

## 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 quality of life for those with serious mental illness.”

– past participant



Top Row L to R: Tom Kelley, Roberta May, Rodney Go, Charlie Swanson, Karen Swanson, Muktar Aliyu, Nancy Sharrow, Lee Prichett. Bottom Row L to R: Rakesha Garner, Robert Savage, Laura Montgomery-Barefield, Ryan Coleman.

## Who is conducting the research?

This study is based at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). It is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. It is endorsed by:

Ann Denbo, President, National Alliance of Mental Health (NAMI), Alabama

Greg Carlson, Chair, Alabama Mental Illness Planning council

Alabama Dept. Mental Health/Mental Retardation

Fannie Hicks, President, Alabama Minority Consumer Council

Mike Autrey, Director, Office of Consumer and Ex-Patient Relations

Approved by UAB's research on human subjects review board

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## FAMILY STUDIES OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

How you can help researchers learn more about this disorder

**1-877-227-8637**

**Schizophrenia** is a severe brain disorder that involves symptoms such as hearing voices when no one is near, having ideas that others don't share, or showing little emotion. This illness can also affect a person's ability to think clearly and relate to other people. Schizophrenia affects millions of people of all races.

### Why are we doing this research?

This research may lead to:

- Better diagnosis
- Better treatment, with fewer side effects
- Prevention of the illness
- Understanding the risk factors
- Understanding how schizophrenia runs in families



### Why study African Americans?

Illnesses that affect African Americans have not been studied as often as needed by the medical community. This is why The National Institute of Health funded a study that will specifically focus on risk factors in African Americans.

### Will I receive compensation?

Yes. Each person who completes the study will receive \$100.



### Will this cost me anything?

No.

### Who may participate?

We need help from African Americans diagnosed with schizophrenia and their relatives. We need help from family members, including relatives who are affected by the illness and those who are not affected.

### What will I be asked to do?

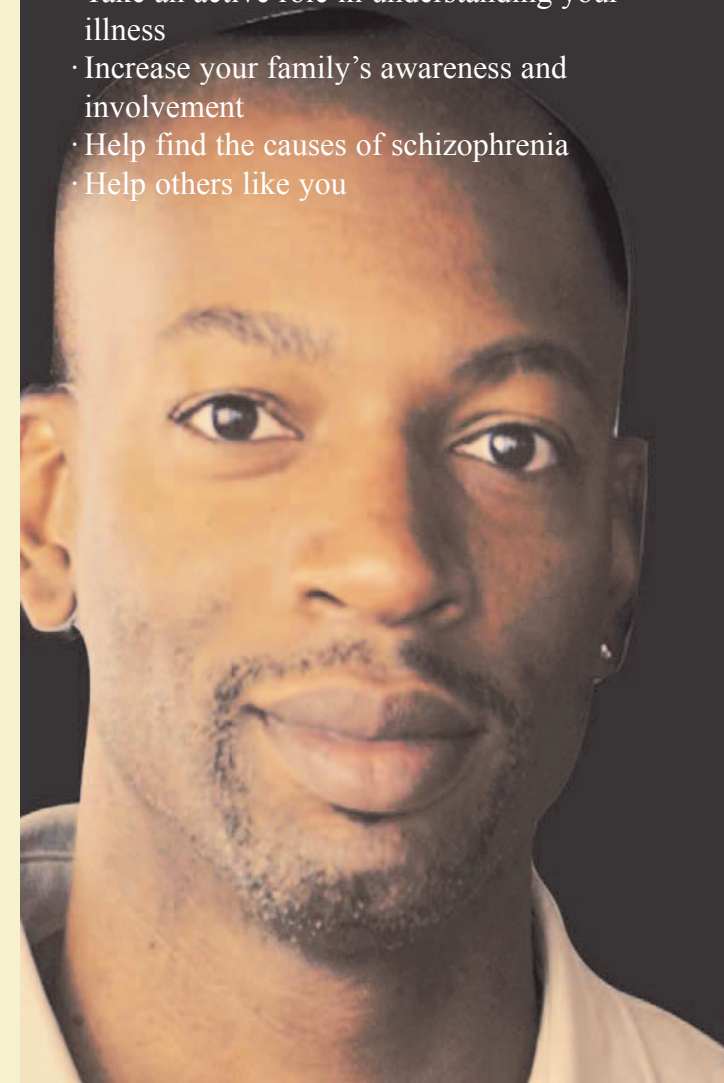
- Complete a clinical and family interview
- Complete exercises of memory coordination, and attention on the computer
- Provide a small sample of blood

### Will I need to travel?

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

## What are the 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.