RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

NAMI is committed to ensuring that the most effective treatments for mental illness are available to those who need them. Determining which treatments are most effective requires research. When NAMI is approached to be involved in research of any type, at any level, we take it very seriously. NAMI’s Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ken Duckworth and National Director of Research and Quality Assurance Dr. Teri Brister thoroughly review the research protocols and methodology and the documentation that the study has been approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to assure the safety of participants.

NAMI does not accept financial compensation for recruiting clinical study participants. NAMI also does not endorse any products or treatments. We share these research opportunity notices with you, our field leaders, to distribute at your discretion if you believe that members of your community may be interested in participating in these trials.

If you have questions about research at NAMI, please visit NAMI.org/research or email us at research@nami.org.

WHAT IS THE STUDY?

This is a clinical research study to identify biomarkers for schizophrenia and related mental illnesses. A biomarker is a measurable factor (like a protein, hormone or brain activity pattern) that can indicate the presence or risk of a health condition or a change in the condition. The goal of this study is to understand the brain changes over time in people who develop schizophrenia and related conditions compared to those who do not. This research is necessary to develop more effective and time-sensitive treatments in the future.

Study participants will complete questionnaires and cognitive screenings, physical examinations, and neuroimaging as well as giving biological samples including blood and cerebrospinal fluid. Participants will be engaged with the study for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of three years. Participants will receive compensation for completing study procedures and reimbursement for travel costs.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Participants may be eligible for this study if they:
- Are aged 18-40 with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or a related psychosis condition
- Are aged 18-30 with symptoms that place them at “clinical high risk” for schizophrenia or a related psychosis condition
- Are currently stable, with no imminent risk of harm to self or others
- Do not have a history of clinically significant autoimmune disease
- Have not experienced a substance use disorder within the past six months

Other eligibility requirements may apply. The study is seeking to enroll at least 45 participants each year.

WHERE IS THE STUDY TAKING PLACE?

There is one study site in your area:
- Perelman School of Medicine at UPenn
  3400 Spruce Street
  Philadelphia, PA 19104

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

If you have questions or would like more information, please refer to the study website at ssbcbio.org, contact the researchers by email at thohing@pennmedicine.upenn.edu or by phone at (267) 586-0771.