

Hello,

I am a PhD student in the lab of Dr. John White studying the effect of hormonal vitamin D, an immunomodulator, on the function of neutrophils, which are the most abundant immune white blood cells in the body. We aim to study neutrophils exposed to vitamin D alone and in the presence of bacterial stimulation (mimics infection and inflammation).

We are looking for healthy volunteers to donate 20ml of blood for our study. With the blood, I will isolate primary neutrophils and treat them with vehicle, bacterial lipopolysaccharide or LPS (present in the cell walls of gram-negative bacteria), vitamin D, and LPS+ vitamin D. Following this, I will extract RNA to study LPS and LPS+D mediated expression of genes encoding components of neutrophil extracellular traps, DNA structures with antimicrobial activity. I will also freeze cell-media supernatants to study amounts of secreted cytokines as well as conduct bactericidal assays. As a reference, 20ml is substantially less than 1 pint of blood (500ml).

Please email aiten.ismailova@mail.mcgill.ca if you can donate blood for the project. Blood draws are conducted in McGill campus (Strathcona Anatomy and Dentistry Building) by a certified nurse. Juice boxes and fresh pastries will be provided.

Your donation will help to gain new insights by which vitamin D signaling regulates the innate immune system and uncover its role as a preventative or therapeutic agent in neutrophil-mediated disease.

Thank you in advance,

Aiten

Aiten Ismailova
PhD student
Dr. John White's laboratory
Department of Physiology, McGill University
McIntyre Medical Building Room 1114
Montreal QC H3G 1Y6
Email: aiten.ismailova@mail.mcgill.ca