

# UNRAVELING CANCER GENETICS...

Many individuals have questions and concerns about the significance of a family history of cancer. Scientists and researchers have an array of proposed studies that focus on genetic susceptibility of cancer. Blend these two groups together and you have the primary goals of the Mid-Atlantic Cancer Genetics Network (MACGN): Access, Research, and Education!

Established in 1998, MACGN is part of a national network of cancer genetics centers learning more about the genetic basis of cancer susceptibility and translating this new knowledge to patient care. Sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, it is one of eight centers around the country. MACGN is located at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

The network has established a registry, or listing, of individuals with a personal or family history of cancer. These individuals may be invited to join as potential participants in studies that will address issues such as:

- Prevalence of inherited mutations of familial cancer genes in different populations
- Determinants of cancer development in individuals with inherited mutations
- Environmental exposures that interact with genes to cause cancer
- Psychological, ethical, legal, and public health issues
- Translation of findings into cancer prevention strategies

## 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 facilitates the exchange of cancer genetics information and research resources through public and professional education via a Web site, quarterly newsletter, speakers' bureau, and continuing medical education conferences.

## BENEFITS FOR RESEARCHERS

When a study is initiated, a group of eligible individuals from the registry will be invited to participate. This approach speeds the research recruitment process and provides volunteers from all eight cancer genetics centers. Addi-

tionally, the national network supports pilot studies in cancer genetics and fosters collaborative research among the participating centers and researchers outside of the network. Investigators at each of the centers can apply for funding for collaborative projects in cancer genetics.

## BENEFITS FOR PATIENTS AND PUBLIC

Registry members are updated on recent developments in cancer genetics and notified of special research studies for which they may be eligible. Member information will be kept confidential. As a part of this network, MACGN invites people with a personal or family history of cancer to join the registry of potential study participants. By being a part of the network, individuals will be an important partner in the battle against cancer!

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For more information on MACGN, call toll-free 1-877-880-6188. Visit us on the Web at [www.MACGN.org](http://www.MACGN.org).

