



BioTrust Research Report: Research Use of Michigan’s Residual Newborn Screening Blood Spots

Guidelines for Releasing Michigan’s Residual Blood Spots

In 2009, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) created the Michigan BioTrust for Health. The BioTrust is a program that oversees the research use of blood spots that are left over after newborn screening. For more information about the BioTrust, please visit the [BioTrust website](#).

This report provides information about each research study that has been approved by MDHHS to use residual blood spots. Leftover blood spots can only be utilized in research if one of the following criteria is met:

- Consent was granted for use through the BioTrust (blood spots collected after April 30, 2010), *or*
- Waiver of informed consent was granted by MDHHS Institutional Review Board (blood spots collected between July 1984 and May 1, 2010) and no opt-out directive has been received, *or*
- Additional informed consent for use in a specific research study was obtained.

Table of Contents

BioTrust Research Report: Research Use of Michigan’s Residual Newborn Screening Blood Spots	1
Guidelines for Releasing Michigan’s Residual Blood Spots	1
2026 Approved Research	6
Genetic Etiology of Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia and Coloboma (MAC).....	6
2025 Approved Research	6
Long term stability of enzyme markers for lysosomal storage disorders in neonatal dried blood spot (ES01-24001).....	6
2024 Approved Research	6
Environmental Mediators of Birth-defects and Relation to Contaminants (EMBARC)	6
Use of Metabolic Profiling as a Diagnostic Tool to Validate Dried Blood Spots for Diagnostic Metabolomic Testing	7
RenataDX IEM Screening Kit Performance Evaluation and Method Comparison Study	7
Reviving newborn screening for neuroblastoma using dried blood spots and genetic information (REVIVE study).....	7
2023 Approved Research	8

Establishing the Relationship between Circulating Infant Bioactive Levels and Early Postnatal Growth	8
Newborn Screening for Early Childhood Cancer Risk via Targeted Genomic Sequencing	8
2022 Approved Research	9
Cleft Palate Associated DNA Variant in the Sauna Belt	9
Generation Health Study	9
The Molecular Epidemiology of Pediatric Brain Tumors	10
Development of a Hemoglobin A1C Assay for neonates	10
Multi-site Study: Birth Outcomes Supplemental Study (BOSS)	10
2021 Approved Research	11
Prenatal Exposures and Child Health Outcomes: A Statewide Study (MARCH study)	11
Neurobiological pathways from neighborhood disadvantage to antisocial behavior/ Methylomic contributions to neighborhood-related health disparities in antisocial behavior (MTwiNS).....	11
CAPES Study: Congenital Cytomegalovirus and Autism Prevalence Examination Study	11
Maternal Antibodies in newborn blood spots	12
Michigan PFAS Exposure and Health Study: Parchment, Cooper Township and Belmont/Rockford area (North Kent County).....	13
North American Wilm's Tumor Study (NAWTS)	13
2020 Approved Research	14
Feasibility of extracting cell-free mitochondrial DNA from blood spots	14
The Prenatal Origins of Neurodevelopmental Disorders Study.....	14
Steroid Panel to Identify Newborns with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia	14
2019 Approved Research	15
Maternal Exposure to Vicarious Structural Racism and Newborn Health Disparities in Michigan: The Flint Water Crisis (Biomarkers)	15
SPOTCHECK® Neonatal IRT Screening Kit: Method Comparison	16
Pilot Test: Quality control of DNA extracted from residual dried newborn blood spots for Next-Generation Sequencing-based study	16
Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Adverse Birth Outcomes and Fetal Programming of Inflammation	16
Pesticide exposure and risk of childhood acute myeloid leukemia.....	17
Neonatal protein markers and child neurodevelopment	17
2018 Approved Research	18
A Comprehensive Newborn Screening Solution for Duchenne and Congenital Muscular Dystrophies.	18
Biosocial Impact on Black Births (BIBB) Study (NIH Title: Social Stressors and Inflammation: A mixed methods approach to preterm birth)	18
Fathers Matter (NIH Title: Paternal Role in Adverse Birth Outcomes in Black Families)	19

Statewide Michigan Leukemia Epidemiology Study (SMILES),	20
Comparison study for NeoBase2 Non-derivatized MSMS kit on QSight Screening System	21
(Genetic Studies of Diabetes Mellitus) Newborn Screening for Earlier Diagnosis and Treatment of Congenital Diabetes	21
Aromatic L-Amino Acid Decarboxylase Deficiency (AADCD) Prevalence Study.....	21
2017 Approved Research	22
LIFE2 study: Looking back to look forward: Social Environment across the Lifecourse, Epigenetics, and Birth Outcomes in Black Families.....	22
Archive for Research on Child Health Blood Spot Analyses (ARCH)	23
Global Metabolomic Profiling in Metabolic Disease.....	23
ARCH-Placenta	23
2016 Approved Research	24
Development of Newborn Screen for Niemann-Pick C1 Disease	24
Determination of dried blood spot-derived DNA yield, quality, and next-generation sequencing capacity for applications in newborn screening	24
WHEALS and CAS Metals Study	25
Genetic Susceptibility to Pediatric Rhabdomyosarcoma	25
Gonadotropins and Retinopathy of Prematurity	26
Early Life Risk, Resilience and Behavioral Outcomes (ELBO)	26
Testing DNA Extraction Protocol on External Dried Blood Spot Samples of Neonates	27
2015 Approved Research	27
Genetic Analysis of Human First Trimester Trophoblast in Ongoing Pregnancies	27
Collection of Confirmed Positive Specimens for Evaluation in a Clinical Study to Establish Screening Performance of the PerkinElmer NeoBase2 Non-Derivatized MSMS Test System for Inborn Errors of Metabolism	28
The Impact of HepG2 Dnase I Hypersensitivity Site-Associated Variants on Risk of Hepatoblastoma ..	28
Neonatal Dried Blood Spot Testing.....	28
Enabling Fragile X Screening Using Blood Spot Cards.....	29
Genetic Overlap Between Anomalies and Cancer in Kids (GOBACK)	29
2014 Approved Research	30
Maternal Social Environment and Telomere Length	30
Molecular Epidemiology of Pediatric Germ Cell Tumors.....	30
Genetic and Metabolic Associations with Congenital Hypothyroidism.....	30
Healthy Families.....	31
ARCH Study	31

Measuring Orotic Acid in Newborn Screening Specimens as an Indicator for OTC Deficiency	31
Neonatal Environmental Exposures and Epigenetics and Childhood Brain Tumor Risk.....	32
Development of an Improved Biotinidase Activity Assay	32
Frequency of 11p15.5 Gene Transcription Abnormalities in Newborns with Isolated Omphalocele	32
Molecular Genetics of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Patients with Down Syndrome	33
2013 Approved Research	34
ARCH Sub-Study: Effects of Maternal Physical Activity on Methylation Patterns in Offspring Blood Spots.....	34
Blood Spot Environmental Epidemiology Project (BLEEP).....	34
Clinical Database of Children with Krabbe Disease: A World-Wide Registry	34
Ecologic Stressors, PTSD and Drug Abuse in Detroit	34
Gene-Environment Interplay and Young Children’s Executive Functioning.....	35
Identification of Genetic Causes of Tetralogy of Fallot Using Massively Parallel Sequencing	35
Improving IRT/DNA Newborn Screening for Cystic Fibrosis to Reduce False Positive Results by a New Molecular Strategy.....	35
Lab-On-A-Chip for Multiplexed Newborn Screening of Metabolic Disorders-Assay Development	36
Neural and Genetic Factors Contributing to Variants of Pediatric Anxiety Disorder	36
Newborns Conceived Through IVF Technology and the Incidence of Genetic Anomalies: A Pilot Study in Epigenetics	36
Neurotoxin Exposure and Brain Development	37
Next Generation Sequencing in the Newborn Period	37
Evaluation of the Effects of Prenatal Exposure to Non-Essential Heavy Metals on Hearing.....	37
2012 Approved Research	38
Twins and Sibling Study	38
Astoria-Pacific, Inc.- Total Galactose Screening Method Comparison	38
2011 Approved Research	39
Dried Blood Spots to Determine the Effect of Pb on DNA Methylation in Children.....	39
Newborn DNA Methylation and Biochemical Status in Autism, ADHD and Cerebral Palsy	39
Prenatal Alcohol Exposure: The Influence on Epigenetic Processes	39
Technology Enhancement and Implementation of Michigan Newborn Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) and Related Disorders	40
2010 Approved Research	40
Assessment of the SMN1 and 2 Genes in Spinal Muscular Atrophy Affected Patients and a Carrier Frequency Study	40
DNA Methylation in Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome	40

Methods Comparison of Luminex Multiplex Newborn Screening Assay to Delfia	41
High Throughput Methods to Measure Disparities in Childhood Exposure to Tobacco	41
HLA Typing of Neonatal Blood Spots	41
DNA Methylation and Congenital Heart Defect (Metabolic Newborn Screening for Congenital Heart Defects)	42
2000-2009 Approved Research	42
Microarray Analysis of Neonatal Blood Spots: Optimization and Application to Birth Outcomes.....	42
Luminex Newborn Screening Multiplex Immunoassay	42
Mercury Levels in Blood from Newborns in the Lake Superior Basin.....	43
CTA Catalytic Grant Proposal, Whole Genome DNA Amplification from Stored Dried Blood Spots.....	43
Novel Techniques for Neonatal Screening.....	43
The Use of T Cell Receptor Excision Circles to Detect Missed Cases of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency	43
Analysis of Environmental Contaminants in Dried Blood Spots: A Pilot Study.....	43
ID of Genetic Markers in Blood Spots of Guthrie Newborn Screening Cards.....	44
New Paradigms of Cerebral Palsy (CP).....	44
Feasibility and Validity of Obtaining Guthrie Cards for Molecular Epidemiology Studies.....	45
The Genetic Basis and Pathophysiology of Neonatal Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension	45
Maternal Microchimerism and HLA Compatibility in Juvenile Diabetes and Autism	45
Prevalence of Three Hereditary Hemochromatosis Mutant Alleles in the Michigan Caucasian Population.....	45

2026 Approved Research

Genetic Etiology of Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia and Coloboma (MAC)

Institution/Agency: Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Year Approved: 2026

Samples Requested: 1007

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: We will obtain left-over newborn screening blood spots from individuals born with eye defects, including anophthalmos (absent eye), microphthalmos (small eye), and coloboma (failure of the optic fissure to close). We will do genetic testing on the blood spots to try to identify the genetic cause of the eye anomalies. We will also seek permission to collect information about the physical characteristics of people with these defects and do more in-depth genetic testing to understand the cause of these specific physical characteristics.

2025 Approved Research

Long term stability of enzyme markers for lysosomal storage disorders in neonatal dried blood spot (ES01-24001)

Institution/Agency: Revvity

Year Approved: 2025

Samples Requested: 960

Year Released: 2026

Study Summary: This project will determine how long certain enzyme activities are stable in newborn dried blood spot samples when stored at -30 to -16°C. The measured enzymes are important for detecting diseases like Gaucher, Niemann-Pick, Pompe, Krabbe, Fabry, MPS I, and MPS II. The blood spots used are samples leftover from routine newborn screening and are anonymized, meaning no personal information is provided with the samples. The long term stability results will be useful for the newborn screening community and will be shared at conferences or published in scientific journals. Study results may be shared with regulatory authorities (e.g. FDA, European CE-IVD) in support of market authorization applications.

2024 Approved Research

Environmental Mediators of Birth-defects and Relation to Contaminants (EMBARC)

Institution/Agency: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Year Approved: 2024

Samples Requested: 1,500, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2025 (Partial Release), 2026 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is conducting a leading-edge research study, funded by the CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), to better understand how per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) may relate to folate-sensitive birth defects. MDHHS will ask certain Michigan residents to participate in this

Updated 4/2/2026

research and will test leftover, unused newborn dried blood spots for PFAS. That information, combined with other data, will be used to understand what relationship there may be between babies' newborn PFAS blood levels and diagnoses of certain birth defects. This important research will advance the science on PFAS toxicity and birth defects, and will describe how these two issues may intersect. This research may also contribute to future public health practice or policy in Michigan.

[Use of Metabolic Profiling as a Diagnostic Tool to Validate Dried Blood Spots for Diagnostic Metabolomic Testing](#)

Institution/Agency: Baylor College of Medicine

Year Approved: 2024

Samples Requested: 350

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: Inborn errors of metabolism are rare conditions affecting about 1 in 2500 births. Detecting them early is crucial for better treatment outcomes. Newborn screening programs check for over 50 disorders, but many tests for these disorders aren't available, making diagnosis stressful and slow for families. Baylor developed the first US clinical metabolomics test in 2014, expanding screening to over 100 disorders and testing over 5000 patients successfully. Now this test accepts plasma and urine as sample types. This study aims to validate dried blood spots for the test, making sample collection and shipment easier for patients and doctors. Addition of dried blood spots in the testing will enable doctors make quicker, more accurate decisions about patient treatment and care.

