

IRAS ID: 332591

Pregnancy and Methylation changes in Multiple Sclerosis (PaMMS)

We are doing a study to understand why MS disease tends to get temporarily better during pregnancy. For this study we need women with MS who are pregnant as well as those who are not pregnant and have never had children. If you would like to participate, we will ask for three things from you:

1. We will ask you a few questions about you, your MS disease and any previous pregnancies you may have had.
2. We will ask pregnant participants for five tubes of blood (approximately three tablespoons) at three different time points; early pregnancy (~10-20 weeks gestation), late pregnancy (~30-35 weeks gestation) and one 4-12 weeks after the baby is born. Non-pregnant controls will be asked for four tubes of blood taken at similar intervals (approximately every three months).

(In the unlikely event that we cannot successfully draw blood on the day we will ask you to instead do a finger prick blood sample or a sample using a Tasso device – this is a small device that can be placed on the upper arm and releases tiny lancets into the skin to allow collection of a small amount of blood (several drops))

3. Access to your medical records so we can look up details of how and when you were diagnosed with MS and what treatments you have had.

You will need to take part in three study visits if you participate. We will always try to make this at a convenient time and location, and wherever possible, we will try to coordinate it with bloods you are having taken for your routine MS or antenatal care. If either of our London based study sites (Royal London Hospital or Wolfson Institute of Population Health) is not convenient for you, we can arrange a home visit.

We will analyse how your DNA is marked and packaged and how this changes across pregnancy (or equivalent time points in non-pregnant controls). We will also look at how the numbers of different immune cells change throughout pregnancy and how this relates to pregnancy related hormones.

All of your information will be secure and stored in accordance with privacy and data security regulations.

This study is being organised by Prof Ruth Dobson at the Wolfson Institute of Population Health, Queen Mary University London (ruth.dobson@qmul.ac.uk). Further information about this study can be obtained by contacting Dr Nikki Vickaryous on telephone no 020 7882 3532 or email the study team at: PaMMS@qmul.ac.uk