MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS is a complex and debilitating neuroimmunological and neurodegenerative genetic disease affecting more than 400,000 people in the United States. MS is one of the most common acquired diseases of the central nervous system in young adults. Studies on different populations suggest that the risk of developing MS is about 1 in 1,000. The risk for the sibling of a person with MS is 20 to 40 times higher. There is strong evidence that both genetic and environmental factors contribute to MS. Genes associated with MS are not themselves abnormal. In fact, some of them may be advantageous to have. However, in certain combinations, these normal genes appear to predispose some individuals to develop MS.

Members of the HIHG have recently been involved in research efforts that have led to the first breakthroughs in the genetics of this disease in over 20 years. With your help we hope to untangle the additional complexities of MS, so that we can improve treatments and outcomes.

For additional information on this study or how to enroll your family in this study, please contact:
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS RESEARCH
PO BOX 019132 (M-860) | MIAMI, FL 33101
877-686-6444
www.hihg.org

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL YOUR FAMILY IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY.

This study is conducted with support from the National Institutes of Health (2R01NS049477 and 5R01NS032830) and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society South Florida Chapter.

This University of Miami IRB-approved (20070744) research study is conducted in accordance with Federal guidelines and current US laws.
WHAT IS OUR RESEARCH GOAL?
HIHG researchers, with support from the South Florida Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, are working to better understand the disease process by discovering the genetic factors that contribute to multiple sclerosis. Understanding the genetic causes of multiple sclerosis will pave the way for improvements in diagnosis and prevention as well as the development of better treatments and therapies.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?
In order to identify these genetic factors we require the participation of a large number of individuals. If you, a family member, or friend has been diagnosed with MS, we invite you to join our research studies.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
• Individuals diagnosed with MS
• Parents or siblings of the individual with MS
• Friends or caregivers who have not been diagnosed with MS to serve as healthy controls

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?
Participants will be asked to:
• Read and sign a consent form
• Provide a blood sample
• Participate in a family and medical history interview
• Grant research staff permission to review the medical records of the individual(s) with MS
• Clinical examination specific to MS of the individual(s) with MS

DO FAMILIES GET STUDY RESULTS?
Although we are unable to provide individual results, you will receive a yearly newsletter that describes our research progress and discoveries related to multiple sclerosis.

STUDY PARTICIPATION FACTS
• Participation is voluntary
• All information is confidential
• There is no cost to participate
• Travel to the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine is optional, but not required
• Joining the study will not affect your healthcare or insurance

THE RESEARCH TEAM
To make this research project a success, we need many people with different areas of expertise. Individuals, families, physicians, neurologists, and human geneticists are all working together to find the genes that cause MS.

Our team is led by Margaret A. Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., HIHG Director and co-investigator of this study. Jacob L. McCauley, Ph.D., and Silvia R. Delgado, M.D., are key investigators for this project. Members of the HIHG lead the field in identifying the genetic variants that underlie common human disease. They have identified genes for more than 60 human illnesses, including neurological disorders, cardiovascular diseases, and eye diseases.

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER
877-686-6444