



# DCM Precision Medicine Study

## LETTER TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Family Members,

I am participating in the Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) Research Project at The Ohio State University because I (or a family member) have been diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). The goal of this study is to identify the gene changes (mutations) that can lead to heart conditions such as DCM.

People with DCM have enlargement of the left side of the heart and reduced ability to pump blood. DCM can cause serious complications, including fatigue, shortness of breath, or sudden cardiac death. However, some people with DCM have no symptoms. I was informed that this condition can be genetic. It is usually inherited in autosomal dominant pattern, which means that first-degree relatives (parents, children, brothers and sisters) have a 50/50 chance of also having DCM.

Medical guidelines recommend that genetic testing and counseling be provided to people with DCM, and that their first-degree relatives (parents, children, brothers and sisters) have a heart check with an echocardiogram, an electrocardiogram, and a physical exam. Genetic testing for DCM is available through this study. If the cause of DCM in our family is found, you will be tested, and a genetic counselor will inform you of your results.

Enrollment in the study involves a heart check for family members (if not previously done), a blood sample and authorization to obtain cardiac medical records, if any.

If a genetic result is found, this information may lead to better medical management options or family members.

You can give me permission to share your contact information with the study staff or you can contact the study directly. You are not obligated to participate in this study. Regardless of your decision, a heart check, genetic counseling and consideration of testing are recommended for all first-degree family members of people with DCM. You can ask your doctor to order this testing. Additional information can be found by visiting the study website: [www.DCMProject.com](http://www.DCMProject.com).

Sincerely,

  

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