A Letter from the Directors

Dear all,

Thank you for your continued participation in the Women’s Health Study: from Adolescence to Adulthood (A2A). This year, we have BIG NEWS! We exceeded our goal of enrolling 1,500 participants into the study and are no longer enrolling new participants. We are now focusing on learning all we can about YOU...the 1,569 girls and women participating in this ongoing study.

You each make unique contributions to the study, help us discover health challenges, and help us learn what will increase health and happiness. We will continue to contact you once per year with questionnaires and sample kits, so we can learn about your changing health as you get older and have new experiences. Now more than ever, your annual participation is so important and so very much appreciated.

As well as keeping you updated on the hard work we’ve been doing, this letter is also a reminder that you should expect two emails from us: one with a link to update your contact information, and one with a link to your annual health questionnaire. Thank you again for your continued participation – we remain grateful for your dedication to women’s health research. If you have any questions about the research we are publishing, what we’re focusing on next, or anything else you may be curious about, please explore our website and our Facebook page. You can also reach out to a member of our study team.

Sincerely,

Marc R. Laufer, MD
Director

Stacey A. Missmer, ScD
Scientific Director

The Year in Pictures
New Staff Spotlight

Meet Laura, our newest WHS:A2A Research Assistant

Laura graduated from Connecticut College in 2017 with a BA in Psychology and Hispanic Studies. After graduation, she worked at Boston Children’s Hospital in the Outpatient Cardiology Clinic. Now, as a member of the A2A research team, Laura meets with participants for follow up visits and attends surgeries at both BCH and BWH. She enjoys working as an RA because of the connections that she makes with patients and families.

New Studies

Enrollment into the A2A study is closed, but as a current participant, you may be contacted in the future about other research opportunities. You can choose whether you want to participate in these studies. Saying yes or no to these studies won’t affect your participation in A2A. If you are interested in more studies, please check our website.

Important FedEx Reminders

When you ship your samples back to our lab, please drop your box off at a FedEx store. Please do not leave your specimen box next to a drop off mailbox. You may also call FedEx to arrange for a home pickup.

Happy 18th Birthday!

Celebrating your 18th birthday soon? If you turn 18 years old during the study, you will need to sign a reconsent form if you want to continue in the study. It will be mailed to you shortly after your birthday. Please complete it as soon as possible to make sure you do not miss your chance to continue participating in the study.

Thank you gifts!

We know our questionnaires are long, and we appreciate the time and effort it takes to complete them. So once or twice per year, we mail everyone in the study a small token of appreciation to say thank you for your ongoing participation. If you haven’t received your gift, let us know. We may need to update your mailing address!

Selected Recent Publications


Harris HR, Eke AC, Chavarro JE, Missmer SA. Fruit and vegetable consumption and risk of endometriosis. Hum Reprod 2018; DOI: 10.1093/humrep/dey014 PMID: 29401293


Conference Presentations

Each year, our researchers travel to domestic and international conferences to present research results, meet with collaborators, and stay up-to-date in the field. This year, A2A leaders presented research findings at:

- American Society for Reproductive Medicine Scientific Congress
- North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology Annual Clinical Research Meeting
- New England Fertility Society Annual Meeting
- Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting