

## Adolescent & Young Adult Twins General Study Information

This document is to give you some *general* information about the study we will be contacting or will have contacted you about. Much of this information will be discussed in our phone conversation with you about the study.

### *Who is doing this research and why is the study needed?*

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has provided grant funding to Dr. Roxann Roberson-Nay to research the development of internalizing disorders (IDs), such as anxiety and depression. This is important because IDs impact a large portion of our population and thus society. While advances have been made on finding ways to treat these conditions there is still much that is not known about why some individuals develop IDs as well as why some with IDs seem to experience longer bouts and more intense anxiety and depression than others. Improved research techniques now offer researchers opportunities for an even deeper level of understanding about ID development. Specifically, this study is being conducted to learn more about the genes and other factors that could influence the likelihood of someone developing an internalizing disorder. To help accomplish this, the researchers are inviting parents/legal guardians and their twins, ages 15 through 20 years old, to participate in this study (participation can continue through 23 years of age). The researchers hope that information gained by your participation will provide groundbreaking insights into how and why some individuals develop internalizing disorders. They ultimately hope that their findings will lead to improved treatment programs and potentially to the development of early interventions to prevent or minimize the severity of internalizing disorders.

### *Who can participate?*

- Full pairs of Caucasian twins currently within the age range of 15 through 23 years old, *living at home with their parents/legal guardians*
- Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) of the twin pairs (*required* for juvenile twins, *optional* for adult (18+) twins)

### *What does participation involve?*

- *All levels of participation are voluntary.*
- Complete a phone call with a MATR Interviewer—this call will include more information about study participation, a set of questions for parents to answer about their adolescent twins (or adult twins to answer about themselves) to determine study eligibility (includes questions about health, learning, medications, personality/moods), and telling the MATR whether or not you'd be interested in learning more from the study staff.
- If willing and eligible following the MATR call, the participants would need to come to VCU to complete the study (which takes about 4 to 5 hours). Note: directions to the site and parking which is typically next to building (or within a block's walk) will be provided.
  - Study tasks for parents generally includes: providing consent & answering questionnaires about your twins; there is also an optional questionnaire about the parents themselves.
  - Study tasks for twins include: answering questionnaires, participating in computer-based tasks that will test: startle reflex, frustration levels, ability to read emotions in others, etc. There will also be tasks to measure stress response which includes: speaking in front of others and a breathing task where researchers change the concentration of normal compounds in air. Researchers will also collect a few physiological measures like heart rate, skin conductance, and measures of stress-related hormones in your saliva, etc. They will also request an optional blood sample from you for obtaining your DNA/RNA. *Remember—all tasks are voluntary!*

### *How does compensation work?*

- Amounts vary and depend upon the study tasks completed; amounts range from \$10.00 to \$100.00.
- Generally though, if all or most tasks are completed, compensation could *add up to* \$170.00 per twin and *up to* \$20 to \$70 for parent(s).
- Families that travel more than 30 miles to the research site will also be reimbursed the allowable State mileage rate per mile at the time of travel to help with travel costs. Also, if major tolls (costing \$10.00 or more) are necessary, then study will reimburse the toll cost.

This information is just to provide an overview of some of the topics that you and your twins may be interested in knowing about prior to completing a phone call with a MATR Interviewer. We will be contacting you soon by phone to discuss this further and to see if you might be willing to allow the study staff to contact you about participation.