**INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDY INFORMATION SHEET**

You are invited to participate in a research study of autoimmune hepatitis. We ask that you read this form before agreeing to participate in the study.

This study is being conducted by Dr. Craig Lammert at Indiana University, it has been approved by the institutional review board.

**STUDY BACKRGROUND:**

Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) is an inflammatory disease of the liver that results in immune mediated destruction of liver cells that can result in liver scarring and require liver transplantation. The exact etiology of this rare disorder is unclear, however it likely is the result of predisposing genetic makeup interacting with environmental exposures.

The Autoimmune Hepatitis Research Network (AHRN) was developed at Indiana University for the purpose of studying Autoimmune Liver Disease. The overall objective of the AHRN is to collect information retrospectively and prospectively from AIH patients in order to study both genetic underpinnings and environmental factors important in disease development and outcomes. This research collection is called the **GRACE Study**: **G**enetic **R**epository of **A**utoimmune Liver Disease and **C**ontributing **E**xposures.

**STUDY PURPOSE:**

**The GRACE study will utilize social media as a means of recruiting individuals with AIH for ongoing study at Indiana University.**

**A second phase of the GRACE study will distribute survey instruments and genetic material collection kits to selected patients.**

**PROCEDURES FOR THE STUDY:**

To be included in this study, you must:

* Have a confirmed diagnosis of AIH from a medical doctor.
* Be over the age of 18 years old and live within the United States.
* Be willing to have your medical documentation released from your home medical provider for review by the primary investigator at Indiana University.
* You may not be a current patient at Indiana University
* Contact Joshua Love via email josdlove@iu.edu or phone: (317) 278-9387 and express interest in the social media AIH study.

After you contact the AHRN about the AIH study:

* A summary of study details and procedures will be provided.
* You may decide if you wish to participate.

If you agree to participate:

* Medical opinions about your diagnosis will not be made, this is only a data gathering study.
* No decisions about management of your condition will be conducted.
* Your medical records will be stored at Indiana University indefinitely.
* Further study instruments (survey tools and genetic data collection kits) will be disseminated to selected participants.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**Your privacy is a priority, all efforts will be made to keep your personal information confidential. Only the researchers conducting this study will have access to your records. Therefore, all of your responses will remain anonymous.

**CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS**
For questions about the study, contact the study coordinator, Joshua Love via josdlove@iu.edu or phone: (317) 278-9387. More information can also be found at [www.aihepatitis.com](http://www.aihepatitis.com).

For questions about your rights as a research participant or to discuss problems, complaints or concerns about a research study, or to obtain information, or offer input, contact the IU Human Subjects Office at (317) 278-3458.

**VOLUNTARY NATURE OF STUDY**
Taking part in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or may leave the study at any time.