

Genotyping analysis in ME/CFS and long COVID

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) is a poorly understood, debilitating and multisystemic disorder affecting approximately 200,000 Australians. The pathological mechanism of ME/CFS remains unknown and there is currently no diagnostic test or nationally recognised treatment. Immunological dysfunction is a consistent feature of ME/CFS and many patients report onset following an infection. Transient receptor potential (TRP) ion channels have been implicated in the pathomechanism of ME/CFS and recent data suggests this channel provides a potential diagnostic target. More recently, the clinical and pathological overlap between ME/CFS and Long COVID has been reported, with TRP ion channel dysfunction now being reported in both cohorts. This project aims to investigate the role of ion channel dysfunction in immune cells of ME/CFS and Long COVID patients through genotyping analysis.

COHORT

We are recruiting the following participants:

- ME/CFS group: participants who have received a diagnosis of ME/CFS (where diagnosis was made using the CCC 2003 or ICC 2011 definitions).
- PVS group: participants reporting chronic symptoms following a known viral infection but have not received a diagnosis of ME/CFS nor other medical explanation for the symptoms.
- Long COVID group: participants meeting the World Health Organization definition.
- Control group: participants who report no health concerns.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

The inclusion criteria are as follows:

- Aged 18 to 65 years old
- Non-smoker
- No current diagnosis of serious chronic illness, e.g. autoimmune, cancer, cardiovascular, diabetes or primary psychiatric diseases
- Not pregnant or breastfeeding

YOUR PARTICIPATION

This study involves:

- Donation of 14ml of blood
- Completion of an online questionnaire (in English)

Participants will receive a \$25 Coles e-voucher and enter the draw to win \$75, \$100 and \$150 Coles e-voucher drawn half-yearly. If you are interested in participating, please contact ncned@griffith.edu.au or call on (07) 5678 9283.

We would like to thank everyone for their support.

This recruitment flyer has been reviewed and approved by Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee.

