

McGill University Health Centre researchers seek participants for a twin study in food allergy

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START (Susceptibility To Food Allergy in a Registry of Twins)

We are now initiating a new twin study that will look at the genetic and environmental causes of food allergies. Twins provide an invaluable model for genetic studies, allowing the separation of genetic from demographic and environmental factors. Interested families with twins where at least one twin has a food allergy are welcome to participate. This information will help the research team learn more about the diagnosis, impact and management of food allergies.

Our research team, led by Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan, from the Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the Montreal Children's Hospital, MUHC and Dr. Ann Clarke, Professor, Faculty of Medicine University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, are interested in learning more about the how genes and environmental factors interact in persons with food allergy.

To be eligible, individuals should be diagnosed by a physician as having a food allergy and reside in Canada.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete questionnaires about your twins' experiences with food allergy, environmental aspects of their surroundings, medical history and dietary habits. These will take no more than 30 minutes to complete. You will also be asked to provide a small saliva sample from each twin from which we will assess the genetic contribution to food allergy.

Should you wish to participate in our study and/or require additional information, please contact:

Greg Shand

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