WHO WE ARE

The Stanford Metabolic Health Center is a collaborative effort between Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, the Stanford Departments of Genetics, Pediatrics, and Pathology, and the Stanford Precision Health Biobank. We are a team of pediatricians, pediatric surgeons, geneticists, scientists, and support staff interested in improving health care for children with metabolic conditions. We believe collecting metabolic profiles on many children will be key in better classifying diseases. We work across Stanford Medicine, Stanford Children’s Health clinics, and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital.

OUR CENTER’S VISION

Hundreds of thousands of children are born each year with a metabolic disorder and others surface during the earliest days of life and into young childhood. When detected early, many life threatening metabolic deficiencies in infants and children may be corrected by diet or with existing and emerging therapies. Initiating precise management at a young age reduces a child’s lifelong complications.

The Metabolic Health Center is founded on the notion that metabolic profiling hasthe potential to detect health problems earlier than ever before possible and with a greater level of precision thanks to modern technologies. We believe collecting metabolic profiles on many children will be key in better classifying diseases. Our vision of precision health through metabolomics in neonates and children is “Cure Through Prevention”.

OUR RESEARCH’S AIM

NEONATE RESEARCH

Mounting evidence shows that your baby’s development during pregnancy and early childhood is impactful on overall health throughout their life. Many diseases and disorders that occur in childhood and adulthood are based on problems with metabolic function that originate in utero (during fetal development) and during the first 1,000 days of life. To better understand the role that metabolism plays in setting life long health, we’re studying the metabolism of babies and pregnant women.

CHILDHOOD RESEARCH

Conventional medicine focuses on treating individuals when a symptom arises which is often late in the disease onset and compromises treatment efficacy. The Metabolic Health Center wants to change this model and focus on disease prevention, detection and monitoring. Detecting diseases early allows correction of abnormalities and avoid life-long complications. Given the fact that every disease has a metabolic component and metabolic dysregulation is often detectable before the symptoms arise, measuring metabolites may help prevent, detect and monitor diseases.

BIOBANKING

The Stanford Precision Health Biobank collects and stores specimens and data from all interested patients, and serves as a resource for researchers who are trying to better predict, prevent and cure disease precisely.

STUDY PARTICIPATION

One of our study team members will administer the study enrollment process with you and your child using the consent form for the Stanford Precision Health Biobank project and Metabolic Health Center. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary.

After your child has been consented to participate in the study, we will notify your child’s treating physician to order the labs to be done. This could be the collection of blood and/or urine. These labs can coincide with other labs the treating physician may have ordered. This is a one-time sample collection. This research study is expected to take approximately one hour of active participation for each participant.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens to my child’s samples?  
Once your child’s sample has been collected, it will be processed and placed into a freezer before being analyzed using cutting-edge mass spectrometry instrumentation used to detect thousands of molecules.

Am I able to obtain the results from the analysis of my child's sample?  
Since our project is in very early stages, we have not fully analyzed our samples and do not anticipate being able to provide individual level results for several years. We will only notify your child’s treating physician if there is a clinically significant result identified by the study and if you consented for notification of the results. Not all participants receive results. Research is not a substitute for the excellent clinical care that is provided by the Stanford Children’s Health clinics or Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital.

Is there a cost for participating?  
There is no cost to you for participating. Your health insurance will not be billed.

CONTACT US

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THE METABOLIC HEALTH CENTER  
Stanford School of Medicine

Participant's rights questions:  
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