[RenataDX IEM Screening Kit Performance Evaluation and Method Comparison Study](#)

Institution/Agency: Waters Corporation

Year Approved: 2024

Samples Requested: 91

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: This study is to evaluate the clinical performance of a new Newborn screening (NBS) kit, the RenataDX IEM Screening Kit. This kit is designed to be used in NBS laboratories by trained professionals for the measurement and evaluation of amino acid, succinylacetone, free carnitine, acylcarnitine, nucleoside, and lysophospholipid metabolite concentrations with a tandem mass spectrometer from newborn heel prick blood specimens dried on filter paper. The kit allows for the quantitative measurement of 53 analytes from newborn screening dried blood spots (DBS). The analysis of these metabolites and their relationship with each other provides metabolite concentration profiles that may aid in screening newborns for metabolic disorders. The metabolic analytes measured by the RenataDX IEM Screening Kit allows the screening for 23 RUSP Core Conditions. The purpose of the study is to compare the clinical performance of the RenataDX IEM Screening Kit to Neobase2 in screening newborns for metabolic disorders. The study will be executed at 2 US state NBS laboratories, using leftover, de-identified DBS samples from newborn heel prick collected for routine newborn screening.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done.

[Reviving newborn screening for neuroblastoma using dried blood spots and genetic information \(REVIVE study\)](#)

Institution/Agency: University of Minnesota

Year Approved: 2024

Samples Requested: 140

Year Released: 2025

Study Summary: Neuroblastoma is the most common solid tumor in childhood, accounting for about 6% of all pediatric cancers among children aged 0-14 years in the U.S. Infants and young children whose disease is classified as high-risk face extensive treatment and some of the worst survival rates among childhood cancers. Mass screening for neuroblastoma was conducted in some countries for infants under or at the age of one year, but the practice was stopped because death rates due to neuroblastoma did not change. However, a new and improved screening process could lead to better results for the children most at risk of adverse outcomes. Children with neuroblastoma have high levels of chemicals called catecholamine metabolites in their urine and blood. The previous screening process used a chemical analysis to look for catecholamine metabolites in urine. Newborn DBS are a viable alternative to urine samples because they are readily available in the U.S., are easier to collect and store, and are less affected by storage conditions. Also, adding another step to screen those who test positive for catecholamine metabolites for specific genetic variants that are associated with high-risk neuroblastoma can identify high-risk neuroblastoma patients earlier. The current study aims to test whether newborn screening for neuroblastoma using DBS coupled with genetic information leads to faster treatment for patients and better outcomes.

2023 Approved Research

[Establishing the Relationship between Circulating Infant Bioactive Levels and Early Postnatal Growth](#)

Institution/Agency: Michigan Medicine

Year Approved: 2023

Samples Requested: 255, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: Rapid growth in infants, especially in the first 6 months of life, has been associated with increased risk for obesity in childhood and adulthood. There are many factors that can influence this early period of growth, and many of these are being investigated. The purpose of our study is to identify various hormone and metabolic levels that were present after birth and see if this is associated with infant growth. This study will utilize infant newborn screens (dried blood spot samples routinely obtained at 24 hours of life while in the hospital after your infant's birth) stored at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service to measure various hormone and metabolic levels and then understand how this is related to infant growth.

[Newborn Screening for Early Childhood Cancer Risk via Targeted Genomic Sequencing](#)

Institution/Agency: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham & Women's Hospital

Year Approved: 2023

Samples Requested: 7,000

Year Released: 2023 (Partial Release), 2024 (Partial Release), 2025 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: Cancer Predisposition Syndromes that put newborns at high risk for developing early childhood cancers are appropriate for dried blood spot (DBS) newborn screening. An estimate of almost

Updated 4/2/2026

12% of childhood cancers are connected to gene mutations that lead to an increased chance of developing cancer. This percentage is higher in cancer cases which develop in infancy and early childhood. Genetic screening at birth has the potential to discover children at risk before the start of clinically visible cancer. Cancers that are caught early enough may be smaller and easier to treat by surgery or non-invasive medical procedures and, thus avoid toxicities of chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy, which also increase lifetime risks of secondary cancers. Using an 11 gene targeted Next Generation Sequencing panel we have named “Pediatric Early Risk for Cancer-Sequencing” (PERCSeq), we can screen the DBS to identify newborns who can benefit from surveillance, early detection, and early treatment. The team is working on a high-throughput pooling strategy for detection of germline variants.

2022 Approved Research

Cleft Palate Associated DNA Variant in the Sauna Belt

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2022

Samples Requested: 25

Year Released: 2023

Study Summary: This study seeks to determine if a specific DNA variant is present in specimen from the Michigan Neonatal Biobank. The DNA variant has been associated with a higher risk of cleft palate in Finland, and we wish to test the hypothesis that the DNA variant is present in people of Finnish ancestry in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Generation Health Study

Former Title: Redlining Blood Spots: Feasibility Study

Institution/Agency: Henry Ford Health System

Year Approved: 2022

Samples Requested: 150, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2024 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: The main goal of this study is to determine how the characteristics of the neighborhood where mom grew up might influence baby’s health – even as an adult. In other words, can we predict a baby’s adult health by learning about mom’s neighborhood experiences and exposures. This important study helps us understand how mom’s experiences and encounters before baby is born may or may not affect the baby’s health as an adult.

Study Findings: The paper proposes that structural racism, expressed through neighborhood disadvantage and segregation, causes chronic stress that triggers harmful inflammation contributing to racial health disparities. Understanding how structural racism is embodied and passed across generations is key to addressing some of these health inequalities. For more information, see the article below:

- *Joseph CLM, Greenlee AJ, Sitarik AR, White-Perkins D, Miree C, Wegienka G. On the persistence of racial health inequities: Maternal exposure to geospatial racism is transmitted to infant. Medical Hypotheses. 2025 Sept. 202(111713). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mehy.2025.111713>*

The Molecular Epidemiology of Pediatric Brain Tumors

Institution/Agency: University of Minnesota

Year Approved: 2022

Samples Requested: 814

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: Central nervous system (CNS) tumors, or those that arise in the brain and spinal cord, are the most common cancers diagnosed in children aged 0-19 years, with approximately 3,000 diagnoses in the US annually. Many childhood CNS tumors are thought to be the result of inherited genetic syndromes while most are thought to arise from other, unidentified causes. There are few established environmental risk factors for CNS tumors beyond ionizing radiation and parental pesticide exposure. The role of common genetic variation in the incidence of childhood CNS tumors has begun to be explored, though comprehensive studies of each CNS tumor type are lacking. As such, we propose to examine the role of common genetic variants for CNS tumors in children from Michigan.

Development of a Hemoglobin A1C Assay for neonates

Institution/Agency: PREMIER LLC

Year Approved: 2022

Samples Requested: 600

Year Released: 2022

Study Summary: Dysglycemia, that is, high or low glucose, is associated with increased mortality and morbidity of newborns, especially in preterm infants. There is substantial evidence that dysglycemia is deleterious to the developing brain and eyes. Both hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia have been associated with neurodevelopmental impairment. Moreover, dysglycemia has been identified as a risk factor for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)—a leading cause of childhood blindness. However, there is not yet a clinically approved test for use in neonates that evaluates glucose control over extended time. Without such a marker, strategies to improve neonatal glucose management will remain limited at best. We are setting out to solve this problem. Hemoglobin A1C, commonly called A1C, is the most widely accepted indicator of glucose surveillance in adults. The A1C blood test does not measure blood glucose per se; instead, it estimates glucose control longitudinally. The invention of the A1C assay revolutionized the management of diabetes mellitus. The problem for neonates is that the standard A1C test is excluded from use in this population. We are designing a new A1c lab test to measure neonatal A1C. The ELISA assay test is being developed for use with dried blood spots. We will be eluting blood from neonatal dried blood spots (which had originally been stored at the State of Michigan Biobank) to help develop the assay. Our ELISA test will allow neonatologists to better manage glucose levels in their patients, which in turn will help prevent glucose-related morbidities in neonates.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Multi-site Study: Birth Outcomes Supplemental Study (BOSS)

Institution/Agency: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Year Approved: 2022

Samples Requested: 300, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2024 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: The Birth Outcomes Supplemental Study (BOSS) is a Michigan-specific part of the Multi-site Health Study (MSS), which is research coordinated by the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in partnership with MDHHS. In this study, we want to learn how exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) during pregnancy could affect health for both mothers and babies.

2021 Approved Research

[Prenatal Exposures and Child Health Outcomes: A Statewide Study \(MARCH study\)](#)

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2021

Samples Requested: 2,200, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2022 (Partial Release), 2023 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: The Michigan Archive for Research on Child Health (MARCH) is a population-based pregnancy cohort. MARCH is part of a larger, nationwide study called the ECHO Program (Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes). Starting in 2016, the research team led by Dr. Nigel Paneth, began recruiting pregnant women in 11 different prenatal care clinics across the state of Michigan. The project was designed to be as minimally invasive as possible and asks participants to complete surveys and allow the research team to collect and store biological samples, such as blood or urine, that they will provide to their doctor and would normally be thrown away. Following the birth of the baby, caregivers complete annual surveys that ask questions regarding the health and development of the mother/caregiver and child. MARCH plans to recruit 1,100 mother-infant dyads and continues to study important factors that may affect pregnancy and child health such as environmental chemicals, infections, and diet.

[Neurobiological pathways from neighborhood disadvantage to antisocial behavior/ Methylomic contributions to neighborhood-related health disparities in antisocial behavior \(MTwiNS\)](#)

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University, University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2021

Samples Requested: 1,100, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2023 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: The overall goal of this study is to understand how genes and environments interaction to affect neural and behavioral development. Our outcomes of interest center on psychopathology, particularly antisocial behavior (e.g., aggression, rule breaking), as well as broader social functioning. Our “environment” of interest is family poverty, neighborhood impoverishment, and poverty-related stressors/experiences.

[CAPES Study: Congenital Cytomegalovirus and Autism Prevalence Examination Study](#)

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2021

Samples Requested: 550, additional study specific consent obtained

Updated 4/2/2026

Year Released: 2022 (Partial Release), 2023 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: We are examining the relationship between a viral infection present at birth and later diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder and hearing loss and/or cerebral palsy. Congenital cytomegalovirus, also known as CMV for short, is a cold virus that is very common and harmless to most people. If a pregnant woman catches this cold virus it can be transmitted to the growing baby. Most babies born with CMV have no signs or symptoms at birth and go undetected, but it can also affect fetal brain development. We are examining the relationship between CMV at birth and later autism spectrum disorder and hearing loss and/or cerebral palsy by testing children's newborn blood spots for the presence of CMV. A better understanding of the possible connection between congenital CMV and later autism, hearing loss, and cerebral palsy may lead to the development of new ways to lower the risk of autism.

Maternal Antibodies in newborn blood spots

Institution/Agency: Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Year Approved: 2021

Samples Requested: 400

Year Released: 2021 (Partial Release), 2022 (Partial Release), 2024 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: Escherichia coli (E. coli) is a leading cause of infection in the early newborn period. This is not surprising since nearly every baby is exposed to Escherichia coli during birth or shortly after birth. What is surprising is that despite near ubiquitous exposure of newborn babies to E. coli, invasive infection still occurs very rarely (1 in 2000 to 4000 live births). We hypothesize that exposure of mothers to ubiquitous commensal bacteria like E. coli primes immunity against invasive infection. We further hypothesize that this immunity persists in women during pregnancy, and is vertically transferred to neonates. In turn, neonates that develop E. coli invasive infection have defects in the vertical transfer of maternal immunity. This hypothesis will be investigated by analyzing the levels of vertically transferred anti-E. coli immunity in the newborn blood spots of infants that develop E. coli infection compared gestational and age matched control infants.

Study Findings: Although babies are highly vulnerable to infection, the exact reason accounting for susceptibility in early life remains uncertain. One interesting consideration is that the microbes that commonly infect babies are those present in healthy individuals including mothers. One of the most common microbes in this context is a bacteria called Escherichia coli, or E coli. This bacteria is found in the intestine for nearly all individuals as part of the commensal microbiota. Dry blood spots were used to investigate the hypothesis that babies develop infection because protective antibodies normally transferred from mothers to babies are lacking. Babies with E coli sepsis were retrospectively identified based on medical billing codes, and then linked to their blood spots. Our analysis showed that blood spots from babies with E coli sepsis were indeed "missing" protective antibodies compared with blood spots from babies without infection matched for sex, gestational age and birth timing. These results challenge the notion the babies are susceptible to infection because their immune systems are immature, but rather highlight reduced pathogen-directed antibodies that protect most babies against common microbes, as another important risk factor for infection in babies. We plan to extend these studies to other microbes that commonly cause infection in newborn babies including Listeria monocytogenes bacteria and Herpes simplex virus. For more information see the article below:

- Diep, R.E., Adhikari, U., Gokce Tezel, K. et al. *Natural maternal immunity protects neonates from Escherichia coli sepsis. Nature (2026).* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-026-10225-z>.

