



Duke University now enrolling patients with Multiple Sclerosis

PRESS RELEASE

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Kannapolis, North Carolina: The MURDOCK Study – *Measurement to Understand the Reclassification of Disease in Cabarrus / Kannapolis* – is being led by Duke University and working across regions of North and South Carolina to recruit individuals whose samples (blood and urine) will be banked so that researchers can study different diseases, disease progression and response to treatment. One such project within the MURDOCK Study framework is looking to recruit 1,000 patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). Anyone 18 or older with MS is welcome to join regardless of where he/she lives.

The MS study, led by Dr. Simon Gregory of Duke University, has partnered with Neuroscience Associates of Greenville, South Carolina, the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Carolinas Medical Center of Charlotte, North Carolina, and NorthEast Neurology of Concord, North Carolina. Together, this consortium is working to recruit and enroll participants who suffer from MS so that biological indicators (“biomarkers”) can be identified to help the scientific and medical communities better understand the progression of this potentially debilitating disease. This is not a drug study so participants will not receive any form of treatment. Rather, this is an effort to identify a large group of individuals who suffer from the same disease.

The mysteries surrounding MS – especially how the disease progresses and why certain people respond to treatment while others do not – and the prevalence of this disease in the United States (400,000 diagnosed individuals) demand the need for further investigation. MS is the most common neurological disorder among young adults and more than 90% of those who suffer from MS are diagnosed before age 55. Females are 2-3 times more likely than males to develop MS and children of affected females are at a significantly higher risk of developing MS than children of affected males.

Enrollment in the study is easy – individuals diagnosed with MS are asked to schedule an appointment at any of the locations named below. At the time of the visit, each individual will be consented to participate and small samples of blood and urine will be collected in addition to two brief questionnaires, one related to their medical history and demographics and a second one addressing their MS diagnosis. A visit takes less than one hour and each volunteer will be compensated for their time and willingness to participate.

NorthEast Neurology

315 Medical Park Drive NE, #202
Concord, NC
(704) 250-5861

The MS Center

1010 Edgehill Road North
Charlotte, NC
(704) 446-1902

Neuroscience Associates

200 Patewood Drive, Suite B350
Greenville, SC
(864) 454-4500