

WHAT IS THE LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF BIPOLAR DISORDER?

Our purpose is to identify potential illness patterns in bipolar disorder through the analysis of genetic information and continued observation of research participants for ten years and beyond.

INVOLVEMENT REQUIRES:

- An interview with one of our clinicians
- Neuropsychological tasks to measure attention, memory, perception and reaction time
- Blood sample for genetics
- Completion of self-report questionnaires every two months
- Annual follow-up visits for ten years and beyond
- Compensation for your time

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum age of 18
- You have a diagnosis of bipolar disorder
- Or, as our control group: you have no mental illness and there is none in your family



This study is sponsored by the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund at the University of Michigan Depression Center.

This study has received approval from IRB MED: HUM00000606

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WHAT IS BIPOLAR DISORDER?

Bipolar disorder is a brain illness with profound swings of mood, ranging from mania (uncontrolled energy) to debilitating depression. It affects almost 6 million adults in the United States and is found among all ages, races, ethnic and social groups.

WHY STUDY BIPOLAR DISORDER?

Bipolar disorder is known to run in families, but most genes involved have not yet been identified. Additionally, every individual's response to the illness, life circumstances, and treatment can vary widely. Studying many individuals over time will allow scientists to better understand how to treat, and eventually, prevent bipolar disorder.

“What makes this program so unique is that it is ‘longitudinal,’ meaning it follows patients over time to learn how to predict the outcome of the illness, identify personalized treatments that prevent episodes, and provide the opportunity for health and success.”

Melvin G. McClinnis, M.D., FRCPsych
Principal Investigator and Scientific Director,
Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund,
Thomas B. and Nancy Upjohn Woodworth
Professor of Bipolar Disorder and Depression,
U-M Depression Center



WHAT MAKES THIS STUDY UNIQUE?

After the suicide of the industrialist Heinz C. Prechter, his family established a fund to

decipher the intricacies of bipolar illness. This fund was moved over the University of Michigan Health System in 2004. In 2005, the fund helped launch the Prechter Bipolar Genetics Repository at the University of Michigan, and with that a large-scale project known as the Prechter Longitudinal Study of Bipolar Disorder. The study is the most comprehensive, personalized, and integrated multi-disciplinary approach to bipolar disorder, with research ranging from genes and stem cell models, to mobile health and clinical outcomes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IN THIS STUDY?

Researchers monitor participants for ten years and beyond after the initial research evaluation, using bi-monthly questionnaires, neuropsychological testing, and interviews focused on the individual progress. We also take blood samples for DNA and other “bio-markers” in the blood. Compensation is \$100 for the first study visit, and up to \$150 for each year following. All study visits currently take place at the University of Michigan Depression Center on Plymouth Road in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The Bipolar Research Team is seeking adults with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder and without a history of schizophrenia. We also invite adults without bipolar disorder to be in our healthy comparison group.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Risks are minimal; a member of our team will answer questions you may have regarding the risks of participation. Participating in research is voluntary and should you decide not to proceed, there will be no adverse consequences.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

There are no direct tangible benefits other than financial compensation for your time. However, many people feel a sense of satisfaction knowing they have contributed to the understanding of bipolar disorder and to our search for more effective treatments of this debilitating disease.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Contact our Bipolar Research Team by phone or email. In order to determine your eligibility, we will conduct a 15 minute phone interview with you.

Any information shared with our research staff will remain confidential.