

Dr. Vandana Shashi and collaborators are conducting a five-year research study to identify factors that place children with VCFS at risk of mental illness. Children with VCFS between the ages of 9-14 years are being recruited into the study, funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Each child will undergo detailed psychological testing and a brain MRI at the time of entry into the study and three years later. In the years in between an annual psychological assessment will be performed. A sample of blood or saliva will be obtained for DNA extraction and genotyping, to look for gene polymorphisms that may influence the occurrence of mental illness. Each family will be reimbursed \$100.00 for their participation.

The study is being conducted at Duke University Medical Center as well as Wake Forest University Health Sciences.

We are able to provide assistance with travel costs, including lodging, airfare, and auto mileage reimbursement.

If you would like more information regarding the study, please call the study coordinator Kelly Schoch at 919-681-2772 or Kelly.schoch@duke.edu or Dr. Shashi at 919-681-2616 or vandana.shashi@duke.edu