

Volume 2

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NEWS

A Newsletter for the Familial Intracranial
Aneurysm Study

What is the FIA Study?

The Familial Intracranial Aneurysm Study is a collaborative research effort of neurologist and neurosurgeons throughout the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The goal of the study is to identify genes and other risk factors that may be important in the development of an aneurysm in the blood vessels of the brain.

The FIA Study is sponsored by the National Institute of Neurologic Diseases and Stroke, and will enroll 475 families. To participate in this study, families must have two or more affected pairs of siblings (brothers/sisters) or 3 or more family members affected with intracranial aneurysms. Participation is voluntary. There will be no monetary compensation to family members for their participation, however, there will be funds available for travel reimbursement, if necessary.

The coordinating center is located at the University of Cincinnati, with 26 study centers throughout the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Within these centers there are over 40 institutions identifying and enrolling families.

We thank the many families currently participating in the FIA Study. Without your participation, this project would not be possible. We are always looking for additional families to assist us in reaching our goal.

A Message from the Principal Investigator

Dr. Joseph Broderick

As the overall principle investigator for the FIA Study, I wanted to extend the great appreciation of all of our study investigators for your participation in this extremely important study that is designed to find the gene or genes that predispose people to develop brain aneurysms. Already over 1800 persons have completed interviews and provided blood samples for this study. Because of the excellent participation from many families around the world, we are ahead of schedule. It is likely that within the next year we will begin to identify the regions of the human chromosomes that



contain genes that may increase the risk of brain aneurysms. This will be the first step to identify the actual gene or genes themselves.

While genes may be an important, everyone can decrease their risk of brain aneurysm now by stopping smoking. Nearly 80% of persons who have a brain aneurysm have been a smoker. That makes smoking one of the strongest risk factors for any disease. If you need help to stop smoking, please contact your primary MD and get started now.

As we make progress, we will keep you updated. Thanks again for being such a dedicated and public-service minded group of individuals who are helping to understand and prevent brain aneurysms.

For information pertaining to the FIA study , please contact:

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45267
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Email: laura.sauerbeck@uc.edu

To find a recruiting site near you, visit the study website at www.med.uc.edu/neurology/FIA or www.clinicaltrials.gov



Meet The Mayo Clinic

The Mayo Clinic is the FIA imaging center, as well as one of the FIA Study 26 recruitment sites.



Dr. David Weibers (left), **Dr. Robert D. Brown** (center) and **Dr. Irene Meissner** (right) are Mayo Clinic Staff Neurologists specializing in cerebrovascular diseases. Dr. Brown is the Principal Investigator for the Study at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Weibers and Dr. Meissner are Co-Investigators.



Mandie Maronie-Smith, (left) is a MRI Registered Technologist at the Mayo Clinic. She receives all the Magnetic Resonance Imaging films from each FIA site and coordinates the reading and results reporting. **Lynda Jaeger** LPN (right), is the Mayo Clinic site coordinator for the FIA Study. Lynda is responsible for the study enrollment and follow-up of families entered into the study at Mayo .



Dr. John Huston (left) and **Dr. David Kallmes** (right) are staff neuroradiologists at Mayo Clinic. They read the MRA films sent from all study sites and report the results to the Coordinating Center at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Huston is a member of the FIA Study Steering Committee and Executive Committee.

Important Facts

- ◆ Risk factors for developing an aneurysm include smoking, hypertension and family history.
- ◆ Aneurysm ruptures occur most often in people 40 and 60 years of age.
- ◆ It is believed that 1% to 5% of the population may have an unruptured brain aneurysm.
- ◆ The annual cost of care for treating a ruptured aneurysm in the US is \$1.7 billion.

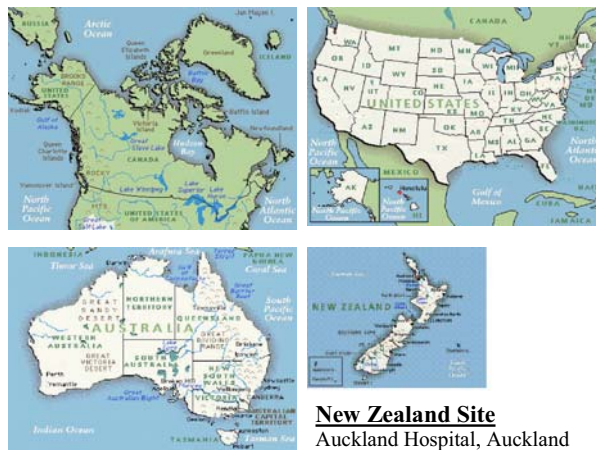
FIA Sites

Canadian Sites

London Health Sciences, London, Ontario
Univ. of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Notre Dame Hospital, Montreal, Quebec
Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, Ontario,

Australian Sites

Royal Perth Hospital, Perth
Sir Charles Gairdenr Hospital, Nedlands
Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide
Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne
Alfred Hospital, Prahran
Royal North Shore, St. Leonards
Westmead Hospital, Westmead
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown



United States Sites

Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
UMDNJ, Newark, NJ
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Columbia University, New York, NY
Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Univ. of Texas, Houston, TX
Indianapolis Neuro Group, IN
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore, MD
Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Stanford University, Stanford, CA
UCSF, San Francisco, CA
USC, Los Angeles, CA
Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Uni. of Washington, Seattle, WA
Uni. of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
Brigham & Women's, Boston, MA
Mass General, Boston, MA
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Washington University, St. Louis, MO

New Zealand Site

Auckland Hospital, Auckland

Informative Web Sites: www.strokeassociation.org,
www.stroke.org, www.bafound.org