



Black & African American
Connections to
Parkinson's Disease Study

BLAAC PD Bulletin

Volume 3

A newsletter for study participants

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About BLAAC PD

Black and African American Connections to Parkinson's Disease (BLAAC PD) is a research study. It collects information on health, disease and genes. The study aims to learn more about gene changes that may cause Parkinson's in Black and African American people. BLAAC PD is happening at sites around the United States.

The study is part of the Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2). GP2 is a research project working to transform understanding of Parkinson's genetics.

BLAAC PD by the Numbers



**800 participants
enrolled**



11 sites



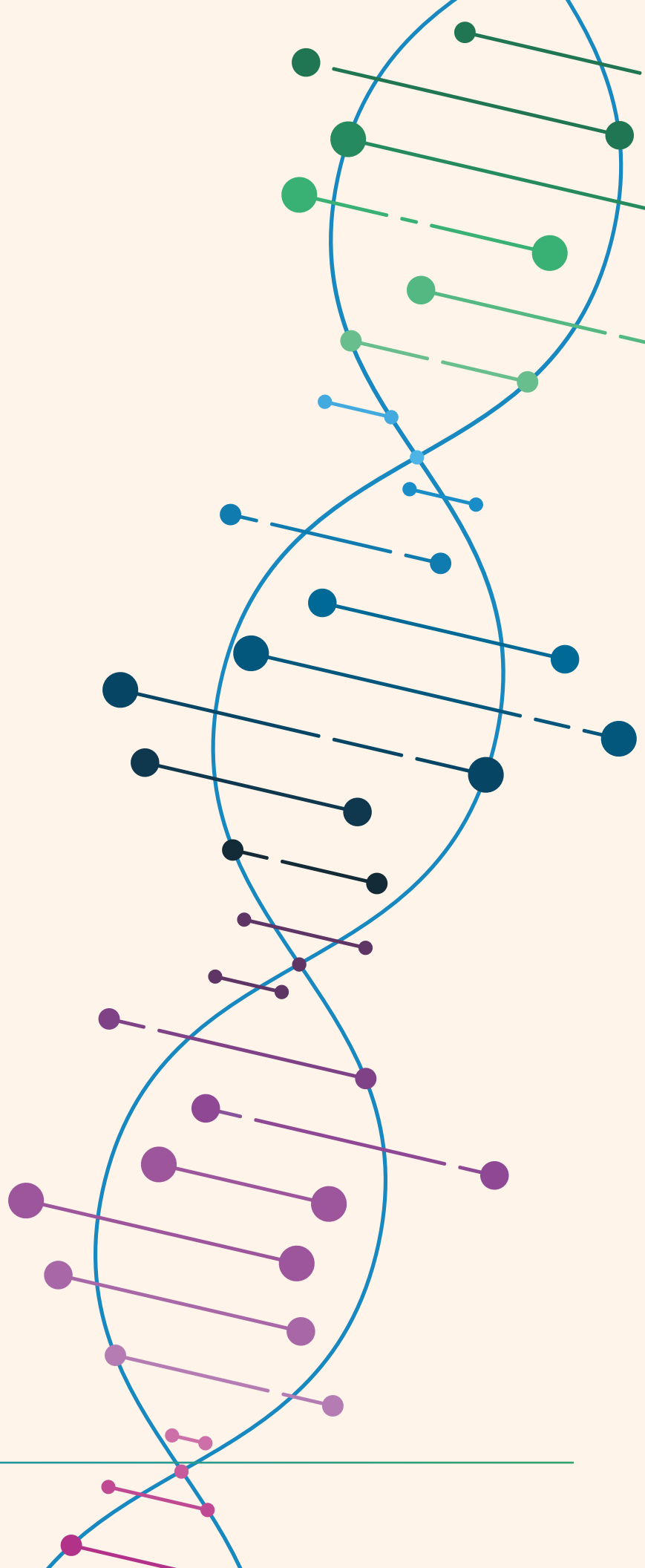
**Goal to recruit
2,000 participants**

BLAAC PD Continues to Spread Awareness

The BLAAC PD study protocol—the road map of the study—has recently been published in a well-known and respected journal called *BMC Neurology*. This international journal is dedicated to the understanding and prevention of diseases like Parkinson's.

Historically, Black and African American people have not been represented in Parkinson's disease (PD) research. This lack of diversity led to limited knowledge about gene changes that may cause Parkinson's in Black and African American people.

The publication of the BLAAC PD study protocol in such a notable journal contributes to better understanding of PD in a more diverse population.



Tips From an Expert

Navigating brain health could be challenging. Dr. Rachel Dolhun, principal medical advisor at The Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF) is here to help. MJFF is a partner of BLAAC PD.

In her Ask the MD series, Dr. Dolhun shares tips and discusses Parkinson's research and care through blogs and videos.

Explore content related to exercise, nutrition, improving symptoms, and new treatment options. Head to Dr. Dolhun's blog to see the latest tips at michaeljfox.org/ask-md.

GP2 on the Map

The BLAAC PD study is part of the Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2). GP2 aims to gather genetic information from people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. GP2 is working around the world and right here in the United States with multiple BLAAC PD sites around the country.



The goal of GP2 is to collect samples from groups that have been underrepresented in genetics research. Learn more at gp2.org.

Partnering With Communities to Bring PD Research to the Forefront

Research has shown that, due to historical exclusion from research studies and limited access to healthcare, African Americans are less likely to be diagnosed with PD. If they do receive a Parkinson's diagnosis, it is often when the disease is already in its later stages. This alarming disparity has fueled the need for increased awareness of PD in the African American community.

This is why MJFF has partnered with The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI). This collaboration is expected to raise awareness of Parkinson's research among NBCI's 27.7 million members of the Black community.

You can spread the word too! BLAAC PD is grateful for your dedication to participating in this essential research. Use our toolkit to help spread the word and encourage your community to get involved in this important study: <https://bit.ly/42uSfbl>.

Your Parkinson's support group could also be a great resource for welcoming more people into the study. To learn how to share BLAAC PD with your support group, please email us at patientengagement@michaeljfox.org.

Together, we can change the future of this disease.



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GP2 is a resource of the Aligning Science Across Parkinson's initiative and implemented by The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

blaacpd.org