Updated 4/2/2026

Michigan PFAS Exposure and Health Study: Parchment, Cooper Township and Belmont/Rockford area (North Kent County)

Institution/Agency: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Year Approved: 2021

Samples Requested: 3600, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2021 (Partial Release), 2024 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will be conducting the Michigan PFAS Exposure and Health Study (MiPEHS) with eligible residents in the Belmont/Rockford area (North Kent County) and the City of Parchment and Cooper Township, both in Kalamazoo County. The study will run over about 5 years. There are many things we hope to learn from this study:

- We want to learn how exposure to per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water relates to the levels in people's blood.
- We want to learn how PFAS levels in people's blood could be related to health.
- We want to learn if a blood sample taken from people's arms and a blood sample taken from people's fingers have similar PFAS test results.
- We want to learn if PFAS exposure during pregnancy is related to birth outcomes, like low birth weight.
- We want to learn if people's polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in blood changes the relationship between PFAS levels and health.

PFAS exposure during pregnancy will be measured using newborn blood spots, collected at birth. PFAS levels from the newborn blood spot will be used as an estimate of prenatal PFAS exposure. This information, along with the other information collected during the study will be used to examine associations between PFAS and birth, thyroid, immune and other health outcomes.

North American Wilm's Tumor Study (NAWTS)

Institution/Agency: Prosserman Centre for Population Health Research; Sinai Health System

Year Approved: 2021

Samples Requested: 320

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: The long-term objectives of this study are to understand the etiology of embryonal tumors (specifically, Wilms tumor) focusing on genetic susceptibility, prenatal factors and neonatal exposures, as well as aspects of molecular epidemiology including epigenetic profiles, DNA repair capacity and mutation patterns. We have currently recruited 650 families; approximately 500 case families and 150 control families. We are collecting Wilms tumor samples from cases and DNA samples from the families. In addition to our already recruited cases and controls, we aim to collect approximately 850 dried blood spots from the California Biobank Program (CBP) and the Michigan BioTrust for Health (MBTH) for Wilms tumor cases and controls. The blood spot samples will be used for DNA plating and genotyping for genetic analyses of Wilms Tumor. Along with the epidemiological data collected from registries, the retrospective data will be added to our sample population and analysed together with existing participant data to examine the etiology of Wilms Tumor as outlined by our study objectives. Demographic, medical history, lifestyle factors and family history variables will be analysed on cases and controls.

Updated 4/2/2026

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done using Michigan blood spots.

2020 Approved Research

Feasibility of extracting cell-free mitochondrial DNA from blood spots

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2020

Samples Requested: 6

Year Released: 2021

Study Summary: The pervasive and lasting impact of the stress of racism, known as weathering, affects body and brain, and produces an increased risk for mental health disorders in the African American community. Racial health disparities are highly prevalent, and have recently been uncovered by the COVID-19 pandemic, where mortality rates are disproportionately higher in African Americans compared to Whites. Exposure to racism or racial discrimination precipitates a chronic stress state, supported by studies showing higher levels of PTSD and increased disease risk. Therefore, racism-related stress constitutes a double blow of socioenvironmental and biological insults to those who are already most vulnerable. While the association of trauma and lifetime stress with mental health disorders, especially anxiety, PTSD and depression, are well known, there is a critical need for biological mechanisms to be examined. One biomarker that may prove translatable is cell-free mitochondrial DNA (cf-mtDNA). As a marker of stress and an intermediary signal to the immune system, circulating cf-mtDNA is easily obtainable and detectable. Studies show that cf-mtDNA levels are increased by stress in humans, and are high in subjects with major depressive disorder and suicidality, and that levels are reduced by antidepressant treatment. Increased levels of cf-mtDNA are also associated with increased circulating cytokines, supporting an integration of stress and immune system signals.

Study Findings: This study is done. This was a feasibility study with a small sample. We determined that we could isolate cf-mtDNA from the blood spots.

The Prenatal Origins of Neurodevelopmental Disorders Study

Institution/Agency: Henry Ford Health System

Year Approved: 2020

Samples Requested: 239, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2022 (Partial Release), 2023 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: The purpose of this research study is to better understand why some children develop autism spectrum disorder and others do not. This study focuses largely on exposures that may take place during pregnancy. We will use blood spots to analyze proteins involved in key biologic processes and epigenetic changes at the time of birth and their association with placental markers and characteristics, the prenatal environment, and later risk of neurodevelopmental delays such as autism spectrum disorder.

Steroid Panel to Identify Newborns with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia

Institution/Agency: Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene- Newborn Screening Laboratory

Year Approved: 2020

Samples Requested: 30

Updated 4/2/2026

Year Released: 2020

Study Summary: Within the United States, all babies are screened at birth for congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), due to 21-hydroxylase deficiency, to prevent a life threatening salt-wasting crisis in the newborn period. Reports have suggested that measurement of a single steroid, 17-hydroxyprogesterone, as an indicator of CAH may not be sufficient, leading to false negative (missed) cases. Wisconsin has developed a method for analyzing 8 steroids in dried blood spot specimens. Wisconsin wishes to assess the concentrations of these 8 steroids in residual newborn screening (dried blood spot) specimens collected from babies with CAH as well as the normal population. The goal is to develop a comprehensive data model for newborn screening programs to use to guide disease identification.

Study Findings: This study is done. For more information see the article below:

- *Held, PK, Bialk, ER, Lasarev, MR, and Allen, DB. 21-Deoxycortisol is a Key Screening Marker for 21-Hydroxylase Deficiency. The Journal of Pediatrics. 2021 Oct 31.*
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2021.10.063>

2019 Approved Research

Maternal Exposure to Vicarious Structural Racism and Newborn Health Disparities in Michigan: The Flint Water Crisis (Biomarkers)

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2019

Samples Requested: 160

Year Released: 2021

Study Summary: Residents of Flint, Michigan, a predominantly African American community, were directly harmed by exposure to lead-contaminated water after the state-appointed city manager switched the source of drinking water from the Detroit water system to the Flint River. However, the public health consequences of the Flint Water Crisis (FWC) may not be confined to Flint. Drawing on recent work that documents the health consequences of exposure to vicarious, or second-hand, racism, this study will use individual birth records linked to archived dried blood spots from the Michigan Neonatal Biobank to examine changes in biomarkers of stress and aging (telomere length and DNA methylation in the glucocorticoid receptor gene) among infants born to non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic white mothers in the Detroit metro area after the FWC. We expect to find that non-Hispanic black infants who were conceived in the eight months prior to widespread media coverage of the governor's declaration of a state of emergency in Flint (i.e., those who were conceived between May and December of 2015) had shorter telomere length and increased DNA methylation in the glucocorticoid receptor gene, when compared to non-Hispanic black infants who were conceived between May and December of 2014. We do not expect to find any changes for infants born to non-Hispanic white mothers.

Study Findings: This study is done. The goal of this exploratory study was to examine maternal exposure to the Flint Water Crisis—a highly publicized racialized stressor—as a predictor of newborn telomere length and DNA methylation among infant girls born to Black and White mothers in Wayne County, Michigan. We hypothesized that witnessing the effects of the water crisis on Flint's majority Black population was a unique stressor for Black people in Michigan communities outside of Flint, with

Updated 4/2/2026

potential implications for maternal and child health inequities. Data were from newborn dried blood spots linked to birth records. The sample was restricted on place of birth; infant sex; and maternal ethnicity, race, education, age, marital status, and receipt of public assistance. The analytic sample included 80 randomly selected infants conceived in the eight months prior to the January 2016 emergency declaration in Flint and 80 infants conceived one year earlier. Each group included equal numbers of infants born to Black and White mothers. Contrary to expectations, we found that in utero exposure to the Flint Water Crisis emergency declaration was associated with longer telomere length among babies born to both Black and White mothers. Maternal exposure to the emergency declaration was not associated with DNA methylation at birth among babies born to Black or White mothers.

SPOTCHECK® Neonatal IRT Screening Kit: Method Comparison

Institution/Agency: Astoria-Pacific, Inc.

Year Approved: 2019

Samples Requested: 10

Year Released: 2019

Study Summary: This study will evaluate the clinical efficacy of the SPOTCHECK® Neonatal IRT Screening Kit (in development) in screening newborn dried blood spot material for elevated immunoreactive trypsin (IRT) – an indicator of cystic fibrosis (CF) in neonates. Comparison of the new kit against a currently cleared kit will demonstrate safety and effectiveness for use in routine newborn screening for CF.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Pilot Test: Quality control of DNA extracted from residual dried newborn blood spots for Next-Generation Sequencing-based study

Institution/Agency: National Cancer Institute

Year Approved: 2019

Samples Requested: 40

Year Released: 2021

Study Summary: This intramural-extramural-industry collaboration will evaluate germline DNA derived from neonatal blood spots collected by the MDHHS. Since the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-associated genomic facilities do not have an established protocol for DNA extraction of dried newborn blood spots, we propose a pilot test to evaluate the DNA quality generated by three external laboratories, headed by Dr. Carlos Saavedra-Matiz, Dr. Mei Baker, and Dr. Charlly Kao, with experience in performing this assay for different applications. These results will assess the feasibility of a subsequent Next Generation sequencing (NGS)-based project.

Study Findings: This study is done. The results show that independent evaluations demonstrate that Michigan's residual newborn dried blood spots yield adequate DNA quality to proceed with gene-panel sequencing.

Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Adverse Birth Outcomes and Fetal Programming of Inflammation

Institution/Agency: University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee

Year Approved: 2019

Updated 4/2/2026

Samples Requested: 1000

Year Released: 2019

Study Summary: This study examines whether maternal socioeconomic disadvantage at both the individual- and neighborhood-level experienced during pregnancy is associated with a pro-inflammatory phenotype in children at birth, assess the role that adverse birth outcomes including preterm or small for gestational age birth play in explaining this association and assess whether these relationships differ by offspring sex.

Study Findings: See the article below:

- *Simanek AM, Xiong M, Woo JMP, Zheng C, Zhang YS, Meier HCS, Aiello AE. Association between prenatal socioeconomic disadvantage, adverse birth outcomes, and inflammatory response at birth. Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2023 Jul;153:106090. doi: 10.1016/j.psyneuen.2023.106090. Epub 2023 Mar 30. PMID: 37146471*

[Pesticide exposure and risk of childhood acute myeloid leukemia](#)

Institution/Agency: University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Year Approved: 2019

Samples Requested: 260

Year Released: 2020

Study Summary: Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) is a rare malignancy which represents approximately 15-20% of all leukemia diagnoses among children. Maternal exposure to pesticides is suggestive of increased risk for childhood AML based on existing evidence. Pesticides, particularly organochlorines, may be carcinogenic, and although no longer used in the US, they have persisted in the environment. Exposure to other persistent organic pollutants (POP), including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) have been related to childhood leukemia in California. The primary source of exposure to these pesticides is through diet, mainly through dairy products and fish, and the fetus can be exposed through the placenta. Children and fetuses, due to their size and exposure potential, may have increased susceptibility to the effects of pesticides and other POPs. We propose to evaluate the relationship between organochlorine pesticide, PCBs, and polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) 153 exposure and childhood AML using newborn bloodspots from the Michigan BioTrust for Health.

Study Findings: **This study is done.** See the article below:

- *Janitz AE, Marcotte EL, Barr DB, Xu C, Peck JD, Campbell JE. Exposure to persistent organic pollutants in newborn dried blood spots and childhood acute myeloid leukemia. Environ Res. 2024 Mar 1;244:117954. doi: 10.1016/j.envres.2023.117954. Epub 2023 Dec 16. PMID: 38104918; PMCID: PMC10922559.*

[Neonatal protein markers and child neurodevelopment](#)

Institution/Agency: Henry Ford Health System

Year Approved: 2019

Samples Requested: 10

Year Released: 2019

Study Summary: Neonatal dried blood spots offer a unique view into the early life health and metabolic state of children. As such, these dried blood spots may enable the investigation of angiogenic markers and their relevance to childhood health outcomes that are not identified until later in life (such as autism spectrum disorder). The work here seeks to demonstrate the feasibility and potential utility of

Updated 4/2/2026

measuring a panel of markers in neonatal dried blood spots. The proposed panel is cost effective and uses a minimal amount of dried blood spot. This data will serve as important and necessary preliminary data for future grant proposals that seek to understand how early life factors influence child health, especially ASD and other neurodevelopmental outcomes.

Study Findings: This study is done.

