What we are...

Inova Heart Failure and Transplant Program is teaming with the Inova Translational Medicine Institute to advance the science and treatment of heart failure to enable families to live longer, fuller lives. A significant cause of heart failure can be defined by a person’s genes. Genetic and molecular pathways are known to influence the activation and progression of heart failure. We seek to advance medical care by:

• Advancing heart failure diagnostic methods by understanding how genes can help us to identify individuals predisposed to developing heart failure before symptom onset. We also seek to identify specific genetic variants common to related family members - giving every advantage for best medical outcomes to all members of the family.

• Advancing knowledge of how specific genes contribute to heart failure disease progression, and how other genes contribute to disease recovery with specific treatments.

• Providing personalized medical care for future generations driven by genomics coupled with novel treatments—defining optimal combinations of mechanical heart pumps, heart transplantation and medicines. Moving beyond risk factors and predictive models for populations, we seek to zero-in on an individual’s specific genetic and cellular make-up to give each person the best opportunity to live the longest, fullest life possible.

Palak Shah, MD, MS
Principal Investigator

Joseph G. Vockley, PhD
Principal Investigator
Genomic Correlations in Heart Failure

Inova Translational Medicine Institute is bringing cutting-edge science to the forefront of clinical care to help those individuals struggling with heart failure.

We are working to identify how genes contribute to the onset and progression of heart failure 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 heart failure.

Uncovering the role of genetics in heart failure may help to identify methods in which targeted therapies can treat future generations. At Inova Translational Medicine Institute, we strive to optimize personalized medicine and focus on disease prevention.

The incidence of heart failure has been increasing for several decades. This disease is thought to be caused, in part, by genetic factors. Disease risk appears to be regulated by a person’s genetic profile as well as certain environmental triggers. Heart failure has a substantially negative impact on the health, quality of life and life expectancy of those afflicted.

We invite you to join our research study, Genomic Correlations in Heart Failure, investigating the genomic causes of heart failure. We believe that a person’s genetic composition has a significant linkage to their predisposition, development and progression of this disease.

Who Can Participate?

Any patient of Inova with a diagnosis of heart failure may enroll in our study. Your participation is important to us as we look for genetic predisposition and better ways to provide healthcare in our community. Your safety and care is our first priority. If you are interested we will discuss the study in detail and answer all of your questions and concerns.

What Will Happen If I Participate?

To participate in this study, you will be asked to donate a sample of blood for the research study. We will also collect an optional sample of saliva and urine and biological tissues as available. These samples will be collected during your routine medical visits when possible.

Why Would I Want To Participate?

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

How Long Is This Study?

As part of this study, you will be asked to provide a blood sample as well as possible other biological samples, such as saliva or urine. Your participation will help Inova Translational Medicine Institute to better understand the genetic and immunological contributions of this disease.

Cost To Participate

There is no cost to participate in this study. The study is paid for by Inova. All we ask of you is to consider this study and the impact you may have on future health care.

Help us to learn how genetic, environmental, and immunological factors predict a person’s response in heart failure.

For more information or to sign up for this study, please contact Sheila Phillips, MA, PMP at Sheila.Phillips@inova.org or call 703.776.3880.