD, director of the Bryan Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at Duke University. Participants aged 55 years and older and without a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease or untreated psychiatric disease were enrolled in this study and given tests that assessed attention, concentration, memory, language, and more. Similar cohorts in Durham, NC and Tomsk, Russia are also being studied. The data from these groups will be used to study cognitive changes over time. This work is expected to be presented at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Vancouver, Canada in July.

David H. Murdock Gifts $50 Million to the David H. Murdock Research Institute

David H. Murdock, chairman of the Dole Food Company and benefactor of the NC Research Campus and the MURDOCK Study, announced on May 8 that he will donate an additional $50 million over the next eight years to maintain the campus’ core laboratory. The MURDOCK Study’s potential to reclassify health and disease is bolstered by this state-of-the-art facility for sample and data analysis. Murdock’s generosity and commitment to the NC Research Campus and the state of North Carolina signifies his commitment to improving human health and nutrition both locally and globally.

The MURDOCK Study team is looking for churches and congregations interested in learning more about the study and ways that parishioners can participate. Call or email Perla Nunes at (704) 250-5858 or perla.nunes@duke.edu to name the best contact person at your church.

Spreading the Word about the MURDOCK Study across the Country

Members of the MURDOCK Study team have been participating in national conferences and meetings throughout the country to present the MURDOCK Study work and findings to a variety of audiences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Location</th>
<th>Name of Conference</th>
<th>Title of Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>American Medical Informatics Association Summit 2013</td>
<td>Managing Medication Data in a Longitudinal Community-Based Registry &amp; Biorepository</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Translational Science 2013</td>
<td>The MURDOCK Study: Enrolling a Diverse Population into a Community Registry and Biorepository for Patient Population Characterization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>Association of Clinical Research Professionals Global Conference 2013</td>
<td>Enrolling and Retaining a Diverse Community-Based Population: Challenges and Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
<td>North Carolina Network Consortium Primary Care Conference 2013</td>
<td>Setting Up Advisory Boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
<td>Drug Information Association 2013, 49th Annual Meeting</td>
<td>The MURDOCK Study: Informatics as a Cornerstone for Understanding the Molecular Underpinnings of Chronic Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
<td>American Public Health Association Annual Meeting &amp; Exposition 2013</td>
<td>Innovative Approaches for Recruitment, Enrollment, and Retention of Community Residents into a Large-scale Registry and Biorepository: The MURDOCK Study (submitted)</td>
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MURDOCK Study Participants Test Web Enrollment Form

Earlier this spring, fourteen MURDOCK participants visited the local MURDOCK Study office and participated in a study to test the usability of new online forms. These forms are part of a secure online system that will enable new study participants to complete the enrollment process via the Internet; annual follow-up forms will also become available online in the future. Led by Dr. Constance Johnson of the Duke School of Nursing, the MURDOCK Online Forms Feedback and Evaluation Project provides results that will be used to modify and enhance the web enrollment system before it becomes publicly available. Thank you to all who participated to make the system as user friendly as possible.

MURDOCK Study Enrolls Its 1,000th Participant! The MURDOCK Study hit another milestone on May 8: the team enrolled its 1,000th Hispanic study participant at Bethesda Health Center (Charlotte, NC). Cristina La Paz (pictured here), a community leader working for Melange Health Solutions as a case manager and advocate for the Latino community, was enrolled by study coordinator Cecilia Plez. The MURDOCK Study continues to work toward diversifying its population representation.

Dr. Miriam Morey Visits MURDOCK Study Region

Dr. Miriam Morey, principal investigator of the Physical Performance Study, visited Kannapolis on May 2 and 3 to deliver a series of presentations titled “We Reap What We Sow – A Lifespan Approach to Understanding Late-life Physical Functioning” that highlighted age-related benefits associated with exercise. According to Dr. Morey, each person’s aging process is largely influenced by lifestyle choices; physical activity is key to experiencing healthy adult years; and tai chi and yoga are useful for improving balance and flexibility.

Visit http://go4life.nia.nih.gov/, a free resource provided by the National Institute on Aging for more on the benefits of physical activity.

Local Support: Pastor Discusses the Importance of Churches in the MURDOCK Study

Andrew Langford (pictured here) is a church and community leader, the pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Concord, NC, and a member of the MURDOCK Community Advisory Board. He recently shared his perspective on the MURDOCK Study and how local churches have been powerful supporters for the study’s recruitment and enrollment efforts.

Pastor Langford’s involvement dates back to the first day of MURDOCK Study enrollment in February 2009. A Duke alumnus, basketball fan and local resident, he was dining with a friend at Restaurant 46 in the NC Research Campus Village when he heard that Duke was opening its new office there. The two walked down and joined right then, becoming some of the very first study participants. Since then, he has served as an ambassador to his church, promoting mass enrollment events and highlighting the benefits of participating for generations to come. Thank you Pastor Langford for your dedication and support!