

The staff of the Behavior Genetics Unit invites families with two or more gay brothers to join our study on the molecular genetics of sexual orientation.

Why Study Sexual Orientation?

Sexual orientation is a fundamental trait of great scientific interest. Understanding the origins of sexual orientation will enable us to learn a great deal about sexual motivation, sexual identity, gender identity and sex differences. Our primary goals are scientific, but we also are hopeful for greater societal understanding.

Why Study Families?

Earlier studies suggest that homosexual orientation runs in families; 8 to 12% of brothers of gay men are also gay, compared to 2 to 4% of men in the general population. Twin studies suggest that this pattern is largely due to heredity rather than environment, but we cannot be sure of this unless we actually locate genes that affect sexual orientation.

Our study will look for genes that may influence some brothers to become homosexual, as well as those genes that may influence other brothers to become heterosexual.

We invite gay men with one or more gay brothers, along with their available family members (other brothers and parents), to participate in a scientific study that will help us locate those genes.

Confidentiality

All of the information obtained by the Molecular Genetic Study of Sexual Orientation will be kept completely confidential (not even being shared among family members), and will not become part of any medical records. No names or other identifying information will appear in published findings or research.

What Does Participation Involve?

Researchers will do an initial screening of participants, inquiring about the minimum of two living gay brothers. Researchers will also obtain permission to contact relatives, specifically available parents and other brothers, to explain the program and invite their participation. Brothers who consent to assist in the study will be asked to complete study questionnaires and provide DNA samples (blood or saliva) for genetic research. Participating parents are only asked to provide a DNA sample.

Questionnaire

There is no deadline for the completion of the questionnaires. Questionnaires should be filled out individually, without assistance from other family members. The questionnaire includes questions about one's sexual and personal history and the sexual and personal history of immediate family members.

Information provided in the questionnaires is strictly confidential and will not be shared with other family members or study participants. We separately mail both consents and questionnaires to all participating brothers and parents. After our receipt of the questionnaires, participants will be reimbursed for sharing their time, and for the expenses associated with study requirements.

DNA Sample

Participants are asked to provide DNA samples (a few ounces of blood or a few milliliters of saliva). The samples will be studied to search for genes that might carry a predisposition for male homosexuality from generation to generation.

Participants are reimbursed for giving a DNA sample, as well as for any charges for the procedure and shipping. The researchers will assist in arrangements for providing the sample; it can be done at the family member's own home, clinic, doctor's office, or at a phlebotomy lab.

How Can I Participate?

Call the Behavior Genetics Unit at toll-free at 866.364.7571. The Director, Alan R. Sanders, M.D., or other researchers can address any questions you may have about the study. Or, fill out the information below and researchers will contact you.

Send to: Behavior Genetics Unit
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Attn.: Alan R. Sanders, M.D., Director

NIH Grant R01 HD41563
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Please contact me about the Molecular Genetic Study of Sexual Orientation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Best time to call: _____

Join Us in Our Research.



*Molecular Genetic
Study of
Sexual Orientation*

Principal Investigator

Alan R. Sanders, M.D.
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*We depend on individuals
and families.*

<http://gaybros.com>

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