

Good-bye, Sofie!

Sofie will be leaving our team in May to begin an exciting new chapter of her life at Physician Assistant (PA) school.

"As a PA student, I will get to explore different clinical practices & I am especially looking forward to my clinical elective which I would like to do in oncology. I have learned so much about cancer symptoms and care from each of your personal experiences & hope to take all that I've learned from this study into my future practice. Thank you for sharing your stories with me, I will miss our calls!"

New Staff Member

We would like to introduce you to our new Research Associate, Katrina Carr! She will be making phone calls, recruiting participants and helping with data analysis.

Katrina received her nursing degree from Pitt in 2012, has worked in an ICU, and is excited to join the TINV Study! Though originally from Nevada, she has lived in Pittsburgh for 12 years. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, camping, and needlework.



**Website Coming
Soon!**



Our team is working with the University's Office of Communications to create a website that provides information and updates about the study. We will be providing helpful links for all of our study participants. There will also be a Meet the Team section with information about the team members working with our ladies. We hope this will be a way to communicate and show all the progress the TINV study is making!



TREATMENT INDUCED
NAUSEA & VOMITING
(TINV) STUDY
3500 Victoria St
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

**Genomic
Underpinnings
for Breast Cancer
Treatment
Induced Nausea
and Vomiting
(TINV)**



Happy Spring!
Spring/Summer 2021
Newsletter

Study Overview

Thanks for being part of our study! We could not do this work without you. With your help, we hope to:

- Measure how nausea varies based on treatment
- Identify symptoms and characteristics that may be related to nausea
- Look at specific genes that could predict nausea

In the long run, this research could inform the development of personalized treatment to control nausea in women with breast cancer.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many women are in this study?

As of April 2021, we have recruited **311** study participants.

Which genes are you looking at?

Many genes contribute to TINV, including genes that code for proteins you may recognize such as serotonin, dopamine, and opioid receptors. We will also study genes that impact your body's ability to metabolize and transport medications. We will begin our genomic analysis this summer and can't wait to share our findings with you!

Should I stay in the study if I have not experienced any TINV?

Yes! We want to compare women who experience TINV to women who do not. So, your data is just as important as the data from women who do have TINV. If we can find a genetic predictor, we need to have different groups to analyze and observe relationships to other symptoms.

COVID-19

You may have noticed that we have added new questions in the past few months, asking you about resiliency and how COVID has affected you as you recover from breast cancer. The purpose of these questions is to understand the effect of the pandemic on our study participants. We know that the diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer can cause anxiety and worry, but is the addition of the pandemic making it worse? And are you not participating in social activities because of not feeling well, or just because we are all staying in these days! Thank you for helping us with these important questions.

Starting in May, we will be adding more questions about the coronavirus to our survey.

- ◇ *Have you been vaccinated?*
- ◇ Yes: first dose (date), second dose (date)
- ◇ No: do you intend to get vaccinated? (yes/no)

Qualitative Sub-study

We would like to hear the views of older women with breast cancer about their pain, pain management, and talking to doctors and nurses about getting their pain needs met. Karen, Caroline, and Sofie may reach out to ask you to participate in a short interview to help us learn more about how we can help. As always, thank you for helping us to make life better for patients with breast cancer!

New Publication!

Thank you to our ladies for the survey answers they give each week. Using survey data, we published an article in March edition of the ***Pain Management Nursing*** journal entitled "Older Women and Opioid Analgesia following Breast Cancer Surgery." We found that, overall, women 65 and older in our study had good pain control from surgery through the first 48 hours after being discharged.

Team Member Area Codes:

◇ Katie H. – 302

◇ Katrina – 518

◇ Erin and Sue – 412

◇ Danielle – 570

◇ Caroline – 571

◇ Karen – 615

◇ Kiley – 631

◇ Sofie – 713