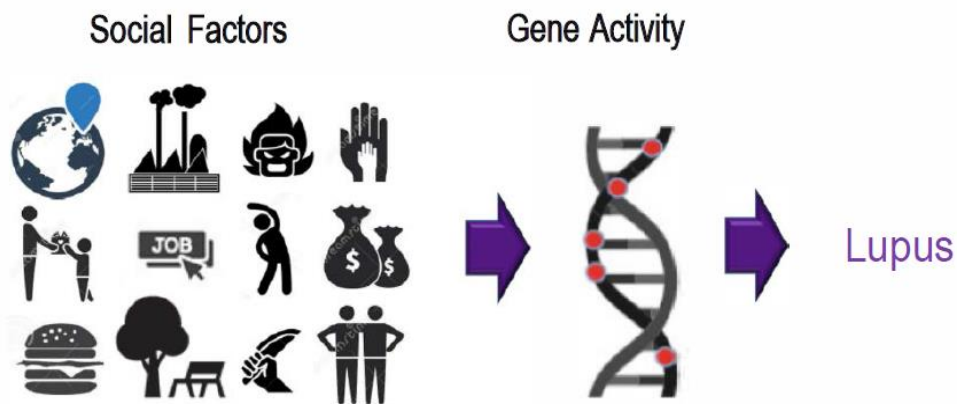




Social Factors, Epigenomics, and Lupus in African American women (SELA) study

The goal of this study is to understand how positive and negative social experiences affect gene function, and thereby influence lupus in African American women. This study requires one study visit to answer a few questionnaires and donate a blood sample. We are looking for volunteers with and without lupus to participate.

MUSC Division of Rheumatology and Immunology



Social factors such as lifestyle choices of diet/exercise, support network systems, environmental issues/pollution, and employment/financial stressors are known to impact lupus outcomes.

The goal of the SELA Study is to understand how social factors of racial discrimination/bias can affect gene activity and influence lupus outcomes.

If you are an African American woman between the ages of 18 – 75, you can play an important role in Changing What's Possible at MUSC and beyond.

Compensation is available for participation.

Summary of study details:

- This research study is voluntary and includes only people who choose to take part. The decision to participate will not affect the medical care or benefits to which one is entitled.
- Volunteers will answer a few questionnaires about their experiences of discrimination, social support, sociodemographic data, healthcare history, their lupus (for patients only), overall research interest, and questions to probe their distress from responding to the questionnaires. Their blood will be drawn (about 2 tablespoons), and medical information collected. Patients with lupus without

recent clinical lupus tests will also be asked for a brief physical examination and additional blood and urine sample.

- This study requires a single visit that will take about 90 minutes. To reduce time of the study visit, the questionnaires might be completed at home, via computer or tablet, prior to the visit; internet access would be required.
- Although there is no direct benefit to the study participants from participating, it is hoped that information learned might help facilitate the discovery of novel ways to treat lupus.
- There is a risk of loss of confidentiality, but the researchers will code the samples and research information to protect privacy.
- The data generated will be deposited in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) database of Genotypes and Phenotypes (dbGaP) and the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database. No personal information that could identify the research participants will be sent to the NIH.
- At the end of the visit, study participants will be paid \$60 in cash to compensate for the time and effort for coming to the blood draw and questionnaires visit.
- Study participants can select to receive their genetic ancestry estimates, receive regular study updates, and participate in meetings to provide suggestions and feedback on research studies. These are optional.
- For anyone who chooses not to participate, their medical care will not be affected.

Please contact **Quinnette King** to find out more!

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