**What we are...**

Inova Translational Medicine Institute is bringing cutting-edge science to the forefront of the clinical care to help those families struggling with disease and congenital anomalies. We are seeking new ways to better our community and enhance our understanding of these conditions.

We are working to identify how your genes contribute to the onset and progression of genetic disorders in the search for better treatment options. By looking at an individual’s genetic makeup, we hope to develop personalized therapies that can help in the treatment, management and ultimately prevention of some conditions.

At Inova Translational Medicine Institute we strive to optimize personalized medicine and focus on disease prevention.

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**Principal Investigators**

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The Impact of Genetics Disorders Study

Over the past ten years, the field of genomics has helped medicine better understand disease and congenital anomalies. Understanding the genetic building blocks of babies helps us to diagnose problems and may guide future treatment. Genetic testing can sometimes help us answer the following questions: “What is wrong? What caused it? What can I do about it?”

Approximately 3 in 100 newborns have a congenital anomaly (birth defect) of some type. Some are caused by the interaction of our genes with the environment and our lifestyles, other birth defects have an unknown cause. Many of these infants are admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) from the delivery room for diagnosis, medical management and/or surgical intervention. The more we can learn about these newborn conditions through the study of genetics, the better we will be able to prevent, diagnose and treat future children and families.

We understand that having a suspicion of a congenital anomaly is a difficult and challenging experience. Over the past decade, advances in health care delivery and technology have improved the outlook for people with complex diagnosis. We hope our study will develop new interventions to help your baby grow and develop, and to better treat future generations.

Who can participate?

500 families will be asked to participate in this study. A member of our Inova research team will review your medical history to determine if you are eligible to be a participant.

What will happen if I participate?

To participate, you will be asked to donate a sample of blood and saliva for the research study. If your family members are unable to come to Inova Fairfax Medical Campus for specimen collection, we will work with you to identify alternative methods, such as collecting these samples at their physician’s office.

We will also collect information about you and your family for this study. You may be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about your medical and family history, diet, social environment and healthcare behaviors. The clinical research staff may ask you the questions during your visit or may contact you by telephone.

How long is this study?

Your direct participation will end once you and your family member’s samples have been collected. In the future, you may be contacted and given an option to complete a brief (20 minute) survey. Your participation can go a long way in helping understand the genetic contributions of this population.

What is the cost to participate?

There is no cost to participate in this study. The study is paid by Inova. You will be compensated for your time and any inconvenience by receiving a $25.00 gift card for each family member that participates.

Why would I want to participate?

While this research may not immediately help you or your family, your family’s participation may contribute to the identification of new ways to predict disease and health outcomes. These discoveries may lead to the development of new therapies or disease prevention methods that will ultimately result in a healthier community.

For more information or to sign up for this study, please call 703.776.2450.