2018 Approved Research

A Comprehensive Newborn Screening Solution for Duchenne and Congenital Muscular Dystrophies

Institution/Agency: Baebies, Inc

Year Approved: 2018

Samples Requested: 450

Year Released: 2018 (Partial Release), 2019 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: Congenital genetic abnormalities are a leading cause of childhood mortality and morbidity. While routine newborn screening (NBS) has dramatically improved health outcomes, many congenital disorders such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) and other congenital muscular dystrophies (CMD) are not currently detected by routine NBS. The goal of this project is to develop a complete testing solution for efficient newborn screening of DMD and CMDs from dried blood spot (DBS) specimens. The system will consist of automated, low volume biochemical assays for creatine kinase (CK) enzyme activity and CK isoform expression (CK-MM and CK-MB) followed by 2nd-tier targeted next generation sequencing (tNGS) in CK (+) individuals to detect common causal gene variants associated with DMD and CMDs.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Biosocial Impact on Black Births (BIBB) Study (NIH Title: Social Stressors and Inflammation: A mixed methods approach to preterm birth)

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University (previously, Wayne State University)

Year Approved: 2018

Samples Requested: 1,700, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2025 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: By linking information derived from newborn blood spots collected by the state of Michigan with births in metro Detroit, we have the opportunity to find out how potentially modifiable intergenerational factors impact birth outcomes in Black families. African American women have 1.5 times the rates of preterm birth (PTB) (<37 weeks completed gestation) compared with non-Hispanic white women. This disproportionately high PTB rate in African Americans is a persistent health inequity that leads to high child mortality, morbidity, and developmental delays. In the U.S. approximately \$26 billion are spent annually on health care costs for infants and children that were born prematurely. Recent attempts to explain the high PTB rates in African American women have focused on social stressors, such as disadvantaged neighborhoods, racial discrimination, and stressful life events. These social stressors may lead to PTB by increasing women's emotional stress levels. Not surprisingly, emotional stress along with levels of the stress hormone cortisol and systemic inflammation - both physiological responses to stress - have all been related to higher risk of PTB. In contrast, one's

psychosocial resources (e.g., social support) can lessen emotional stress and have protective effects on PTB. Little is yet known about the pathways by which social stressors affect inflammation, and ultimately PTB. The objective of the proposed study is to determine how social stressors alter inflammation during pregnancy and lead to PTB in African American women. We aim to: 1) determine the pathways by which social stressors affect PTB; and 2) describe social stressors, emotional stress and psychosocial resources; the associations among these concepts; and their impact on PTB from women's perspectives. We will conduct a variety of statistical, qualitative and mixed methods analyses using both quantitative and qualitative data to determine answers to the aims of our study. We will also consider the timing of pregnancy in our analyses, as the prenatal data are collected at three distinct time points. Insights gained from this mixed methods approach may lead to the development of an individualized PTB risk profile based on a woman's social stressors and biomarkers which will have potential use in clinical practice and be a target for culturally appropriate interventions to reduce PTB incidence in African American women, and will generate new perspectives for future research in other racial groups through our detailed focus on this high risk group. Examining maternal and infant DNA for methylation patterns is a new avenue of research that will complement our other measures of biologic factors. Knowledge of the social context of African American women's lives will increase our understanding of why some women have poor pregnancy outcomes, generate new perspectives for future research, inform new lines of inquiry regarding the pathways through which stress affects preterm birth in other racial groups, contribute to the development of culturally appropriate interventions to reduce racial disparities in preterm birth, and ultimately improve birth outcomes.

[Fathers Matter \(NIH Title: Paternal Role in Adverse Birth Outcomes in Black Families\)](#)

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University (previously, Wayne State University)

Year Approved: 2018

Samples Requested: 500, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: A wide range of factors have been examined as potential explanations for the high rates of adverse birth outcomes for Black women. Available research is limited in the extent to which it examines the role of babies' fathers in the lives of pregnant women. As we have reported, the few studies that have explored paternal effects on birth outcomes have generally excluded understanding the dynamic, complex, and often correlated maternal-paternal relationship. Given the significance placed on the father's role as a provider, studies have often been limited to an examination of paternal age, occupation, or socioeconomic status. The proposed study will assess whether and how fathers may have an impact on successful birth outcomes (birth weight, gestational age). Our study of Black fathers and birth outcomes builds on our previous studies and those of others although differing in several important ways. Innovative aspects of this study include direct collection of data from fathers, assessment of the mother-father relationship, and inclusion of measures rarely studied, particularly as related to fathers, such as DNA methylation patterns, discrimination, and neighborhood environment across the life course. This study complements the recently funded NIH R01 Social stressors and Inflammation: A Mixed Methods Approach to Preterm Birth (Giurgescu PI, Misra, co-I) in that 500 fathers of the babies (to be born) of pregnant Black women in that study will be recruited for the proposed study. Both fathers and mothers will be interviewed during the prenatal period and within the first week after birth. Data on birth outcomes and additional maternal social, psychological, and biomedical data from BIBB will complement data from this study to address the aims. Thus, multiple

Updated 4/2/2026

sources of data will be available to provide a more comprehensive assessment of fathers as part of the social environment in which Black women experience pregnancies. We aim to: (1) Determine how the mother-father relationship (support, conflict) during pregnancy relates to maternal and/or paternal factors; and (2) Determine whether and how paternal factors relate to birth outcomes (birth weight, gestational age at birth). Complex processes are at work in the lives of pregnant Black parents. Understanding mechanisms through which these processes unfold is imperative for articulating risk and protective factors influencing birth outcomes. Although the literature has identified a number of risk factors associated with mothers, little attention has been given to understanding the role of fathers related to birth outcomes. Understanding their contributions to birth outcomes could expand service, intervention, and policy efforts beyond mothers.

Statewide Michigan Leukemia Epidemiology Study (SMILES),

Former Title: Congenital cytomegalovirus infection, KIR genotypes, and acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Institution/Agency: University of Minnesota

Year Approved: 2018

Samples Requested: 12,750

Year Released: 2020 (Partial Release), 2021 (Partial Release), 2025 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: SMILES and the subsequent sub-studies are designed to explore risk factors associated with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is the most common form of pediatric cancer and a leading cause of death in children.

- SMILES-CMV - SMILES began with a validation study exploring the relationship between cytomegalovirus (CMV) and the development of ALL in the pediatric population. The body's internal immune response could be a contributing factor to the development of CMV. Using blood spots to identify CMV and these cellular genotypes of ALL patients could detect possible modifiable viral and/or genetic risk factors that might lead to ALL.
- SMILES-M - The study of epigenetics and DNA methylation patterns was later added to explore differences and survival.
- SMILES/ADMIRAL - Children with substantial African ancestry have long been known to have half or less the rate of B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL) than do children with other continental ancestries. Common genetic variants established by genomewide association studies incompletely explain the deficit of B-ALL in AA children, suggesting undiscovered contributing genetic factors may be detected by admixture mapping. The proposed research will potentially answer a longstanding mystery by revealing critical genes or loci that explain the comparative deficit of B-ALL in AA compared to EA children.
- SMILES/BATS - There is evidence that ALL is initiated in utero, and it is estimated that at least 2% of healthy newborns have leukemia-specific translocations present in low copy number at birth. These high-risk children, born with leukemia-specific translocation in blood cells, have pre-leukemia, defined as the presence of leukemia-specific translocation in the absence of overt disease. Emerging data suggests far more newborns harbor the ETV6/RUNX1 translocation at birth than eventually develop leukemia. In this first large-scale study, we will use Breakpoint Agnostic Translocation Screening (BATS) to study pre-leukemia, defined here as the presence of the ETV6/RUNX1 translocation.

Study Findings: See article below:

- *Geris, JM, Schleiss, MR, Hooten, AJ, Langer, E, Hernandez-Alvarez, N, Roesler, MA, Sample, J, Williams, LA, Dickens, DS, Mody, RJ, Ravindranath, Y, Gowans, KL, Pridgeon, MG, Spector, LG, and Nelson, HH. Evaluation of the Association Between Congenital Cytomegalovirus Infection and Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. JAMA Network Open. 2023 January 9. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.50219*

Comparison study for NeoBase2 Non-derivatized MSMS kit on QSight Screening System

Institution/Agency: PerkinElmer, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Year Approved: 2018

Samples Requested: 4550

Year Released: 2019

Study Summary: De-identified blood spots from newborns diagnosed with certain metabolic conditions detected by newborn screening are used for a method comparison study. This type of study is done to determine if this company's testing technology performs on an additional MSMS instrument platform as well or better than on the current instrument platform. This could help improve current laboratory tests used to detect disorders through newborn screening.

Study Findings: This study is done.

(Genetic Studies of Diabetes Mellitus) Newborn Screening for Earlier Diagnosis and Treatment of Congenital Diabetes

Institution/Agency: University of Chicago

Year Approved: 2018

Samples Requested: 11,500, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2022 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: Congenital diabetes is a rare but treatable form of diabetes diagnosed during the first days or months of life. Symptoms are often difficult to recognize in infants, causing a delay in diagnosis and possible adverse health outcomes; identifying congenital diabetes earlier could reduce morbidity and encourage proper treatments. According to the University of Chicago Monogenic Diabetes Registry, nearly half of the patients with congenital diabetes have mutations in the ATP-sensitive potassium (KATP) channel. Patients with these mutations normally have significant hyperglycemia within 24-72 hours of life, making it possible to be detected on dried blood spot samples. Identifying hyperglycemia through newborn screening also prompts the implementation of sulfonyleurea drugs instead of insulin as an initial treatment measure. Sulfonyleurea's functionality and lower price paired with recent evidence about it preventing possible neurological delays make it an ideal treatment option for individuals with congenital diabetes. Detecting congenital diabetes early through newborn screening could be an efficacious public health initiative. The goal of this study is to support the inclusion of congenital diabetes into newborn screening programs by demonstrating the feasibility to screen for congenital diabetes, highlighting the importance of preventing congenital diabetes morbidity by including it in newborn screening, and providing evidence on appropriate treatment directed toward improving long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes.

Aromatic L-Amino Acid Decarboxylase Deficiency (AADCD) Prevalence Study

Institution/Agency: RTI International

Updated 4/2/2026

Year Approved: 2018

Samples Requested: 3,000

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine the prevalence of aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase deficiency (AADCD), a rare autosomal recessive condition resulting from mutations in the aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase gene (DCC). AADCD results in both serotonin and catecholamine deficiency and clinical symptoms usually onset in infancy or childhood. Of 78 patients described in 2010, 6 had symptom onset in adolescence or later. Common symptoms include hypotonia (95%), oculogyric crisis (86%), and developmental delay (63%). Other frequently described symptoms are temperature instability, movement disorders, feeding or speech difficulty, insomnia, and irritability. Many patients die before age 10 due to complications of seizures or feeding and breathing difficulties. The prevalence of AADCD in the United States is unknown. The best available estimate of prevalence of the disorder is 1:85,000. This estimate is derived from screening of random newborn blood spots in Taiwan, and the prevalence of elevated 3-OMD in CSF from patients with undiagnosed neurological disorders in the United States (unpublished data, Agilis Biotherapeutics) and Hong Kong. A gene therapy has been developed that uses adeno-associated viral vector-mediated gene transfer of functional DDC gene into the putamen of affected patients. Four patients received the treatment. Prior to treatment, the patients were bedridden, lacked head control or the ability to speak, and experienced frequent oculogyric crisis. After therapy (follow up, 15-24 months), the patients gained weight, had improved motor and cognitive function, fewer oculogyric crises, and increased emotional stability. The only major adverse effect of treatment observed in the study was transient dyskinesia. An accurate estimation of prevalence is needed for FDA approval of the therapy. We will sequence the DDC gene in a random sample of infants to estimate the allele frequency of pathologic mutations in the DDC gene among a US population. We will calculate the expected prevalence of AADCD as the total probability of all compound heterozygous or homozygous genotypes.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done.

2017 Approved Research

[LIFE2 study: Looking back to look forward: Social Environment across the Lifecourse, Epigenetics, and Birth Outcomes in Black Families](#)

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University (previously, Wayne State University)

Year Approved: 2017

Samples Requested: 2,000, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2025 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: We will investigate maternal environmental influences on neonatal epigenetic profiles; trajectories as well as critical periods will be assessed as the maternal social environment over the maternal life course may independently, cumulatively, and interactively impact offspring's epigenomic profile. Neighborhood level data will utilize both administrative and subjective measures of neighborhood. In addition to determining associations between the maternal social environment and her offspring's epigenomic profile, we will endeavor to explore potential biologic pathways linking the social environment across the maternal life course with the perinatal outcomes of her offspring. This will be accomplished by utilizing the newborn blood spots available for all of the offspring in this cohort as well as newborn blood spots for approximately half of their mothers. These will be assayed to determine

Updated 4/2/2026

the presence of epigenetic methylation changes. Researchers have recently begun to consider social environmental factors and how they relate to epigenomic changes that are associated with adverse perinatal outcomes. Yet those populations disproportionately affected by these outcomes are grossly underrepresented in genomic studies. Our cohort of 1410 births to Black women in the Detroit metro area, with nearly half to women residing in Detroit, provides a rich source of data on the maternal social environment across the life course and a wide range of factors.

