

SCHIZOPHRENIA AND SCHIZOAFFECTIVE DISORDER

are severe brain disorders that involve symptoms such as hearing voices when no one is near, having ideas that others don't share, or showing little emotion. These illnesses can also affect a person's ability to think clearly and relate to other people.

Schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder affect millions of adults of all races and ethnic backgrounds across the world. The exact causes of these disorder are unknown. Currently, there is no way to cure or prevent these illnesses.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Complete and return the "Consent for Screening" form included with this brochure.

MAIL THE FORM TO:

Dr. Vishwajit Nimgaonkar
3811 O'Hara Street #439
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

If you need more information or would like more forms, call us TOLL FREE at 1-877-363-5895 or Visit our website at www.pitt.edu/~nimga/



UPMC | University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

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FAMILY STUDIES OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

How you can help
researchers learn more
about this disorder

1-877-363-5895

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE?

We need help from people diagnosed with:

- schizophrenia
- schizoaffective disorder

We also need help from their family members, including relatives who are affected by the illnesses and those who are not affected.

WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?

We ask each participant to do some or all of the following, depending on the study. Please ask our staff for details.

- Complete a clinical and/or family interview.
- Complete exercises of memory, coordination, and attention. Some of these may be on a computer. Others are done with pen and paper.
- Provide a small sample of blood.

WILL I NEED TO TRAVEL?

No. We will travel to you, including to your home to meet you. In many cases, we will travel far from Pittsburgh. If you live in the Pittsburgh area and prefer to come to our offices, that is fine too, and we will reimburse you for your travel expenses.

WILL THIS COST ME ANYTHING?

No.

DO PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE COMPENSATION?

Yes. Each person who completes the study will receive compensation.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

We do not interfere with your treatment or your family member's treatment. There is no need to change doctors or medications.

We keep all information about you and your family strictly confidential.

WHAT DO OTHERS SAY ABOUT THE STUDY?

"The study helped me learn more about myself and my illness. I used to put walls up and be ashamed of it. But you have to talk about it to understand. That is what these research studies are good for." — *past participant*

"From 9 until 72 years old mental illness among my family members has been part of my life. I like to think that the participation of my family members in these studies will contribute to finding pieces of the puzzle for improved treatments and medication that will lead to a better for quality of life for those with serious mental illnesses." — *past participant*

WHO IS CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH?

This research study is based at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, part of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. It is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

YOUR BENEFITS:

- Take an active role in understanding your illness
- Increase your family's awareness and involvement
- Help find the causes of schizophrenia.
- Help others like you



We hope that finding the causes could lead to better diagnosis and treatment of the illnesses, and possibly prevention in the future.