

# How do I enroll?

You can enroll by calling our office or contacting us via email:

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## For further information contact

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**THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS**

MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

*A part of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston*

**Defining the Spectrum  
of  
Spondyloarthritis  
in  
Family Members  
of Patients  
with  
Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS)**

Funded By NIH-NIAMS



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**Defining the Spectrum  
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***What is Spondyloarthritis (SpA)?***

- ◇ It is the overall name of a group of related diseases that can cause inflammation, pain or stiffness in the:
  - ◇ back
  - ◇ neck
  - ◇ hands
  - ◇ hips
  - ◇ knees
  - ◇ feet and other joints
- ◇ Inflammation can also occur in the
  - ◇ eyes
  - ◇ skin
  - ◇ gut
  - ◇ heart valves
- ◇ Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) belongs to this group of disease

***Are there any genetic causes for Spondyloarthritis?***

- ◇ Spondyloarthritis runs in families
- ◇ SpA patients share common genetic markers, including a gene called HLA B27

- ◇ First degree family members of SpA patient with the B27 gene have up to 20% chance of developing the disease

***What is the purpose of this study ?***

- ◇ There are two main goals:
  - ◇ To determine the influence of genes in family members of AS patients
  - ◇ To examine a newly created questionnaire to identify health conditions in the first degree relatives of AS patients.

***Who can take part in the study?***

- ◇ First degree relatives of AS patients:
  - ◇ Parents
  - ◇ Siblings
  - ◇ Children (12 and older)

***How can you benefit from the study?***

- ◇ There may be no direct benefits
- ◇ Early diagnosis can prevent future complications
- ◇ Results of the study can help doctors better understand AS
- ◇ You will not be charged for the study visit and parking will be validated

***How often do you have to come to the study site and what will be done?***

- ◇ A one time visit to the study site in Houston, TX where you will

complete a questionnaire and be examined by our rheumatologist

- ◇ Blood will be collected for genetic testing
- ◇ X-rays if necessary for diagnosis

***What is the time commitment for the study?***

- ◇ The study visit will last 1-1.5 hours.

***How will privacy be protected ?***

- ◇ All personal information that is gathered from research subjects during the study will remain confidential to every extent of the law. This study and the consent forms comply with National Institute of Health rules and regulations regarding safety and confidentiality involving human subjects.
- ◇ The Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects at The University of Texas Health Science Center Houston has approved this study.