[Archive for Research on Child Health Blood Spot Analyses \(ARCH\)](#)

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2017

Samples Requested: 1,550, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2018 (Partial Release), 2019 (Partial Release), 2020 (Partial Release), 2021 (Partial Release)

Study Summary: The Archive for Research on Child Health (ARCH) is a pregnancy cohort in the Lansing area. Starting in 2008, the research team led by Dr. Nigel Paneth, began recruiting pregnant women in three different prenatal care clinics in the Lansing area. The project was designed to be as minimally invasive as possible and asks participants to complete a short in person survey and to allow the research team to store leftover biological samples, such as blood or urine, that they will provide to their doctor and would normally be thrown away. Following the birth of the baby, mothers are called annually to complete short telephone surveys that ask questions regarding the health and development of the mother and child. ARCH has recruited over 800 mother-infant pairs since 2008 and continues to study important factors that may affect pregnancy and child health such as environmental chemicals, infections, and diet.

Study Findings: This study has been combined with a 2014 study titled “ARCH” and a 2017 study titled “ARCH-Placenta”.

[Global Metabolomic Profiling in Metabolic Disease](#)

Institution/Agency: Baylor College of Medicine

Year Approved: 2017

Samples Requested: 220

Year Released: 2018

Study Summary: Genetic defects that directly affect the creation or degradation of metabolites are termed inborn errors of metabolism and in many cases can be diagnosed by the accumulation or depletion of pathway intermediates. Beyond this, many other genetic disorders not directly associated with metabolic pathways also can be diagnosed by studying a patient’s metabolic profile; examples include disorders relating to amino acid metabolism, fatty acid metabolism, organelle synthesis, and metal transport. Technological advances have now made possible the rapid and accurate detection of over 1,000 metabolites in human plasma samples. Insights afforded by such an analysis could prove crucial in the diagnosis of many genetic disorders. The goal of our study is to explore the ability of global untargeted metabolomics to identify and diagnose inborn errors of metabolism.

[ARCH-Placenta](#)

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2017

Samples Requested: 1,550, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: Since formulation of the “Barker Hypothesis” many studies have demonstrated associations between maternal/environmental factors and offspring pathologies. Maternal obesity and associated metabolic disorders, smoking, and stress affect the in utero environment and have been associated with offspring disorders such as allergy and asthma, obesity, and neurologic disease. Despite these associations, we do not yet understand how these maternal factors affect the health of future offspring. It is our hypothesis that these environmental factors dysregulate placental function, which affects fetal development resulting in development of offspring disease. We know that maternal factors can affect the placenta, but we know very little about what changes in placental function affect development of offspring. In this study, instead of comparing placentas associated with the maternal environments, we will compare placentas associated with the health and pathologic offspring. Furthermore, we can retrospectively examine the maternal environment in association with both placental function and offspring phenotype, and with this design, begin to study a functional link between the environment, placental function and child health.

Study Findings: This study has been combined with a 2017 study titled “Archive for Research on Child Health Blood Spot Analyses”.

2016 Approved Research

Development of Newborn Screen for Niemann-Pick C1 Disease

Institution/Agency: Washington University

Year Approved: 2016

Samples Requested: 20, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2017

Study Summary: Niemann-Pick C (NPC) disease is a progressive, neurodegenerative disorder. NPC results in a buildup of cholesterol in cells, which, in turn, destroys neurons. Difficulty making the diagnosis (>5 years) leads to significant delays in treatment. NPC is an excellent candidate for newborn screening because therapies are available or entering into clinical trials that modify the disease. There is potential to reduce long-term morbidity and improve quality of life. These researchers have developed a fully-validated newborn screen for NPC. To further validate the screen, they will use blood spots from NPC patients from ~20 states including Michigan.

Study Findings: This study is done. The results of the study demonstrate that newborn screening for npc1 disease is feasible using bile acid biomarkers. For more information see the article below:

1. *Jiang X, Sidhu R, Orsini JJ, Farhat NY, Porter FD, Berry-Kravis E, Schaffer JE, and Ory DS. Diagnosis of Niemann-Pick C1 by Measurement of Bile Acid Biomarkers in Archived Newborn Dried Blood Spots. Mol Genet Metab 2018, Mol Genet Metab. 2018 Aug 24. pii: S1096-7192(18)30400-1. doi: 10.1016/j.ymgme.2018.08.007. [Epub ahead of print]*

Determination of dried blood spot-derived DNA yield, quality, and next-generation sequencing capacity for applications in newborn screening

Institution/Agency: Veritas Genetics

Updated 4/2/2026

Year Approved: 2016

Samples Requested: 42

Year Released: 2016

Study Summary: Targeted next-generation sequencing (NGS) of genes commonly associated with newborn illness promises to provide benefits to newborn screening by reducing costs and improving patient outcomes. The utility of blood spot-derived DNA must be validated for use in new genetic testing such as NGS. This study will use blood spots to test the suitability of blood spot-derived DNA for NGS. They will test two different DNA extraction methods that vary in handling and age. DNA yield and quality will be measured and the extracted DNA assessed for suitability in NGS assays.

Study Findings: This study is done.

WHEALS and CAS Metals Study

Institution/Agency: Henry Ford Health System

Year Approved: 2016

Samples Requested: 20, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: Data suggests that exposure to metals is associated with metabolic syndrome and dysregulated immune function in childhood. However, there is a lack of comprehensive longitudinal studies exploring prenatal metal exposures (and metal mixtures) with health across early childhood and into young adulthood. This project will examine the relationship between very early life exposure to metals (copper, zinc, lead, mercury, cadmium, calcium, iron and arsenic) and metabolic syndrome and immune function in childhood.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done using Michigan blood spots.

Genetic Susceptibility to Pediatric Rhabdomyosarcoma

Institution/Agency: Baylor College of Medicine

Year Approved: 2016

Samples Requested: 600

Year Released: 2017

Study Summary: Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), the most common soft-tissue sarcoma in children and adolescents, has one of the poorest 5-year survival rates (43% to 67%) among all childhood cancers and has few established risk factors. This highly malignant tumor is believed to arise from disrupted skeletal muscle cells (myoblasts) and can develop anywhere in the body. These tumors are frequent among children with genetic syndromes; however, recognized genetic syndromes account for only 5% of cases. Therefore, much work remains to be done to understand the causes of the other 95% that appear to be sporadic. Genome-wide association studies, in which hundreds of thousands of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) are tested for association with a disease in hundreds or thousands of individuals, have revolutionized the search for genetic influences on complex traits. In spite of the importance of this unbiased approach to surveying the genome, to date, there has been no genome-wide association study (GWAS) of childhood RMS. This study will conduct the first GWAS of childhood RMS utilizing Michigan blood spots which will ensure a population-based approach in understanding this important childhood malignancy.

Study Findings: This study is done. This genome-wide association study was developed to explore the association between common genetic variants and the three most common pediatric sarcomas

Updated 4/2/2026

(osteosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma, and rhabdomyosarcoma) using data from the Michigan Cancer Surveillance Program and the Michigan Neonatal Biobank. Genome-wide association studies, in which hundreds of thousands of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) are tested for association with a disease in hundreds or thousands of individuals, have revolutionized the search for genetic influences on complex traits. While these three sarcomas have some overlapping risk factors, there are still questions about what genetic drivers may lead to differential sarcoma development in children. In this study, we sought to better understand what, if any, genetic variants were associated with general sarcoma susceptibility. To our knowledge this was the first attempt to disentangle the genetic factors that lead to differential sarcomagenesis.

Gonadotropins and Retinopathy of Prematurity

Institution/Agency: Zietchick Research Institute

Year Approved: 2016

Samples Requested: 1,100

Year Released: 2016, 2018

Study Summary: Very premature babies are at risk for developing the potentially blinding disorder, retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). This project is aimed to demonstrate that there is an increased gonadotropin blood level in premature infants who develop ROP. The establishment of a gonadotropin-ROP association may lead to an ROP preventative agent. Dried blood spots (DBS) are an available source of neonatal biospecimens from premature babies. Hormone levels from the DBS will be measured and statistical analyses correlating gonadotropin levels with ROP risk will be performed.

Study Findings: This study is done. With the use of DBS from preterm infants, we gained new insights into the eye disease, known as retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). We showed that premature infants produce human chorionic gonadotropin (the pregnancy hormone) after birth and that a deficiency of this hormone is associated with ROP. We also showed that high levels of luteinizing hormone is associated with ROP in a sex-dependent manner. Moreover, we showed that different isoforms of VEGF have different associations with ROP, which are also dependent upon biological sex. Lastly, we showed that high levels of neonatal A1C is associated with severe ROP, affirming an association between hyperglycemia and this sight-threatening eye disease. For more information see the articles below:

- Movsas TZ, Gewolb IH, Paneth N, Lu Q, Muthusamy A. *The association between high levels of luteinizing hormone and proliferative retinopathy of prematurity in female preterm infants. J AAPOS. 2020.*
- Movsas TZ, Paneth N, Gewolb IH, Lu Q, Cavey G, Muthusamy A. *The postnatal presence of human chorionic gonadotropin in preterm infants and its potential inverse association with retinopathy of prematurity. Pediatr Res. 2020;87(3):558-563.*
- Movsas TZ, Muthusamy A. *Feasibility of neonatal haemoglobin A1C as a biomarker for retinopathy of prematurity. Biomarkers. 2020;25(6):468-473.*
- Movsas TZ, Muthusamy A. *Associations between VEGF isoforms and impending retinopathy of prematurity. Int J Dev Neurosci. 2020;80(7):586-593.*

Early Life Risk, Resilience and Behavioral Outcomes (ELBO)

Institution/Agency: New York University Langone (previously, Wayne State University)

Year Approved: 2016

Updated 4/2/2026

Samples Requested: 160

Year Released: 2017

Study Summary: Decades of research have highlighted the damaging effects of prenatal exposure to common environmental toxicants (i.e., tobacco smoke, lead, persistent organic pollutants, and mercury) on later health outcomes. Fetuses and infants are particularly sensitive to such exposure, both because early disruptions in development can have long-lasting effects, but also because many neurotoxicants are readily transferred across the placenta and the fetal blood brain barrier. Children born in areas with high levels of pollutants (e.g., poor urban neighborhoods) suffer from notably higher rates of a number of adverse health outcomes, including child behavior problems such as aggression, antisocial behavior, and hyperactivity. Three studies within a single, well-characterized, longitudinal research cohort are proposed to improve mechanistic understanding of means by which prenatal environmental exposures influence long-term human health and well-being. We will thus be able to meaningfully evaluate whether and how prenatal toxicant exposures affect functional neurocircuitry of the developing fetal brain, and the long-term behavioral consequences of those associations. Such work would constitute a substantial advance in our understanding of not only the long-term effects of prenatal toxicant exposure, but also the mechanisms that drive these effects.

Study Findings: See the article below:

- *Thomason M.E., Hect J.L., Rauh V.A., Trentacosta C., Wheelock M.D., Eggebrecht A.T., Espinoza-Heredia C., Burt A. Prenatal lead exposure impacts cross-hemispheric and long-range connectivity in the human fetal brain. NeuroImage. 2019 May 1; 191(186-192).*

Testing DNA Extraction Protocol on External Dried Blood Spot Samples of Neonates

Institution/Agency: Center for Applied Genomics

Year Approved: 2016

Samples Requested: 25

Year Released: 2017

Study Summary: The Center for Applied Genomics (CAG) operates and manages a pediatric biobank at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), which is the largest biobank of its kind in the world for a pediatric population with ~100K unique subjects collected to date. The extant DNA collection are derived mostly from blood draws and saliva, however they are aiming to establish workflows from dried blood spots (DBS) as well, since many neonatal collections (both internal and external to CHOP) are stored in this form. The extracted DNA would be informative and useful for research into the genetic etiology of pediatric diseases. They have established a protocol to extract DNA from DBS in a high-throughput format, and are using DBS samples from external groups to test the robustness & reproducibility of their extraction process. Samples representing a diverse range of storage periods (1-20 years) and conditions (frozen vs. ambient temp vs. repeated freeze/thaws) are needed to assess quality of extracted DNA.

Study Findings: This study is done.

2015 Approved Research

Genetic Analysis of Human First Trimester Trophoblast in Ongoing Pregnancies

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Updated 4/2/2026

Year Approved: 2015

Samples Requested: 67, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2015, 2018

Study Summary: This study is using blood spots to help determine if a new method of prenatal genetic diagnosis is informative. The method retrieves a type of cells, called trophoblasts, from a woman's cervix as early as 5 weeks gestation. Chromosomes in trophoblast cells from recruited patients are currently being evaluated. Patients recruited in the study have consented to allow extraction of DNA from their newborn's blood spots to compare with the DNA of the trophoblasts.

