

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 12, 2014



Contact: Kathy Edson, ResearchMatch
kathleen.edson@vanderbilt.edu
(615) 343-2571

ResearchMatch Launches Registry for Neuropathy in Collaboration with The Neuropathy Association



ResearchMatch Connects Neuropathy Study Volunteers with Researchers

Nashville, TN – May 12, 2014 -- [ResearchMatch](#) (RM) -- the country's first nationwide, non-profit, volunteer, research recruitment platform for all health conditions -- is launching a research registry for neuropathy in collaboration with The Neuropathy Association, a national non-profit patient advocacy organization dedicated to bringing help, hope, and healing to people with various forms of neuropathy.

RM has a simple goal -- to bring together two groups of people who are searching for each other: people who are trying to find research studies, and researchers who are looking for people to participate in their studies. It is a free, secure, online registry that has been developed by major academic institutions across the country to engage others in today's ethical, expedited research. RM's innovative collaboration with The Neuropathy Association provides a voice for all neuropathy patients in the research process.

More than 20,000,000 -- or 1 in 15 -- adults and children in the U.S. are afflicted by neuropathy, and many of them do not even know they have it. Neuropathy disrupts and damages the body's ability to communicate with itself -- it's like the body's wiring system has gone haywire. Even though it is the leading cause of disability in the U.S. and one of the most common chronic neurological diseases, neuropathy is often misunderstood, mis- and under-diagnosed, as well as inadequately treated. Limited research funding limits scope of treatment and curative possibilities for specific neuropathic pain conditions.

"Living with neuropathy can cause tremendous frustration for patients. Many feel isolated because relatives, loved

ones, and often even caregivers are not familiar with neuropathy or neuropathic pain,” observes Dr. Thomas Brannagan, III, The Neuropathy Association’s medical advisor.

“A significant factor delaying the development of new treatments is the recruitment and retention of clinical research study participants—both patients as well as healthy volunteers. We’re working proactively with researchers and patients to drive awareness for ongoing clinical research study opportunities and to help with recruitment efforts. And, this collaboration with ResearchMatch is critical – it adds to our toolkit, and our overall efforts to better understand neuropathy and bring forth new treatments and cures,” adds Natacha T. Pires, MBBS, Director of Medical and Public Affairs at The Neuropathy Association.

“Neuropathy’s prevalence is escalating at an alarming rate. Awareness must increase to ensure earlier diagnosis. Until we find the disease-modifying treatments and cures that currently don’t exist, our only cure is prevention,” notes Tina Tockarszewsky, president and CEO of The Neuropathy Association.

All volunteers who register with RM indicating Neuropathy as one of their conditions will be prompted to answer additional questions about their condition to better enhance the precision and prescreening process for matching volunteers with research teams who are studying Neuropathy.

To register, please visit https://www.researchmatch.org/?rm=p_neuropathy_association

About ResearchMatch

[ResearchMatch](#) is a national partnership created as a centralized, web-based recruitment registry, connecting individuals who are interested in participating in research with researchers nationwide. The site is funded in part by [the National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) and Clinical and Translational Science Award \(CTSA\)](#) program grants. The CTSA program is led by the NIH’s [National Center for Advancing Translational Science \(NCATS\)](#). The content of this website is solely the responsibility of ResearchMatch and Vanderbilt University and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.

About The Neuropathy Association

Founded in 1995, [The Neuropathy Association](#) is the leading national nonprofit organization providing neuropathy patient support, education, advocacy, and the promotion of research into the causes of and cures for peripheral neuropathies through its nationwide network of members, regional chapters, 15 medical Centers of Excellence, and 150 patient support groups.

###