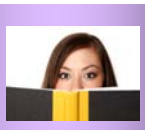
RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS

April 2009



Historical Events Part I

Tuskegee Syphilis Study

The U.S. Public Health Service conducted a research project from 1932 to 1972 involving 600 low income African American males, 400 of whom were infected with syphilis. Free medical exams were given; however, subjects were not told about their disease. Even though a proven cure became available in the 1950s, the study continued until 1972 with participants being denied treatment. Many subjects died of syphilis during the study.

This prompted the development of Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research, more commonly known as The Belmont Report.

The 3 fundamental ethical principles for using any human subjects for research are:

- Respect for persons: protecting the autonomy of all people and treating them with courtesy and respect; allowing for informed consent.
- Beneficence: maximizing benefits for the research project while minimizing risks to the research subjects
- Justice: ensuring reasonable, non-exploitive, and well considered procedures are administered fairly.

In 1997 under mounting pressure, President Clinton apologized to the study subjects and their families.

Holzer Clinic Department of Research

Volume 1, Issue 2

Current Research Studies

The Research Department is currently working on 8 active studies.
Three studies are in our GI Department:

- Active Celiac Disease
- Symptomatic GERD
- Moderate to Severe GERD

One study is in Rheumatology:

- Rheumatoid/OsteoArthritis

Two studies are in GYN:

- Hypoactive Sexual Dysfunction Disorder

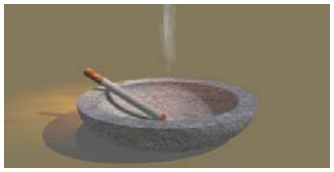
Three studies in Endocrinology:

- All are diabetic studies

In addition, we are working in conjunction with OSU on a smoking cessation program for Ohio Medicaid patients.
We have 2 other studies in the pipeline.
Laurie and Susan are diligently searching for new studies that will complement our research physicians' abilities.
Visit our website for more information: www.holzerclinic.com.

Smoking Cessation Intervention Study

Holzer Clinic/Medical Center have received a research grant from the Ohio State University to launch a smoking cessation intervention study. Providers and staff in the primary care departments—Family Practice, Internal Medicine and OBGyn are being asked to participate in focus groups and/or personal interviews. Participants are encouraged to discuss the challenges they face in working with Ohio Medicaid patients who smoke or use tobacco, how they encourage patients to stop smoking, which interventions seem to be effective and which are not. The next phase of the study will be to enroll Ohio Medicaid smokers and ask them what they think would be most helpful for them to stop using tobacco. The goal of the study is to develop a tool for providers to use with patients who smoke or abuse tobacco so that they can "kick the habit". All study participants will receive $20 for their time. If you work with Ohio Medicaid smokers and would like to participate in this study, please contact the Research Department at ext 5065 or 3990.
This Smoking Cessation Research Grant is the first of its kind for Holzer Clinic. Up until now all our research activities have been with pharmaceutical manufacturers or their research intermediaries. The grant from OSU is focused on a community need and does not involve individuals with known disease. Although smokers certainly are at risk for tobacco related illness, tobacco is not an actual disease. We have the opportunity to participate in other similar studies to improve the public's health. Studies like the Smoking Cessation Research Grant have potential for social benefit and could be of great value for ourselves and the patients we serve.



Please call the Research Department if you are aware of other public health needs within our service area or would like to participate in developing studies to address community health problems.

Traveling Researchers

Laurie Wayland, Clinic Research Coordinator, and Susan West, Department Secretary, will be visiting the branches to participate in their Health Fairs.
Some upcoming dates for May 5 at the Main, May 11 at Meigs, May 14 at Jackson.
Watch for them!!!

Laurie and Susan traveled to Athens for a ***Lunch and Learn*** on April 16. This meeting was to expose the physicians and staff at Athens to the research department and answer any questions they may have about research.

As the summer time approaches, Laurie and Susan hope to visit the Holzer Clinic booths at the County Fairs around the area with information about the Research Department. We hope to see you there.

LOOK

To find out more about Holzer Clinic Department of Research, please call us at ext. 3990 or email Laurie at Lwayland@holzerclinic.com.