Study Findings: **This study is closed.** For more information, see the article below:

- *Jain C.V., Kadam L, van Dijk M, Kohan-Ghadr MR, Kilburn B, Hartman C, Mazzorana V, Visser A, Hertz M, Bolnick A, Fritz R, Armant D. R., Drewlo S. Fetal genome profiling at 5 weeks of gestation after noninvasive isolation of trophoblast cells from the endocervical canal. Science Translational Medicine. 2016 Nov 2; 8(363).*

[Collection of Confirmed Positive Specimens for Evaluation in a Clinical Study to Establish Screening Performance of the PerkinElmer NeoBase2 Non-Derivatized MSMS Test System for Inborn Errors of Metabolism](#)

Institution/Agency: Perkin Elmer

Year Approved: 2015

Samples Requested: 5

Year Released: 2016

Study Summary: De-identified blood spots from newborns diagnosed with certain metabolic conditions detected by newborn screening are used for a method comparison study. This type of study is done to determine if this company's new testing technology performs as well or better than the current testing. This could help improve current laboratory tests used to detect disorders through newborn screening.

Study Findings: **This study was closed with no work done.**

[The Impact of HepG2 Dnase I Hypersensitivity Site-Associated Variants on Risk of Hepatoblastoma](#)

Institution/Agency: University of Minnesota

Year Approved: 2015

Samples Requested: 420

Year Released: 2016, 2019

Study Summary: Hepatoblastoma (HB) is a rare liver tumor that occurs most commonly in children under five years of age. Very little is known about the causes of HB, and genetic factors may play a role. Researchers will first use their existing bank of HB samples to identify genetic variants that increase risk of HB. They will then use Michigan's newborn blood spots to validate their initial findings.

[Neonatal Dried Blood Spot Testing](#)

Institution/Agency: Translational Genomics Research Institute

Year Approved: 2015

Samples Requested: 90

Year Released: 2016

Updated 4/2/2026

Study Summary: The study will use blood spots for RNA extraction and analysis. The requested spots will be from 2014, 2010, 2008, 2005 and 1995. This time frame will encompass spots that have been stored at ambient temperature and in a -20° freezer. This study will investigate how storage conditions and age affect the amount and quality of the RNA.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Enabling Fragile X Screening Using Blood Spot Cards

Institution/Agency: Asuragen

Year Approved: 2015

Samples Requested: 10,000

Year Released: 2016

Study Summary: This study is using blood spots to assess the accuracy of a rapid, high-throughput, and cost-effective newborn screening test for Fragile X syndrome. Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is the most common form of inherited intellectual disability and a known genetic cause of autism. Fragile X newborn screening (NBS) provides opportunities for behavioral therapies and other interventions at earlier ages when they may offer a greater benefit, and promises to reduce the “diagnostic odyssey” associated with FXS. In addition, multiple clinical trials are ongoing to assess therapeutics that impact molecular pathways that are disrupted in FXS. Finally, NBS has been favorably received by parents in prospective longitudinal studies. As a result, accurate and cost-effective screening technologies are needed in anticipation of emerging therapeutic options taken together with the existing benefits of early detection. This study has ended. Results: The newborn dried blood spot samples from the state of Michigan BioTrust enabled Asuragen to develop an accurate, high-performance test to identify newborns at risk of fragile X syndrome, the leading inherited cause of intellectual disability.

Study Findings: This study is done. The results of this study were presented at a national conference (ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting March 2017) and the work confirmed previously published results demonstrating a relatively high incidence of the fragile X gene disorder in the general population. The reagents and software that we developed are enabling the fragile X screening efforts of a large-scale research study (Early Check, <https://earlycheck.org/>) to identify newborns before symptoms appear.

Genetic Overlap Between Anomalies and Cancer in Kids (GOBACK)

Institution/Agency: Baylor College of Medicine

Year Approved: 2015

Samples Requested: 300, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: One of the strongest risk factors for childhood cancer is being born with a congenital malformation. The underlying reasons for this association are unknown. This study uses blood spots to attempt to find new genetic mutations (mutations not inherited from the child’s mother or father, also known as de novo mutations) that may explain the overlap of these conditions. We anticipate that the results of this study will ultimately lead to the identification of novel cancer predisposition syndromes which could be used in cancer screening strategies for earlier detection of children at high risk for developing cancer. This study will be conducted through collaborative relationships among researchers in Texas, Arkansas, Michigan, North Carolina, Utah and Washington State.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done using Michigan blood spots.

2014 Approved Research

Maternal Social Environment and Telomere Length

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 225

Year Released: 2015

Study Summary: This study assessed whether it is possible to use a common laboratory method, qPCR, to measure telomere length in blood spots. Telomeres are sections of DNA at the ends of chromosomes. The study also assesses whether telomere length is affected by the maternal social environment during pregnancy.

Study Findings: This study is done. See article below:

- *Needham, Belinda L., Margaret T. Hicken, Ishtar O. Govia, Colter Mitchell, and Cleopatra M. Abdou. 2017. "Maternal Social Disadvantage and Newborn Telomere Length in Archived Dried Blood Spots from the Michigan Neonatal Biobank." *Biodemography and Social Biology* 63:221-235.*

Molecular Epidemiology of Pediatric Germ Cell Tumors

Institution/Agency: University of Minnesota

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 1,000

Year Released: 2015

Study Summary: Pediatric germ cell tumors (GCTs) are thought to result from events in utero. The incidence of GCTs has increased but the underlying causes are unknown. Given the early age of onset, a genetic cause seems likely. These researchers recently completed a large study to evaluate the genetic contribution to GCTs and will use Michigan blood spots to validate their initial findings. This research will be the largest genetic epidemiology study of pediatric GCTs to date, and will evaluate genetic susceptibility.

Genetic and Metabolic Associations with Congenital Hypothyroidism

Institution/Agency: University of Iowa

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 650

Year Released: 2014

Study Summary: Congenital hypothyroidism (CH) is partial or complete loss of thyroid function. If untreated, it results in damage to the brain and abnormal growth, but with treatment results in normal growth and development. Treatment must begin in the 1st months of life, so CH is part of newborn screening. This study assesses the risk for secondary problems like type 2 diabetes in people with CH. Results could improve follow-up screening for CH, help to better understand neonatal metabolism and later-life chronic conditions like type 2 diabetes.

Study Findings: This study is done. Almost immediately after birth, humans begin burning fat for energy and warmth. Newborn screening data enabled a study of whether this process is altered in infants with congenital disorders. The study focused on two specific disorders: congenital hypothyroidism and cystic fibrosis. The results indicate that infants with these disorders burn less fat than normal. Surprisingly, however, these infants burned relatively more of a specific fatty acid—linoleic acid. One possible explanation for this finding relates to higher levels of inflammation in these infants. This finding is

particularly important for cystic fibrosis, as it may help explain why this condition often causes lifelong linoleic acid deficiency. Please see the article below for additional details:

- Pinnaro CT, Ryckman KK, Uc A, Norris AW. *Unbalanced long-chain fatty acid beta-oxidation in newborns with cystic fibrosis and congenital hypothyroidism. Mol Genet Metab Rep. 2024 Dec 26;42:101182. doi: 10.1016/j.ymgmr.2024.101182. PMID: 39816991; PMCID: PMC11732690.*

Healthy Families

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 140, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2014, 2015, 2018

Study Summary: This study is part of a larger one exploring aspects of a child's biology, diet, physical activity, environment and family relationships to find factors that impact observable satiety cues (a child being full). Blood spots are used to study changes over time in epigenetic markers, genetic changes that influence whether and when certain genes are turned on or off. The study may reveal whether certain environments affect the expression of certain genes and contribute to obesity. Findings hope to support development of tailored interventions that can help parents better guide their children through healthy development and reduce childhood obesity.

Study Findings: See the articles below:

- Kochmanski J, Goodrich JM, Peterson KE, Lumeng JC, and Dolinoy DC. *Neonatal bloodspot DNA methylation patterns are associated with childhood weight status in the Healthy Families Project. Pediatric Research 2018 Nov 13. doi: 10.1038/s41390-018-0227-1.*
- Montrose, L., Goodrich, J. M., Morishita, M., Kochmanski, J., Klaver, Z., Cavalcante, R., Lumeng, J. C., Peterson, K. E., & Dolinoy, D. C. (2020). *Neonatal Lead (Pb) Exposure and DNA Methylation Profiles in Dried Bloodspots. International journal of environmental research and public health, 17(18), 6775. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17186775.*

ARCH Study

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 1,550, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: The purpose of ARCH is to create an archive of health and biological data primarily for use in case control studies. Data is collected during pregnancy and then annually for five years to identify health conditions that develop in early childhood. ARCH is a resource for investigators. Blood spots may be used in future ARCH studies after IRB and Scientific Advisory Board review and approval of each study.

Study Findings: This study has been combined with a 2017 study titled "Archive for Research on Child Health Blood Spot Analyses".

Measuring Orotic Acid in Newborn Screening Specimens as an Indicator for OTC Deficiency

Institution/Agency: Wisconsin Newborn Screening Program

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 6

Year Released: 2014

Study Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine if orotic acid can be measured in newborn screening blood spots and whether the amount of orotic acid in the blood spots is greater in patients with ornithine transcarbamylase (OTC) deficiency or carriers of the disease than the normal population. OTC deficiency is an inherited disorder that causes ammonia to build up in the blood.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Neonatal Environmental Exposures and Epigenetics and Childhood Brain Tumor Risk

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 200

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: This study will use blood spots to assess the association of prenatal heavy metal (cadmium, lead, mercury) exposure and prenatal gene-specific DNA methylation glioma risk. Known risk factors explain only 5-10% of childhood glioma, the most common malignant brain tumor in children. Finding other risk factors may help better understand its cause and improve detection, treatment and prevention. The prenatal environment may play a role in childhood glioma development but prenatal risk factors have not been extensively studied. This project can advance childhood cancer research by establishing new methods for metal exposure assessment and measuring DNA methylation in neonatal blood spots.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done.

Development of an Improved Biotinidase Activity Assay

Institution/Agency: Future Diagnostics Solutions

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 100

Year Released: 2014

Study Summary: Biotinidase deficiency is an inherited disorder in which the body cannot recycle or reuse the vitamin biotin. Children found through newborn screening and treated can maintain normal health and development. This study will use blood spots to develop an improved assay to detect biotinidase deficiency through newborn screening.

Study Findings: This study is done. The biotinidase assay that we developed is easy to use, uses one dried-blood spot (DBS) and a four hours incubation at 37 °C. From the Michigan Neonatal Biobank we received discs from in total 100 subjects: 2 discs from 80 healthy subjects and 2 discs from 20 confirmed biotinidase deficient/intermediate subjects. At the end of the optimization phase, an evaluation batch has been prepared using draft manufacturing lot records and the DBS samples have been used for the evaluation. All samples reacted correctly in our assay and reference assay (the Spotcheck assay from Astoria Pacific). We concluded that a manual deficiency screening assay has been optimized to a user-friendly assay with a good stability, reproducibility and robustness.

Frequency of 11p15.5 Gene Transcription Abnormalities in Newborns with Isolated Omphalocele

Institution/Agency: University Hospitals Case Medical Center

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 45

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: An omphalocele is a defect in the wall of the abdomen where the bowel and other organs are outside of the body. It is usually thought to be a sporadic birth defect, but an overgrowth condition known as Beckwith-Weidemann syndrome (BWS) is present in 20% of fetuses diagnosed with an apparently isolated omphalocele. Typical features of BWS include large size, asymmetry of the body, omphalocele and a large tongue. This study will assess blood spots from newborns with isolated omphalocele to determine the frequency of BWS-related genetic changes in these infants.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done.

Molecular Genetics of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Patients with Down Syndrome

Institution/Agency: Baylor College of Medicine

Year Approved: 2014

Samples Requested: 300

Year Released: 2015

Study Summary: Children with Down syndrome (DS) have a 10-20 fold increased risk of leukemia. While there is a clear genetic basis for the increased acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) risk in DS, the exact gene(s) involved remain largely unknown. Recent studies have identified a number of genes that influence ALL susceptibility in children. There are no published studies to date on susceptibility genes specific to children with DS. This study will assess whether there are unique genes that predispose ALL in combination with a genetic background of DS, which differ from those that predispose to ALL in the non-DS population. The study will also compare the mutations that develop in ALL in children with DS, and how they differ from mutations in ALL in children without DS. This could shed light on leukemia development in children with DS, and provide more information about the chance of cure and improved treatments.

