



VASCULITIS  
CLINICAL  
RESEARCH  
CONSORTIUM

The VCRC  
Longitudinal Study for  
**Giant Cell  
Arteritis**

## What is a longitudinal study?

A longitudinal study follows patients over an extended period of time to look at changes in individuals. Information is collected on a regular basis and studied by research scientists to find new ways to track disease and predict who

will respond to different treatments, to study

the genetics and causes of vasculitis, to understand how best to treat patients, and much more.

The Longitudinal Study is not a drug study but it may lead to development of new treatments

## What does this study involve?

If you are eligible and decide to participate in this study, you will be asked to come to a clinical center on a regular basis to meet with a physician, to answer medical questions, and to provide blood and urine samples. The study will last for several years.

## Who qualifies?

You must have a confirmed diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis and be willing to be seen for study visits at one of the six VCRC study sites.

## What is a study visit?

During a study visit, you will meet with a study physician, a study coordinator, and a research nurse. Medical information will be collected and a physical exam conducted. The research nurse will collect blood and urine specimens from you. On some study visits, you will only have blood and urine collected and will not meet with the physician or study coordinator (these visits may be shorter).

## Why participate?

By participating in the Longitudinal Study you will help researchers better understand Giant Cell Arteritis and work toward developing more effective and safer therapies.

## Where will the study take place? How do I participate?

If you are interested in participating in this study or would like additional information, please contact a study coordinator at the clinical center most convenient for you:

### **Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts**

Study Coordinator: Jessica Martin  
E-mail: [jmartin@bu.edu](mailto:jmartin@bu.edu)  
Tel: 617-414-2507

Principal Investigator: Peter A. Merkel, MD, MPH

### **Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio**

Study Coordinator: Katherine Tuthill,  
E-mail: [tuthillk@ccf.org](mailto:tuthillk@ccf.org)  
Tel: 216-444-5257

Principal Investigator: Carol A. Langford, MD, MHS

### **Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota**

Study Coordinator: Jane Jaquith,  
E-mail: [jaquith.jane@mayo.edu](mailto:jaquith.jane@mayo.edu)  
Tel: 507-284-4502

Principal Investigator: Steven R. Ytterberg, MD

### **Johns Hopkins Vasculitis Center, Baltimore, Maryland**

Study Coordinator: Cynthia Bethea,  
E-mail: [cbethea3@jhmi.edu](mailto:cbethea3@jhmi.edu)  
Tel: 410-550-4390

Principal Investigator: Phil Seo, MD, MHS

### **St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton, ON**

Study Coordinator: Sandra Messier,  
E-mail: [smessier@stjoes.ca](mailto:smessier@stjoes.ca)  
Tel: 905-522-1155 Ext. 35873

Principal Investigator: Nader Khalidi, MD

### **Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON**

Study Coordinator: Julia Farquharson,  
E-mail: [jfarquharson@mtsinai.on.ca](mailto:jfarquharson@mtsinai.on.ca)  
Tel: 416-586-8616

Principal Investigator: Simon Carette, MD