

## Study Advert

# Volunteers wanted for genetic study of rare drug side effects.

Volunteers are being sought for a worldwide study investigating the genetics of a rare side effect of 5-aminosalicylate drugs.

5-aminosalicylate drugs are frequently prescribed to treat patients with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. . Drugs in this group include Asacol, Pentasa, Mesren, Salofalk, Mezavant, Ipocol, Colazide, Dipentum, and Salazopyrin. For the vast majority of patients these drugs are effective at controlling symptoms, and side effects are rare and usually mild. Unfortunately a tiny minority of patients develop more serious side effects. These include kidney damage, a rare unpredictable side effect of treatment with 5-aminosalicylate drugs. At present we do not know why this happens.

Recent evidence suggests that side effects to some drugs may be determined by our genes (the basic building blocks of life). This purpose of this study is to identify the genes which determine kidney damage caused by 5-aminosalicylate drugs. It is hoped that we might then be able to develop a test to predict which patients will develop these serious side effect before patients are treated.

This study builds on the highly successful research of the UK and international IBD genetics consortia in identifying more than 90 genes for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. The study is led by UK Gastroenterologists and is supported by the International serious adverse events consortium and the National Institute for health service research.

We are looking for 200 volunteers with ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease, aged over 18, who have developed kidney damage following the use of any of these 5-aminosalicylate drugs. Volunteers will be asked to complete a short questionnaire, donate a blood or saliva sample for DNA analyses and give permission to allow review of their medical notes.

People interested in volunteering for the study should contact Dr Ahmad on 01392 XXXXXX or by email at tariq.ahmad@rdefn.nhs.uk