

Hello Prospective AVM Study Participant,

Thank you for your interest in our study! Major advances in medicine rely on voluntary participation and I am exceedingly thankful for your time. This message is intended to provide you with more information about our study and detailed inclusion criteria.

The genetics of AVMs are poorly understood, and many theories currently exist with regards to their development, including the hypothesis that their development begins early in gestation. We are actively recruiting patients with brain or spinal cord AVMs and their families. Participants must have a formal diagnosis based on imaging.

**If you are interested in participating, all we need is the information underlined at the bottom** so that we can proceed to mail a FedEx package to your home which will include: 1. Mouth swab kits; 2. Copies of all documents and consent forms for you to sign and return; 3. An enclosed return envelope with a pre-paid label.

We mail mouth swab kits to families with an affected patient, and if possible, both available parents who are willing to provide a mouth swab DNA sample. If the affected patient has siblings willing to participate, they can send their samples as well. This is optional, but preferable, since it makes the genetic analysis easier and more robust. Proper collection is very important. Samples that are not collected properly will have to be discarded! Then we analyze the DNA you send us using a technique called Whole Exome Sequencing, which allows us to read an individual's unique genetic code. This allows us to identify any alterations to an individual's DNA that may have caused or contributed to the development of the AVM.

**It is also extremely important that we receive copies of any available imaging. It would be ideal for families to include a CD or a thumb drive with the most important brain images of the AVM participant, including MRI scans, CT scans, etc. The more information we have for each case, the better! This CD or thumb drive should be included in the prepaid return FedEx envelope with the paperwork and mouth swabs.**

**If you are interested in participating, please email [vgam\\_genetics@yale.edu](mailto:vgam_genetics@yale.edu) with the following information:**

1. Mailing Address or Addresses where the swabs and paperwork will be sent
2. Active contact telephone number
3. Full Names and Ages of participants at each address that will provide DNA samples in your household
4. Previously referred to genetics? If so, findings?

Thank you again for expressing interest in our study. Our study currently has very promising results and with the help of families like yours, we hope to move the field of AVM research forward! Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns by emailing us at [vgam\\_genetics@yale.edu](mailto:vgam_genetics@yale.edu) or by calling our lab phone line below.

Sincerely,  
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