Solicitation to Participate in a Research Study
Smith College ● Northampton, MA

Title of Study: Inversion polymorphism and linkage disequilibrium in Xq28

Investigator(s): Robert B. Merritt, Biological Sciences (3819); Steven A. Williams, Biological Sciences (3826); Lou Ann Bierwert, Biological Sciences (3804); Cait Kirby (5463); Jessica Magri (6256); Jessica Haskins

Hello,

I am a researcher at Smith College analyzing a portion of the X chromosome and I am requesting your help in finding out more about this region. To help me, all you'll need to do is swab the inside of your cheeks (one soft swab per cheek) to provide me with a DNA sample. This should cause no harm or pain to you. Our research protocol has been approved by The Smith Institutional Research Board (IRB).

We will assign a random number to your DNA sample, and your identity will not be connected to it so you will remain anonymous. The only information I will retain is your biological sex and ancestry. This information is relevant to the study and will only be used to determine if there is a connection between ancestry and variation on the X chromosome. The phenomenon we are studying is not linked to any medical outcomes and the data will not be used in a stigmatizing fashion.

The results of your DNA test will be kept in a coded file that will be password protected. Your DNA contribution will be used for this study and this study alone, and it will be discarded once the study is complete.

If you are interested in participating but have questions, please contact me at ckirby@smith.edu or my undergraduate research assistant at imagri@smith.edu. If you would like to sign up to participate, please use the link attached to this email.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Best,

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