

Five Facts about Clinical Research Participation



1 Volunteers Are Key Research Partners

People with and without brain disease are needed in research studies. Scientists need your partnership to understand, measure, predict, stop and prevent disease. Every treatment that exists today is the direct result of individuals raising their hands to volunteer for research.

2 There Is a Study (or Several) for You

Clinical research involves studies conducted with human volunteers. Some test new treatments while others may simply track your health. There are lots of options for people who want to help advance research.

3 Not Every Study Tests a Drug

Observational studies do not test new drugs or treatments. Instead, researchers examine (observe) participants' health over a certain time period.

The Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI) is a landmark observational study from The Michael J. Fox Foundation.

PPMI follows participants over time to learn more about how disease starts and changes. Some volunteers share data online. Others have tests and share biological samples at one of 50+ participating medical centers around the world.

4 Participation Brings Risks and Benefits

Joining a research study is your choice. Individuals may choose to participate in a study for a variety of reasons. You can choose to leave at any time.

PPMI takes place with expert medical teams at top medical centers. There is no cost to participate, and the study covers all travel costs for you and a study companion. Joining the study does not mean you need to stop seeing your doctor.

5 Your Safety Is Top Priority

Safeguards are in place to minimize risk in research studies. Researchers must have all study plans and materials approved by an outside committee of experts.

In addition, PPMI follows practices to keep your identity private and your data secure.

Learn more about PPMI — the study that's changing everything — at michaeljfox.org/ppmi.

Want a more in-depth look at what is involved in clinical research participation? Read more at michaeljfox.org/participate.