

# JOIN THE MID-ATLANTIC CANCER GENETICS NETWORK!

Do you have a personal or family history of cancer and would like to help doctors and researchers learn more about genes and cancer? If the answer is yes, the Mid-Atlantic Cancer Genetics Network (MACGN) invites your help!

MACGN is part of a national network of centers with special interest in the study of genes and cancer. Sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, it is one of eight regional cancer genetics centers around the country. MACGN is located at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. The network serves as a resource to promote hereditary cancer research, move new research findings into medical practice, and address the associated emotional, ethical, legal, and public health issues.

The network builds on the recent identification of genes linked to inherited cancers and will help researchers answer many questions about genes and cancer. Issues to be explored include:

- What environmental factors may interact with genes to cause cancer?
- Why are some families more likely to develop cancer?
- How can genetic discoveries be used to prevent cancer?

## CLUES TO HEREDITARY CANCER

- Blood relatives with cancer(s)
- Family members with *same* type cancer
- Cancer before age 50
- Cancer(s) in more than one generation

## BENEFITS FOR PATIENTS AND PUBLIC

The national network may be the largest collaboration dedicated to the study of cancer genetics. As part of this network, MACGN invites people at increased risk of cancer (have a personal or family history of cancer) to join! Members are updated regularly on the most recent developments in cancer genetics and notified of special research studies for which they may be eligible. All information is kept confidential.

## BENEFITS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Working with health care professionals across the Mid-Atlantic region, MACGN provides referrals to cancer specialists, including those who provide genetic counseling and testing. MACGN provides updates of cancer genetics information and research resources through public and professional education via a Web site, quarterly newsletter, speakers' bureau, and continuing medical education.

## BENEFITS FOR RESEARCHERS

When a study begins, eligible individuals from the network will be invited to participate on a voluntary basis. This approach facilitates the research process more quickly, and volunteers from the eight network centers make it possible to have enough study participants to answer important questions. Researchers also have a greater opportunity to collaborate with other health care providers with the same research interests.

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If you would like to learn more about MACGN and participate in the network, call 1-877-880-6188 (toll-free) or visit our Web site at [www.MACGN.org](http://www.MACGN.org).