Study Findings: Individuals with Down syndrome (DS) have an extra copy of chromosome 21, and have a higher risk of many medical conditions. One of the risks is a 20-fold higher risk of developing leukemia, a cancer of the white blood cells, in children with DS. The exact genes that cause the increased risk of leukemia in children with DS are not known. This study is trying to learn more about the genes that are involved. The study has reported some genes that lead to a higher risk of developing leukemia in children with DS, and research is continuing in order to learn more about the genetic causes of leukemia in children with DS. These studies may improve our prediction of which children with DS are at risk of developing leukemia, and our treatments of children who are diagnosed with leukemia. For more information, see the articles below:

- *Brown AL et al.. Inherited genetic susceptibility to acute lymphoblastic leukemia in Down syndrome.. Blood 2019 Oct 10. doi: 10.1182/blood.2018890764*
- *Sok P, Lupo PJ, Richard MA, Rabin KR, Ehli EA, Kallsen NA, Davies GE, Scheurer ME, Brown AL. Utilization of archived neonatal dried blood spots for genome-wide genotyping. PLoS One. 2020 Feb 21;15(2):e0229352. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0229352. PMID: 32084225; PMCID: PMC7034898.*
- *Li Z et al. Genomic landscape of Down syndrome-associated acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Blood 2023 Jul 13. doi: 10.1182/blood.2023019765*

2013 Approved Research

ARCH Sub-Study: Effects of Maternal Physical Activity on Methylation Patterns in Offspring Blood Spots

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 42, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2014

Study Summary: More and more people are obese and suffer from chronic disease. Studies have shown that events during pregnancy and the state of the pregnancy may play a role. These factors may affect the way a newborn's cells work later in life. This study looks at whether a pregnant woman's physical activity has any effect on offspring's cells. The study also looks at the effect of maternal body mass index.

Study Findings: This study is done. See the article below:

- *Marshall, M., Paneth, N., Gerlach, J., Mudd, L., Biery, L., Ferguson, D., & Pivarnik, J. (2018). Differential methylation of insulin-like growth factor 2 in offspring of physically active pregnant women. Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, 9(3), 299-306. doi:10.1017/S2040174417001106*

Blood Spot Environmental Epidemiology Project (BLEEP)

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 35, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2014

Study Summary: This study assesses twins and their siblings' behavior to see if there is a link between prenatal factors and mental health outcomes. The study uses blood spots to assess genetic and uterine factors that may have had an effect on the child's mental health. Neighborhood poverty levels are also assessed.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Clinical Database of Children with Krabbe Disease: A World-Wide Registry

Institution/Agency: University of Buffalo/Hunter James Kelly Research Institute

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: <20, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2014

Study Summary: Hunter's Hope Foundation helps support research and families of children with Krabbe which is an often fatal inherited nervous system disease. Hunter's Hope, with the University at Buffalo, created the Hunter James Kelly Research Institute to find better treatments and a cure for Krabbe and related diseases. This study develops a database of children with Krabbe. This will help doctors better understand signs and tests that can predict the type of Krabbe. Enrolled parents can ask for their child's blood spot, stored for their personal use, to do genetic testing for Krabbe.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Ecologic Stressors, PTSD and Drug Abuse in Detroit

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2013

Updated 4/2/2026

Samples Requested: 200, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2014

Study Summary: This project is part of a bigger study known as the Detroit Neighborhood Study (DNHS). DNHS is ongoing and began in 2007. Several DNHS projects have been done. The most recent asks subjects to grant consent for using part of their child's blood spots. The blood spots will be tested for markers of maternal immune response during pregnancy. Subjects also complete surveys about upsetting events during pregnancy and mental health outcomes. This project may help shed light on when steps can be taken to lower the chance of a child developing the same mental health challenges as their parent(s). **This study is done.**

Gene-Environment Interplay and Young Children's Executive Functioning

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 60, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2014

Study Summary: This study will use blood spots from twins to assess whether certain genes are active versus inactive. Parents are asked how twins perform tasks involving working memory and attention and differences are studied. Researchers are trying to see if there is a genetic role or other factors explaining any of the differences seen.

Study Findings: We consented 27 twin pairs and their parents (90 total individuals). We have completed data collection from each family on the children's executive functioning and behavior. We established DNA methylation levels at sites for two genes (DAT1 and COMT). We conducted preliminary analyses of associations between DNA methylation patterns of candidate genes at birth and twins' executive functioning performance, and of the genetic and environmental etiology of DNA methylation patterns. Although the correlations were non-significant, the magnitude and direction of the correlations sometimes supported possible associations between DNA methylation of candidate genes and EF performance. In particular, the level of methylation at DAT1 CpG sites was marginally correlated with performance on a measure of attention shifting for the 38 individuals with data available for the EF tasks and DNA methylation ($r = .30, p < .07$).

Identification of Genetic Causes of Tetralogy of Fallot Using Massively Parallel Sequencing

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 490

Year Released: 2014, 2015

Study Summary: The high morbidity and mortality from severe congenital heart defects is prompting a search for their cause. This study uses blood spots from children with a severe heart defect (tetralogy of Fallot) to assess genes known or thought to be involved with heart development. These genes are not known to be implicated in cancer or other life-threatening conditions.

Study Findings: **This study is done.**

Improving IRT/DNA Newborn Screening for Cystic Fibrosis to Reduce False Positive Results by a New Molecular Strategy

Institution/Agency: Wisconsin Newborn Screening Program

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 300

Year Released: 2013, 2014

Study Summary: A group of states is working to assess a new process for cystic fibrosis (CF) newborn screening. CF is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. Over 1800 changes in the CF gene can cause this disorder. Many states use a panel of about 40 of the most common CF gene changes to find babies with this disorder. This study will assess whether a panel of 157 CF gene changes improves the overall process.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Lab-On-A-Chip for Multiplexed Newborn Screening of Metabolic Disorders-Assay Development

Institution/Agency: Advanced Liquid Logic

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 12

Year Released: 2013

Study Summary: Blood spots were used to assess a new method of newborn screening for metabolic disorders. Metabolic disorders affect the way the body gets or uses energy from the food we eat. Metabolic disorders on the newborn screening panels must be found shortly after birth. This allows treatment to prevent damage to the body.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Neural and Genetic Factors Contributing to Variants of Pediatric Anxiety Disorder

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 179, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: Changes that affect how a cell's gene activation and inactivation will be studied as well as the actual sequence of DNA in certain genes. Results will help link genes to behavior and develop better interventions for children at risk for adverse emotional development.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done using Michigan blood spots.

Newborns Conceived Through IVF Technology and the Incidence of Genetic Anomalies: A Pilot Study in Epigenetics

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 150

Year Released: 2014

Study Summary: Genetic material in blood spots from children born to mothers aided by assisted reproductive technology is being assessed. Actual changes in the sequence of the DNA are not studied. Instead changes that affect the activation or inactivation of genes are studied to find out whether these changes affect children as they develop. These details could then be given to parents who are considering assisted reproductive technology.

Study Findings: This study is done. The researchers concluded that both infertility and ICSI alter DNA methylation at specific genomic loci, and the study identified additional genetic sites of interest for future investigations on IVF populations. For detailed results, please see the article below:

- *Estill MS, Bolnick JM, Waterland RA, Bolnick AD, Diamond MP, Krawetz SA. Assisted reproductive technology alters deoxyribonucleic acid methylation profiles in bloodspots of newborn infants. Fertil Steril. 2016 Sep 1;106(3):629-639.*

Neurotoxin Exposure and Brain Development

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 300, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: Early contact with toxins (lead and mercury) during development is associated with intellectual and memory impairment, developmental delays in language and attention deficit disorder. This study will assess the effects these neurotoxins have on neural function by assessing their levels at different stages in development in people with typical development and those with Autism Spectrum Disorders. It will also explore the possible role of genetic processes and neurotoxin exposures to the impairments associated with such exposure and to the etiology of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done.

Next Generation Sequencing in the Newborn Period

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 500, additional study consent obtained

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: Next generation sequencing (NGS) promises to introduce a paradigm shift in the way clinical medicine is practiced. Improved sequencing technologies, which offer better genomic coverage and lower cost, have already impacted our ability to diagnose and treat children with neurodevelopmental and Mendelian disorders. There is a significant unmet clinical need for rapid diagnostics in the newborn period, when children are most vulnerable. Successful newborn screening programs across the United States have significantly reduced infant morbidity and mortality, and serve as models for global implementation of public health initiatives. Less clear, however, is how and whether massively parallel gene sequencing approaches such as whole exome or whole genome sequencing will augment or improve these well established, publicly accepted programs. Based on our experience in clinical genetics, high throughput sequencing, and Ethical/Legal/Social Implication (ELSI) projects, we predict that NGS will ultimately be used clinically in the newborn period, and that careful approaches and procedures need to be in place to ensure its success. We propose to screen existing dried blood spots (DBS) from the Michigan Biotrust, to determine whether NGS can efficiently detect children with conditions currently included in NBS in the state of Michigan.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done using Michigan blood spots..

Evaluation of the Effects of Prenatal Exposure to Non-Essential Heavy Metals on Hearing

Institution/Agency: University of Michigan

Year Approved: 2013

Samples Requested: 500

Year Released: 216

Study Summary: The objective of this study is to evaluate the relationship between hearing outcomes and blood levels of several non-essential heavy metals and essential nutrients in Michigan newborns.

Study Findings: This study is done. Toxicant metals are associated with hearing loss, but little is known about impacts in infants. We conducted a case-control study to explore the relationship between newborn hearing test outcomes and neonatal blood levels of two non-essential metals, lead and methylmercury (MeHg), along with six essential elements (calcium, copper, iron, potassium, selenium, and zinc). We obtained data for 338 infants with an abnormal hearing screening result and 338 infants with a normal hearing screening result, matched by birth year, sex, and race. Conditional logistic regression models estimated odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CI). The odds of a hearing screening failure were significantly higher in the highest quartile of MeHg compared to the lowest quartile (OR=1.81 95% CI: 1.01-3.24). We found a significant association between blood spot calcium levels and decreased odds of hearing screening failure (OR=0.49, 95% CI: 0.34-0.70). Our findings, though they must be interpreted with caution, suggest that neonatal essential element levels may be important to hearing health. Further studies are warranted to understand the physiological mechanisms. The study demonstrated that MeHg appears to be a risk factor for hearing in the developing auditory system, and that newborn blood spots represent an effective metric for assessing infant environmental exposures.

2012 Approved Research

Twins and Sibling Study

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2012

Samples Requested: 200, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2013

Study Summary: This study will use blood spots from twins and their siblings to assess the level of androgen (a hormone) and whether androgen-related genes are activated. This work may show how prenatal and genetic factors impact acting out behaviors in children.

Study Findings: This study is done. The Twins and Siblings Study was a pilot study to investigate the uterine influences on adverse childhood behavior in twins and their siblings. Although our study suggested the effect of uterine influences on adverse childhood behavior, due to a small sample size of 32 participants the results are not statistically significant. A follow-up study with larger sample size coupled with less variables (study cohort with same race, sex and age if possible) is warranted to confirm our findings.

Astoria-Pacific, Inc.- Total Galactose Screening Method Comparison

Institution/Agency: Astoria-Pacific, Inc.

Year Approved: 2012

Samples Requested: 11

Year Released: 2012

Study Summary: This study aimed to show the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that a new test could detect newborns with galactosemia as well as the current kit on the market. This would allow more newborn screening solutions that are safe and effective. Galactosemia is an inherited condition in which babies are not able to break down a sugar found in breast milk and most formulas. A special diet begun soon after birth will prevent damage to the body.

Study Findings: This study is done. The FDA approved Astoria-Pacific's kit. It is currently being used in one newborn screening lab and expected in others in the near future.

2011 Approved Research

Dried Blood Spots to Determine the Effect of Pb on DNA Methylation in Children

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2011

Samples Requested: 51, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2013

Study Summary: Blood spots were tested for lead levels. The effect on gene expression (active versus inactive genes) was also compared between blood spots and current blood samples from the children. Results may provide data to help children exposed to lead.

Study Findings: This study is done. Results “suggest that lead exposure during pregnancy affects the DNA methylation status of the fetal germ cells, which leads to altered DNA methylation in grandchildren’s neonatal dried blood spots. This is the first demonstration that an environmental exposure in pregnant mothers can have an epigenetic effect on the DNA methylation pattern in the grandchildren.” For detailed results, see the article below:

- *D. Ruden, et al. Multigenerational epigenetic inheritance in humans: DNA methylation changes associated with maternal exposure to lead can be transmitted to the grandchildren. Scientific Reports. 2015 Sep; 14466*

Newborn DNA Methylation and Biochemical Status in Autism, ADHD and Cerebral Palsy

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2011

Samples Requested: 119, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2012

Study Summary: DNA methylation is a biochemical process that affects the genetic activity within a cell. Factors such as diet, stress, drugs, toxins and aging may have an effect on which pieces of DNA in a cell are active. This study compares the degree of methylation in specific genes between persons with and without attention hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism and cerebral palsy. Biochemical testing combined with methylation studies soon after birth could help predict risk.

