

August 2022 Newsletter



August 2022 Research Spotlight

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Research opportunity information may be provided on behalf of an external organization. Please refer to the contact information within each listing to identify the contact for questions or comments.



Help Us Make Strides in MS Research!

Who Are We?

MedRhythms is a digital therapeutics company that uses music to improve walking.

How Can You Help?

We are developing a device for individuals with multiple sclerosis to improve mobility. **We are seeking volunteers with MS** to walk with the product and provide feedback.

Interested?

Please email AppliedResearch@medrhythms.com or call (207) 370-2812 to learn more!



**The University of North Texas Department of Kinesiology,
Health Promotion, and Recreation is conducting a Research
Study on Physical Activity Among Hispanic Persons with
Multiple Sclerosis**

The research will take place online.

You may be eligible if:

- You are over the age of 18
- You have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis
- You identify as Hispanic/Latino
- You speak English or Spanish as a primary language

You may qualify to participate in a research study examining physical activity thoughts and behavior in Hispanic adults with multiple sclerosis.

Participation in the study includes one online survey that will be completed in 20-30 minutes. Participation is voluntary. You will receive compensation after completing the survey if you provide an e-mail address.

Please use the link below to complete the survey and contact the Principal Investigator with any questions using the study title “Theoretical Correlates of Exercise Behavior Among Hispanics with MS” Stephanie L. Silveira Stephanie.silveira@unt.edu

Survey Link: https://unt.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1SogD4QwBBuvEc6



You are invited to participate in a research study comparing the effects of three diets!

You are invited to participate in a [research study](#) comparing the effects of three diets – the modified Paleolithic diet (elimination of gluten, dairy, and eggs), a Time Restricted Olive Oil-based Ketogenic diet or your usual diet with information about the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Participants in the usual diet group will be encouraged but not required to follow the Dietary Guidelines for Americans diet. Quality of life, fatigue, mood, and disease activity will be assessed by online surveys, study participant tasks, & brain imaging. The study will be held at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics over two years. It will consist of three visits to Iowa City, month 0, month 3, & month 24. Each visit can last approximately three and up to six hours.

What you will be asked to do at home while on your assigned study diet

- Follow one of the three study diets randomly assigned to you for 24 months
- Report changes in health and medications
- Eat more non-starchy vegetables
- Eat more home-cooked meals
- Take recommended dietary supplements
- Complete daily food logs (three questions) on a smart phone
- If you are assigned to the ketogenic diet, you must take a blood ketone measurement daily for the first month and then twice a week for the rest of the study
- Complete online surveys
- Watch videos, review study diet guides and meet via Zoom to learn your assigned study diet
- Attend optional online support groups

What you will be asked to do at each of three visits to UIHC

- Complete fasting blood draws
- Complete physical motor skills, cognitive assessment and visual function tasks
- Receive a non-contrast MRI brain scan at first and final end of study UIHC visit (Month 0 and 24)

Requirements to participate

- Diagnosis of relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)
- 18-70 years old
- Able to walk 25 feet without support or unilateral support
- Willingness to adopt any of the three study diets, including the control diet
- Willingness to share medical records for the two years of the study
- Do not have heart disease, liver disease, kidney disease, or type 1 diabetes
- Do not have serious psychiatric disease that would make adopting a study diet more difficult

- Are not taking insulin or coumadin
- Have a smart phone, tablet or iPad to download a free app
- Have access to high-speed internet and a computer or smart phone to participate in video conferences via Zoom and complete online patient surveys
- Commitment to completing surveys for two years and attending the end of study visit

COMMON QUESTIONS

Do I need to live within a specific mile radius of Iowa City?

No, however, if travel funds are needed, we may be able to help. We can offer a travel stipend to support some travel expenses to and from Iowa City. Please speak with us about your needs. We also offer stipends to participants for attending the site visits and for completing the required online surveys.

Can I pick the diet I want to follow?

We ask that you follow the diet assigned to you. If following your assigned diet becomes difficult contact the study team for assistance.

Can I be in the study if I am in another MS-related study?

If you are in an interventional study investigating drugs, exercise, or other wellness behaviors you cannot be in this study. If you are in an observation-only study, you can still be in this study if you are willing to follow any of the three diets.

If you're interested in taking our screening survey, please visit the link below or scan the QR code with your phone:

⇒ <https://redcap.icts.uiowa.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=JX73EYRJNPF9MHRR>



If you have questions, please contact us at

⇒ MSDietStudy@healthcare.uiowa.edu



A study looking at language usage among people with disabilities – all adults with disabilities are welcome to participate!

What is the study about?

This research attempts to gather evidence on the preference between identity-first and person-first language by and for people with disabilities. The lead researcher is a graduate student in the University of Washington's department of Computer Science and Engineering as a member of multiple labs focused on accessibility in computing.

Why participate?

The topic of language preference has been discussed often, but often while excluding community and individual perspectives. The research data gathered will help to work towards more consistent respectful language usage in future projects. Participants will contribute to a public website that features a visualization that explores the ways different backgrounds (age, country, gender) may or may not affect language preference.

Who can participate?

All people with disabilities over the age of 18 who have access to and can use a computer and access to the internet are welcome to participate.

How to participate:

Follow this link: <https://bit.ly/disability-language-survey> to access our participant survey. It should take around 5 minutes to complete.



**Your health data
has power!**

A new topic for the Our Questions Have Power program!

When it comes to MS symptoms and how to manage them, what questions are most important to you? What symptom-related topics do you wish researchers were studying? **Your questions are valuable** and we invite you to share them through the **Our Questions Have Power** program on the [iConquerMS](#) website.

[The Our Questions Have Power program](#) was launched in March 2021 with an initial focus on COVID-19. Questions submitted by iConquerMS members have helped shape the [COVER-MS vaccination study](#) and are being shared with the research community to guide other efforts.

We're now extending Our Questions Have Power to include a second topic: **MS symptoms and their management and treatment**. As before, you're invited to share questions on this topic that you think should be studied and to vote on questions submitted by other iConquerMS members. We'll share these questions with people affected by MS, researchers, healthcare professionals, advocates, and funders – and, together, we'll work to launch research studies to answer those questions.

It's easy to share your ideas and input in Our Questions Have Power!

Log in to iConquerMS to start (create an account first if you don't already have one).

Click **PROPOSE an MS Research Question** to submit a question you'd like to see studied.

Click **VOTE and COMMENT on MS Research Questions** to review, comment, and vote on questions submitted by other iConquerMS members.