

What if I don't like it once I start?

That's fine. We know you're volunteering. You can quit at any time without any problems. We also allow for rest breaks during certain sessions.

Will this get in the way of my treatment?

No! We are check closely to make sure you don't miss anything important.

What do I get out of this?

We know that you're giving us a lot of time and effort. To thank you, we pay you for your time. In all, people often spend up to 8 hours or more with us, so you should get something out of it too.

SO, HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Once you have decided you would like to participate you can call us directly at (860) 545-7800. We will explain in more detail what we've covered here.

ABOUT THE OLIN NRC

The Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center at The Institute of Living was founded in 2001. The mission of the Center is to be at the forefront of research in brain disorders

The Center faculty has many interests including working and long term memory, error monitoring, language and attention. We examine these cognitive processes in normal aging, depression, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, manic-depressive illnesses, OCD, anxiety disorders, drug abuse and many more conditions.

Olin Neuropsychiatry Center Researchers:

Godfrey Pearlson, M.D., Director
Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center

Michael C. Stevens, Ph.D.
Clinical Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory

David Glahn, Ph.D.
ADAPTING Laboratory

Opportunities to Participate in Clinical Research

Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center



Hartford Hospital's Mental Health Network

Department of Psychiatry
200 Retreat Avenue
Whitehall Building
Hartford, CT 06106

1 (860) 545-7800

NRC RESEARCH

At times, people can find themselves suffering from problems that seem outside normal experience. Frequently, there are problems with anger, mood, aggression, anxiety, behavior control, attention, memory or impulsivity. Some people find themselves alone or withdrawn, hearing voices, or sometimes deeply involved in alcohol or drug use, or unlawful acts.

Research programs at the NRC seek to understand how our brain function is related to these problems. We employ state-of-the-art clinical neuroscience tools to examine brain activity in hopes that this will help us better understand what causes psychiatric problems and how to more effectively treat them.

Our major tools include functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), EEG brainwave recording, and neuropsychological assessment of cognitive function.

WHAT DO WE DO?

fMRI stands for “Functional MRI.” fMRI records brain activity by using a powerful magnet in an MR machine that rapidly takes pictures of your brain and shows us what areas are active. It is completely safe, although it can be somewhat noisy. For fMRI, you need to keep your head as still as possible for 30-60 minutes. During the scan you perform simple tasks involving attention and memory.

EEG records brain function by looking at brainwave patterns. Brainwaves are the changes in electricity all of us have on our



scalps that we use special amplifiers to measure. For EEG, people wear a cap with electrodes fitted onto it to painlessly measure brainwaves.

Neuropsychological Testing

measures a person's strengths or problems in many cognitive areas like memory, attention, language, visual-spatial ability, motor skills, etc.

The tests are mostly puzzles or word problems that can be challenging, but can also be enjoyable to participate in.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Because our research is new, different, and high-tech, most people have questions. There are no silly or embarrassing questions. We know that telling people everything about our projects is the best way to find volunteers.

Common questions are —

Does any of this hurt? No. You may have to lie still for periods of time in the MR machine, or your scalp might be scrubbed really well to make the electrodes work, but none of it hurts.

What about confidentiality? Everything is confidential. In fact, the information we collect in our records does not have your name attached to it. However, we've learned that many people want us to share information with their doctors if it will help them. If you want us to do this, we always ask your permission and to sign a release form before we share anything. Also, because we care a lot about your well-being, we're required to tell someone if we learn you're in any danger.

What if you find something wrong with my brain? It's very rare to find something physically wrong with people's brains. If there is something wrong we'll quickly tell you and release that information to your doctors with your permission if you want.

MORE OF THESE QUESTIONS ARE ON THE NEXT PAGE...