

Do you have primary progressive MS?



Become involved today in our search for the genes that cause and influence MS

ABOUT THE AUSGENE PROJECT

MS Research Australia is funding a major genetics initiative called **AusGene** to identify the genes that differentiate between people with MS who have, or have had relapses, and those who have never had relapses.

The researchers believe that by identifying these 'relapse' genes and genes that protect against relapses, we will increase our understanding of both primary progressive MS and relapsing remitting MS. This could help to predict the likelihood of relapses when a person is diagnosed with MS and ultimately the best treatment for their symptoms.

WHY THE STUDY NEEDS PEOPLE WITH PRIMARY PROGRESSIVE MS (PPMS)

People with primary progressive MS experience progressively worsening symptoms from the onset of their disease and represent about 10% of all MS cases. Because of this small percentage, the researchers have only managed to collect a relatively small number of DNA samples from this group of people. Currently we do not have enough DNA samples from people with primary progressive MS for our study so we are seeking to recruit people with this type of MS.

We would very much like to hear from you if you:

1. Have been diagnosed with MS and, in particular, the primary progressive form of MS
2. Have had progressive symptoms for at least 12 months
3. Have never had relapses (i.e. do not have relapsing remitting or secondary progressive MS)

WHAT WILL YOUR PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

The study will analyse the DNA in blood samples donated by people with PPMS.

To participate in this important study please contact your local AusGene recruitment site:

| Location | Clinical contact | Telephone |
|------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Sydney | Therese Burke, Westmead Hospital | (02) 9845 7997 |
| Newcastle | Susan Agland, John Hunter Hospital | (02) 4985 5880 |
| Queensland | Susan Freeman, Griffith University | (07) 5678 0750 |
| Victoria | Mary Tanner, Royal Melbourne Hospital | (03) 9342 8070 |