

Dear PRP Community Member,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. It is an exciting time for the PRP Research Team here at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. This past month we enrolled another 18 PRP patients. Today we are announcing a **second round of genetic sample collection**. Previously, 53 patients donated samples. Our goal is to expand to 100 samples; for this, we need your help.

Specimens will be used to continue research on a genetic test that could dramatically impact the diagnosis and treatment of PRP. Specifically, this test might enable better disease characterization, individualize treatment options by predicting a patient's responsiveness to a medicine before taking it and even identify family members and other patients at risk for PRP before symptoms develop.

We hope to obtain all new sample donations in the next one to two weeks so that we could process and obtain results within a month.

This study will require blood samples. Here are the instructions for sample acquisition and return:

1. **Inform the PRP research team** of your interest in sample collection. Please also let us know who will be drawing your blood and whether you will need supplies and/or a return shipping label (see below).
2. **Identify who could draw your blood** (two lavender top tubes, see below):
  - a. Primary care physician offices sometimes draw blood. You should call them and ask whether they would draw blood for a research study.
  - b. Your local lab. Due to regulations of each lab, they may not allow you to take the specimen with you, so please call ahead and determine whether they can draw your blood and provide you with the blood tubes to send to a physician for research purposes.
  - c. Friends, family or neighbors who are in healthcare. We will accept samples drawn by healthcare professionals you know personally as long as you are safe and comfortable with this option.
3. **Obtain materials:** Depending on where you will get your blood drawn, you may need materials (butterfly needle, lavender top blood tubes, gauze, bandage). For example, at your primary care physician's office, they may draw your blood and provide the supplies at no charge (particularly if you inform them that you are participating in a research study and need somebody to draw your blood for you). If you need supplies, for example, because you are having your blood specimen drawn at home, we are happy to ship you these. Please let us know ASAP if you need supplies shipped.
  - a. **Sample size:** TWO (minimum ONE) LAVENDER (the color of the TOP) BLOOD TUBES of blood. Each tube should be filled nearly full to provide a total of 10 cc (5cc per tube) of blood.



4. **Shipping:** Return the samples as quickly as possible. The specimens should be shipped to:

**Attn: Qiaoli Li (PRP Research Study)**  
**Suite 450, Department of Dermatology & Cutaneous Biology**  
**Bluemle Life Sciences Building**  
**233 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19107**

We would greatly appreciate your contribution to this study in the form of covering shipping costs, but if you cannot afford the return (next day) shipping cost, please let us know and we will send you a shipping label.

Place vials in a Ziploc bag and pack them in a shipping box (so as not to be crushed). You may line the box with packing material to minimize trauma. Of note, it is best to be discrete regarding the contents (i.e. that there is blood inside) because some attendants may not be comfortable knowing that there is a biologic specimen in the box. Nevertheless, it is permitted to ship these samples. Tubes can be stored at room temperature, however, it is very important that they are shipped to the lab as soon as possible and to avoid exposure to extremes of temperature (freezing or above 75°F or direct sunlight). For this reason, we ask that you select overnight or next day shipping to minimize the potential for samples being improperly stored while in a shipping warehouse/transit.

5. **Processing:** the samples will be processed over the few weeks. We will inform patients of their results so that they can inform their physicians at the conclusion of the study.

We are grateful for your participation to this point and we are pleased to have your continued support. Looking forward to hearing from you soon about your samples.

Sincerely yours,



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