

Study Invitation Letter

Date: 01/01/2025

Subject: Invitation to Participate - Pharmacogenomics of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI)-Induced Behavioural Activation in Children and Adolescents (PGx-SImBA)

My name is **Abdullah Al Maruf**, and I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba College of Pharmacy. **Dr. Laurence Katz** (Medical Director, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Health Sciences Centre Site and a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Manitoba) and I are conducting a research study looking at the link between genes and the side effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressants, and we would like to invite you to participate.

Major depressive disorder, anxiety disorders, and obsessive-compulsive disorder are among the most common mental illnesses in children. Antidepressants, such as the SSRIs are frequently prescribed for these children. However, some children treated with these drugs experience side effects as a result of taking the drug, commonly referred to as "behavioural activation", which may include agitation, irritability, insomnia, impulsivity, or thoughts of self-harm. Despite their best efforts, it is often difficult for doctors to accurately predict which SSRI antidepressants will be associated with these side effects in a given child. The proposed project aims to identify a panel of genetic variants that could assist clinicians in detecting children at risk of developing this adverse effect. The study is funded by the Health Sciences Centre Foundation, the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM), and the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba.

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to complete a survey (which will take approximately half an hour) with the help of your parents and donate a small sample of saliva (one-fifth of a teaspoon) for genetic testing.

Of course, participation is optional, and your choice to participate will not in any way affect the quality of your medical care. Additionally, all data collected during our study will be kept confidential. Your genetic information will NOT be linked to any information that could be used to identify you and will only be available to the people involved in the research study. Although the results of this study may be published or presented at conferences, your identity will never be revealed. Finally, you may withdraw from this study at any time.

Please see the attached study poster to see if you are eligible to participate. You will be compensated for your time participating in the study.

To learn more about the study, please visit <https://www.maruf-lab.org/pgx-simba.html> or contact our Research Coordinator, XYZ, at pharmpgxlab@umanitoba.ca or call **204-318-2575**.

This study has been approved by the University of Manitoba Health Research Ethics Board (No#.....).

Sincerely,



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List of SSRI antidepressants: Citalopram [Celexa], Escitalopram [Cipralext], Fluoxetine [Prozac], Fluvoxamine [Luvox], Sertraline [Zoloft], Paroxetine [Paxil/Paxil/Plaxil CR].