

University of South Florida Asthma, Allergy, & Immunology Clinical Research Unit

Recruitment Newsletter– June 2021

This newsletter features the state-of-the-art Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine Clinical Research Unit. First studies were done in 1977 and it has been in operation since that time.

Who we are

Established in 1977, the Clinical Research unit's main goal is to bring together basic and clinical scientists who translate bench and clinical research into improved treatment of patients who suffer from asthma and allergic and immunologic diseases. All studies performed are done under the supervision of the physicians and the staff and approved by the University's Human Research Committee.

What we do

Over the past 44 years, the Clinical Research faculty has conducted over 500 Phase I-IV clinical trials and established a working relationship with more than 40 pharmaceutical sponsors, NIH, ALA, VA and many other funding sources. We conduct pharmaceutical industry sponsored studies, divisional clinical research projects and federal and non-federal grant funded clinical research projects and are affiliated with various institutions in the Tampa Bay Area including the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa General Hospital, the University of South Florida Morsani Center for Advanced Healthcare, and All Children's Hospital.

COVID-19 Vaccine Volunteers Needed!

USF and the NIAID are investigating if people with a history of serious allergic reactions or those with mast cell disorders are more at risk of having a reaction after receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and to determine what factors may promote allergic reactions to the vaccines. Participants will receive either Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Patients may qualify if:

- Age 12-69 years old
- Have not previously received any dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- History of severe allergic reaction to food(s), allergen immunotherapy, drugs, vaccines, or insect venom(s) within the past 15 years requiring epinephrine or ER visit

OR

- No history of allergic disorders other than mild allergic rhinitis

Please contact Renee Smith at catherinesmith@usf.edu for more info.





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Currently Recruiting Studies:

Asthma



PrecISE is a clinical study sponsored by the NHLBI to investigate how to treat different types of severe asthma by using biomarker-treatment pairs for precision medicine. This is a first ever adaptive design asthma trial.

Patients may qualify if:

- Adults with moderate to severe persistent asthma
- Prescribed a stable dose of ICS + second controller/ biologic medication

Contact Renee at catherinesmith@usf.edu

Allergic Rhinitis

Dr. Amber Pepper, MD is conducting a research study to investigate if using a MoleKule air purifier can help asthma and allergy sufferers.

Patients may qualify if:

- Age 18-65 years
- Diagnosis of both asthma and allergic rhinitis
- Living with a pet which they are allergic to

Contact Renee at catherinesmith@usf.edu

Allergic Fungal Rhinosinusitis

Dr. Seong Cho, MD is conducting a research study to determine the efficacy and safety of dupilumab for the treatment of Allergic Fungal Rhinosinusitis.

Patients may qualify if:

- Must be at least 12 years old
- Have a diagnosis of AFRS and nasal polyps
- Prior surgery for allergic fungal rhinosinusitis >6 months

Contact Tiffani at tiffanik@usf.edu

Chronic Rhinosinusitis

Dr. Seong Cho, MD is conducting a research study evaluating the efficacy of dupilumab in patients with chronic rhinosinusitis without nasal polyps.

Patients may qualify if:

- 18 years or older
- Diagnosis of CRS without Nasal Polyps
- Blood eosinophils ≥ 200
- No prior use of dupilumab

Contact Tiffani at tiffanik@usf.edu

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Currently Recruiting Studies:

House Dust mite Allergy

Dr. Richard Lockey is conducting a research study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a house dust mite SLIT-tablet in children

Patients may qualify if:

- Age 5-11 years
- Diagnosis of a house dust mite allergy with symptomatic allergic rhinitis or rhinoconjunctivitis
- Cannot have any other perennial allergies

Contact Renee at catherinesmith@usf.edu

Epinephrine

Dr. Richard Lockey is conducting a research study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a nasal epinephrine product for children and young adults with significant allergies

Patients may qualify if:

- Age 4-17 years
- Currently prescribed an epinephrine product for Type 1 allergies

Contact Michelle at mtwitmyer@usf.edu

Meet our Principal Investigators!



Thomas B. Casale, MD

Director of Clinical and Translational Research; Professor, College of Medicine Internal Medicine



Amber Pepper, MD

Associate Director Clinical Research Unit; Assistant Professor of Medicine



Dennis K. Ledford, MD

Professor, College of Medicine Internal Medicine



Seong H. Cho, MD

Associate Professor, College of Medicine Internal Medicine



Richard F. Lockey, MD

Distinguished Professor, College of Medicine Internal Medicine; Director Division Allergy & Immunology



Juan Carlos Cardet-Guisasola, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics

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