Study Findings: This study is done. See the article below:

- *R.O. Bahado-Singh, et al. Artificial intelligence analysis of newborn leucocyte epigenomic markers for the prediction of autism. Brain Research. 2019 Dec; 1724-146457*

Prenatal Alcohol Exposure: The Influence on Epigenetic Processes

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2011

Samples Requested: 18, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2011

Study Summary: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are studied in this project. Epigenetic factors, resulting from inherited changes in gene expression (active versus inactive genes), are being assessed in the blood spots. Different epigenetic factors may help diagnose infants. They may also help explain why certain signs of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders develop in some children but not others. These epigenetic factors may also shed light on the risks from alcohol use just prior to and during pregnancy.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Technology Enhancement and Implementation of Michigan Newborn Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) and Related Disorders

Institution/Agency: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Year Approved: 2011

Samples Requested: 2,500

Year Released: 2011, 2012

Study Summary: Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID) is the most severe type of primary immunodeficiency. It is rare and can be lethal. Early treatment improves survival. The Michigan NBS laboratory used blood spots to validate its screen for SCID and related disorders.

Study Findings: This study is done. Resulted in addition of SCID to Michigan's newborn screening panel in 2011. After two years, over 230,000 MI newborns were screened for SCID and 34 newborns with immune deficiencies were detected. The study also resulted in improved methods for SCID screening which have been shared at a number of national events to help other newborn screening programs begin SCID screening.

2010 Approved Research

Assessment of the SMN1 and 2 Genes in Spinal Muscular Atrophy Affected Patients and a Carrier Frequency Study

Institution/Agency: ARUP Laboratories

Year Approved: 2010

Samples Requested: 3,000

Year Released: 2011, 2012

Study Summary: Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a group of inherited disorders that cause progressive weakness and wasting of muscles. Muscles of the limbs and trunk are affected. Feeding, swallowing and breathing can become impaired. This study used blood spots to develop a newborn SMA screening test.

Study Findings: This study is done. The screening test was able to identify all cases of SMA and did not incorrectly identify any normal samples as SMA cases. The researchers concluded the test had features that would make it suitable for newborn screening. See article below:

- *S. Dobrowolski, et al. Newborn Screening for Spinal Muscular Atrophy by Calibrated Short-Amplicon Melt Profiling. Clinical Chemistry. 2012; 58:1033-1039*

DNA Methylation in Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University/William Beaumont Hospital

Year Approved: 2010

Samples Requested: 24

Year Released: No samples released to date

Study Summary: Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS) is the sudden unexplained death of an infant or young child. SUIDS is a complex disorder with genetic, environmental, biochemical and social causes. There is strong evidence of a role played by prenatal factors such as maternal smoking and infection. A number of genes have also been linked to SUIDS. The aim of this study is to assess whether a difference exists in gene activation in blood spots from newborns who expired as a result of SUIDS. This could improve understanding of the causes of SUID including prenatal factors and potential risk factors.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done.

Updated 4/2/2026

Methods Comparison of Luminex Multiplex Newborn Screening Assay to Delfia

Institution/Agency: Luminex Corporation

Year Approved: 2010 & 2012

Samples Requested: 2,210

Year Released: 2011, 2013

Study Summary: Hormone levels were assessed to determine accuracy of technology designed by Luminex Corporation to screen for congenital adrenal hyperplasia, congenital hypothyroidism and cystic fibrosis.

Study Findings: This study is done. Luminex discontinued their newborn screening program in 2013 after company restructuring. No results were provided from this study.

High Throughput Methods to Measure Disparities in Childhood Exposure to Tobacco

Institution/Agency: University of Minnesota

Year Approved: 2010

Samples Requested: 350

Year Released: 2010

Study Summary: Children are exposed to tobacco in utero by maternal smoking and during childhood from second hand smoke (SHS). SHS is associated with health problems such as low birth weight, asthma, ear and lower respiratory infections and sudden infant death syndrome. SHS exposure and its health effects vary by race, ethnicity and socio-economic status. Efforts to stop childhood exposure to SHS are critical for reducing health disparities. Blood spots enable thousands of samples to be assessed for exposure levels across a population. This project will use blood spots from several states to study differences in childhood exposure to SHS. Findings will provide estimates of the US population prevalence of in utero tobacco toxin exposure by race.

Study Findings: This study is done. Data from the study confirmed that parental reporting of smoking during pregnancy is an imperfect way to measure prenatal exposure to tobacco smoke. See the article:

- *LG Spector et al, Prenatal tobacco exposure and cotinine in newborn dried blood spots. Pediatrics. 2014 June; 133(6): e1632-8.*

HLA Typing of Neonatal Blood Spots

Institution/Agency: Genomics USA

Year Approved: 2010

Samples Requested: 40, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2010

Study Summary: A larger study is being done to develop a new technology to perform very-low-cost genetic testing. The testing targets the HLA locus, the set of genes responsible for person-to-person variation in the immune system, the basis for a tissue-match in organ transplants and possibly for personal variation in response to certain vaccines or infection. This study will not discover disease correlations with HLA-type. Instead the study will try to determine if a new approach to HLA-typing can be done using blood spots collected on a Guthrie card, the card used for newborn screening. Michigan's blood spots were used for a pilot study to show that HLA-typing data can be obtained from blood spots.

Study Findings: This study is done.

DNA Methylation and Congenital Heart Defect (Metabolic Newborn Screening for Congenital Heart Defects)

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University, William Beaumont Hospital

Year Approved: 2010

Samples Requested: 312

Year Released: 2010

Study Summary: Prenatal risk factors such as maternal alcohol use, maternal fever, inflammation and diet are thought to play important roles in congenital heart defects (CHD). Recent studies report a link between certain classes of CHD in offspring and a deficiency in the vitamin, folic acid, in the mother. Folic acid deficiency could change essential gene functions and suppress important cardiac development leading to CHD. The aim of this study is to see if there is a relationship between changes in essential gene functions in blood spots of children with CHD.

Study Findings: This study is done. See the articles below:

- *RO Bahado-Singh et al, Genome-Wide DNA methylation analysis and epigenetic variations associated with congenital aortic valve stenosis (AVS). PLoS One. 2016; 11(5)*
 - *RO Bahado-Singh et al, Epigenetic markers for newborn congenital heart defect (CHD). J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med. 2016; 29(12): 1881-7.*
-

2000-2009 Approved Research

Prior to the implementation of the Michigan BioTrust for Health

Microarray Analysis of Neonatal Blood Spots: Optimization and Application to Birth Outcomes

Institution/Agency: Van Andel Institute

Year Approved: 2009

Samples Requested: 20

Year Released: 2009

Study Summary: This was a pilot study to perform gene expression analysis of neonatal blood spot samples from 10 full-term neonates who subsequently developed neuroblastoma in the first year of life (randomly selected from the cancer registry and de-identified) and 10 full-term neonates who did not develop any malignancy. By correlating gene expression in blood spots with risk of disease (in this case, Neuroblastoma) we will gain new insights into the perinatal risk factors contributing to a wide range of neonatal and childhood conditions.

Study Findings: This study was closed with no work done.

Luminex Newborn Screening Multiplex Immunoassay

Institution/Agency: Luminex Corporation

Year Approved: 2009

Samples Requested: 1,500

Year Released: 2009

Study Summary: Not available.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Mercury Levels in Blood from Newborns in the Lake Superior Basin

Institution/Agency: Minnesota Department of Health

Year Approved: 2009

Samples Requested: 200

Year Released: 2010

Study Summary: The level of methylmercury, the form of mercury found in fish, was assessed in the blood of newborns from mothers living along the Lake Superior Basin in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Study Findings: This study is done. Most newborns were found to have low or undetected total mercury levels. 8% of newborns had mercury levels about the U.S. EPA reference dose (none from Michigan). Babies born during the summer months were more likely to have an elevated mercury level. Minnesota's Department of Health increased outreach to health care providers and others to promote eating fish low in mercury. For detailed results please visit the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage with access to the full EPA report.

CTA Catalytic Grant Proposal, Whole Genome DNA Amplification from Stored Dried Blood Spots

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2008

Samples Requested: 99

Year Released: 2008

Study Summary: Not available.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Novel Techniques for Neonatal Screening

Institution/Agency: Johns Hopkins

Year Approved: 2007

Samples Requested: 9

Year Released: 2008

Study Summary: Not available.

Study Findings: This study is done.

The Use of T Cell Receptor Excision Circles to Detect Missed Cases of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2007

Samples Requested: 160

Year Released: 2008

Study Summary: Not available.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Analysis of Environmental Contaminants in Dried Blood Spots: A Pilot Study

Institution/Agency: Centers for Disease Control

Year Approved: 2007

Samples Requested: 15

Year Released: 2007

Study Summary: This study was a feasibility study done to determine if certain environmental contaminants could be measured in blood spots.

Study Findings: **The study is done.** The study was successfully carried out per investigator's feedback to MDHHS.

[ID of Genetic Markers in Blood Spots of Guthrie Newborn Screening Cards](#)

Institution/Agency: Children's Hospital of Michigan

Year Approved: 2006

Samples Requested: 102

Year Released: 2007, 2008

Study Summary: This study screened blood spots of children who developed leukemia to determine if leukemic or "preleukemic" cells were present at birth and detectable in blood spots.

Study Findings: **This study is done.** Combining results from both articles below, preleukemic cells were detected in 63% of patients.

- Gruhn B, Taub JW, et al. *Prenatal origin of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia, association with birth weight and hyperdiploidy. Leukemia. 2008 Sep; 22(9): 1692-7*
- Taub, JW., et al. *High Frequency of leukemic clones in newborn screening blood samples of children with B-precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Blood. 2002 Apr; 99(8)*

[New Paradigms of Cerebral Palsy \(CP\)](#)

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2005

Samples Requested: 53, additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2009, 2010

Study Summary: Recruitment for this study has been discontinued although requests for blood spots from consented subjects may continue. Investigators are still analyzing molecular markers for cerebral palsy. Multiple articles have been published describing this work including findings from the first 53 matched pairs; two sub-studies comparing gene expression in umbilical cord and blood spots and in frozen vs unfrozen spots; and a paper on the effects of blood spot storage time on gene expression data.

Study Findings: See the articles below:

- N. T. Ho et al, *Gene expression in archived newborn blood spots distinguishes infants who will later develop cerebral palsy from matched controls. Pediatric Research. 2013; 73: 450-456.*
- J. Resau et al, *Evaluation of sex-specific gene expression in archived dried blood spots (DBS). Int J Mol Sci. 2012; 13(8): 9599-9608.*
- N. T. Ho et al, *Effect of storage time on gene expression data acquired from unfrozen archived newborn blood spots. Mol Genet Metab. 2016 Nov; 119(3): 207-213.*
- J Slaughter et al, *High correlations in gene expression between paired umbilical cord blood and neonatal blood of healthy newborns on Guthrie cards. Journal of Maternal-Fetal and Neonatal Medicine. 2013 Dec; 18: 1765-1767*
- P. Haak et al, *Archived unfrozen neonatal blood spots are amenable to quantitative gene expression analysis. Neonatology. 2009 Mar; 95(3): 210-216.*
- C. Wei et al, *Comparison of frozen and unfrozen blood spots for gene expression studies, The Journal of Pediatrics. 2014; 164(1): 189-191.*

Feasibility and Validity of Obtaining Guthrie Cards for Molecular Epidemiology Studies

Institution/Agency: University of Minnesota

Year Approved: 2005

Samples Requested: 100

Year Released: 2006

Study Summary: Not available.

Study Findings: This study is done.

The Genetic Basis and Pathophysiology of Neonatal Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension

Institution/Agency: Wayne State University

Year Approved: 2004

Samples Requested: 416

Year Released: 2009, 2010, 2016

Study Summary: Persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN) is a clinical syndrome where blood is shunted away from the lungs. PPHN can be seen with neonatal diseases such as aspiration, infection or immature lungs. There are commonly seen risk factors for PPHN, but only a small number of patients with these risk factors develop it. It is likely there are inherited factors affecting development of PPHN. Limited studies have addressed the genetic basis of neonatal PPHN. The broad long term goal of this research is to find the genetic basis for neonatal PPHN.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Maternal Microchimerism and HLA Compatibility in Juvenile Diabetes and Autism

Institution/Agency: Children's Hospital of Michigan

Year Approved: 2001

Samples Requested: 17, Additional study specific consent obtained

Year Released: 2001

Study Summary: Not available.

Study Findings: This study is done.

Prevalence of Three Hereditary Hemochromatosis Mutant Alleles in the Michigan Caucasian Population

Institution/Agency: Michigan State University

Year Approved: 2000-2002

Samples Requested: 3,532

Year Released: 2002

Study Summary: This study was done to find how common several mutations in the HFE gene associated with hereditary hemochromatosis, an iron overloading disease, are in the Michigan non-Hispanic Caucasian population.

Study Findings: This study is done. Results found one mutation more common than previously reported. For detailed results please see the article below:

- *E Barry et al, Prevalence of three hereditary hemochromatosis mutant alleles in the Michigan Caucasian population. Community Genet. 2005; 8(3): 173-9.*