



November 2009

Dear Physician:

Your patient wishes to participate in our research study intended to develop markers to screen subjects with a history of chemical exposure for nervous system injury. The research study will be carried out in the Laboratory of Neurotoxicology, Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, at Duke University Medical Center.

We are interested in collecting blood samples from people who are healthy, people who have been exposed to certain chemicals, and people who have problems with their nervous system. The purpose of this study is to test the subject's blood for auto-antibodies against neuronal-specific proteins. Based on previous work, we think that the amount of certain antibodies in subject's blood may relate to diseases people get that result from chemicals to which they had been exposed. We hope the results of this study will help us understand the way diseases of the nervous system develop, and any similarity or relationship this has to exposure to chemicals.

If you choose to help us with this study, we ask you provide a copy of the accompanying letter and consent to potential subjects. If they agree to participate we would like you to write a blood draw order for the serum from a centrifuged 7 ml sample of clotted blood and provide any available chemical exposure data and clinical records of the subjects to help in the assessment of the subject's condition as it relates to the presence of neuronal-specific antibodies.

Medical information, test results, and identifying information will be maintained to the fullest extent allowed by law. The information related to this study will be kept in my locked files. Names or other identifying information will not be used in any report, scientific publication, or presentation of the results of this study.

The test tubes containing sera and should be frozen and packed in dry ice and shipped together with the clinical information by express mail to my laboratory:

Mohamed B. Abou-Donia, Ph.D.  
Department of Pharmacology  
LaSalle Street Extension  
LSRC Building, Room C 173  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, NC 27710

If you have any further questions, Please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Mohamed B. Abou-Donia, Ph.D.  
Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology  
Phone: 919-684-2221  
Fax: 919-681-8224  
E-Mail: [donia@duke.edu](mailto:donia@duke.edu)