

Hello Edinburgh Branch member

Are you interested in taking part in a new research study?

Aim: To determine if some people with Parkinson's have a unique body odour.

Who do the researchers need? Any member of the Edinburgh branch of Parkinson's UK with or without Parkinson's.

What is involved? Wearing and sleeping in a cotton T-shirt (provided) for less than a day, and then it will be collected.

More details

Background

It is now well established that people with Parkinson's exhibit a number of symptoms years before the first signs of movement problems. These non-motor symptoms include constipation, loss (or change) of sense of smell, or sleep disorders. Another common pre-motor sign of PD is unusual or excessive sweating. We have preliminary evidence to suggest that a unique body odour may have some predictive value as a biomarker for some people in the early stages of PD. This aim of this study is to identify the molecules that produce a potential unique 'PD body odour' by gas chromatography mass spectrometry – a technique used to identify the molecular nature of odours.

What is involved?

If you participate in this study, you will be provided with (i) non-scented soap, (ii) a new T-shirt, and (iii) a sealable plastic bag. You will be asked to bathe in the morning with the non-scented soap, and to not apply any perfumes or colognes nor deodorants or antiperspirants. You will then wear the T-shirt provided directly against your skin and sleep in it. The following morning you will be asked to remove the T-shirt and place it into the plastic bag for collection.

Who can take part?

Any member of the Parkinson's UK charity living in the Edinburgh area can take part. We are looking for people with and without Parkinson's, and welcome couples to participate.

Interested in taking part?

If you are interesting in taking part or have any queries about the study please contact Dr Tilo Kunath at tilo.kunath@ed.ac.uk or on 0131 651 9546 by **Monday, 16th September 2013**. You will be provided with a full description of the study, so you can make an informed decision about whether you wish to participate.

How do I find out the results of this study?

Once the study is complete, a Plain English summary of the results will be provided to all participants and to Hannah Churchill at Parkinson's UK.

Best wishes,
Tilo Kunath